

Has Spiritualism a Future?

The movement called Modern Spiritualism has now been before the world for fifty years, and during that period has made its mark on civilization. Our purpose is to consider its present condition, and to see whether it has within itself the power of further growth and progress or has not to a large extent fulfilled its mission, and should now give place to the advancing hosts of Truth following in the pathway prepared by it as a pioneer.

A careful observer of this movement cannot but be struck by two facts; first, the very large number who call themselves spiritualists and are content with the various phases of phenomena, without progress on other lines. They seem satisfied with the evidence that these phenomena are produced through the agency of the spirits of human beings who have passed from earth-life to the other shore, and who thus prove to beings on the earth plane that there is a life beyond the grave, and demonstrate that the theories and speculations that religious bodies in all ages have held and taught, without being able to prove, have had a foundation in fact. They do not seem desirous to find out the laws governing and producing these manifestations, or to seek for light through such phenomena whereby they may become a power in advancing civilization. They are always anxious to receive "tests" and to attend materializing and other seances, and are perfectly satisfied with themselves and their spiritual condition. These persons should be called *spiritists*, as the name *spiritualist* when applied to them is a misnomer. In their daily life they cannot be distinguished from their brother man who lives in the world, and who is not a believer in spiritualism. The same aims and objects of life govern them all,—being seekers after this world's goods, and sometimes not over-scrupulous as to the means used to obtain them; following selfish ends and rarely thinking of their duties to their neighbor; generally trying to obtain their own way—to have their ideas followed out irrespective of the religious scruples of others, and thus proving not only a hindrance to their own progress