

Back From Jerusalem:

The Life and Times of
Emma Hardinge Britten,
Spiritualist Propagandist

Marc Demarest
The Emma Hardinge Britten Archive

Version 2.1
January 2012

Module 10

1877-1892

Queen of the Midlands

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- In July of 1881, settled in Manchester, Emma announces that she is working on a book on the international Spiritualist movement
- It is a difficult time for the movement: very public scandals (exposures and criminal behavior by media) have caused the private cash that sustains the movement to dry up, to some extent

MRS. **HARDINGE-BRITTEN** has sent us "A Plea for the Revival of Spiritualism," which unfortunately reached us too late for insertion. She speaks very earnestly of the error of those who, because of the many "disgraces" which evil doers have brought on Spiritualism, have withdrawn from all public connection with the cause. She believes that the private investigation of phenomena, and the public exposition of the facts and philosophy should go hand in hand; and acting on the advice of her Spirit friends, she has determined to do what she can to put our faith fairly before the world; and she is therefore ready to accept invitations to lecture within a reasonable distance of her residence—The Times, Humphrey-street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester.

Light, September 17, 1881

EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN;

To her Friends and Co-Workers in the Spiritual Movement.

For many years past I have been collecting materials for a compendious history of the great MODERN SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT as it has transpired ALL OVER THE WORLD in the nineteenth century. This work I have been requested to undertake—no matter what other publications of a kindred character might be issued—by those beloved Spirit friends who have never deceived me or failed to inspire me for good. Those who are most thoroughly acquainted with me will remember how often I have stated that I only obey the commands of Spirits when they accord with my own judgment, especially when they relate to the movement of which they alone are the authors and promoters. The present occasion is one which fully meets this position. Wise and good Spirits desire to give to the age, through my instrumentality, a thoroughly exhaustive record of the work they have accomplished in the nineteenth century, and the reasons they have alleged for this charge, and the methods prescribed for its accomplishment, having appealed forcibly to my best judgment, I have, as above stated, employed the last few years of my wide wanderings in gathering up from every available and authentic source the necessary materials for my great task.

As it has been furthermore made clear to me that the present time has been specially designed for its commencement, I would now solicit from those who may be interested in it such literary contributions of a personal or local character as each one may feel impressed to send. I do not promise to use all that I may thus receive, because the ultimate selection of matter for publication must necessarily exclude at least 90 per cent. of the vast mass I have to select from.

Still I should be glad to avail myself of the widest possible field of information on this deeply momentous subject, especially as I propose to add to the history of the movement a large number of brief BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES of such personages as have been prominently and usefully connected with it. Trusting that the friends of Spiritualism will aid me as far as possible in accomplishing a work which gratitude to the spiritual authors of the movement, no less than justice to posterity, imperatively demand,—I am, ever reverently and faithfully the Servant of God and the Angels,

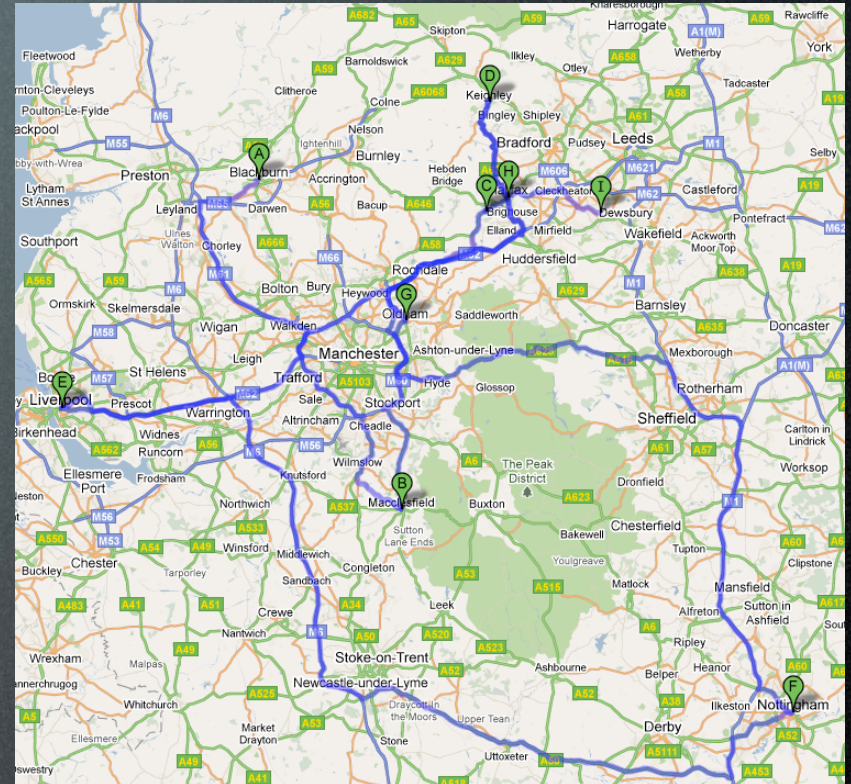
EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN.

P.S.—Prepaid postal matter can be addressed to my residence, The Linca, Humphrey-road, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, England.—Foreign journals please copy.

Light, July 30, 1881

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- By September of 1881, Emma is (at age 58) on a grueling lecture schedule
 - October 23: Blackburn (A)
 - October 30: Macclesfield (B)
 - November 6: Sowerby Bridge (C)
 - November 13/14: Keighley (D)
 - November 20: Liverpool (E)
 - November 27-December 4: Nottingham (F)
 - December 11: Oldham (G)
 - December 18/19: Halifax (H)
 - December 24-26: Batley Carr (I)



On today's roadways, about 450 miles of driving, but Emma did it by train, in a hub-and-spoke pattern, from Manchester

Variations of this circuit will be the backbone of Emma's life until the founding of The Two Worlds in 1887 - when she is 63...

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- By mid-year 1882, life on the road (again) is taking its toll on Emma, and William Britten writes to The Medium and Daybreak to say that “in consequence of severe attacks of quinsy sore throat, Mrs. Hardinge-Britten [sic] has been unable to fulfill her engagements for the past two Sundays, and...her lectures here and elsewhere must be discontinued till farther [sic] notice.”
 - Death for a traveling speaker...
- And where does Emma go to recuperate?

Mrs. Emma Hardinge-Britten's Address.—Correspondents will please address Mrs. E. Hardinge-Britten, for the next fortnight, to the care of the Countess of Caithness, 51, Rue de l'Université, Paris, France; after that as usual, the Limes, Humphrey Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester.—June 28, 1882.

The Medium and Daybreak, June 30, 1882

- From the fall of 1882, through all of 1883, she is again on the circuit, though with less rigorous scheduling

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- Nineteenth Century Miracles appears in January of 1884
- Its advertising is rather extensive, in comparison to other works of hers
- It is not reviewed by the mainstream press
- And it does not appear to have been a particular money-maker, as she's back on the road in early 1884
- In April, she announces a return to the US...

JANUARY 11, 1884.
THE MEDIUM AND DAYBREAK.
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NOW READY.

MRS. EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN'S GREAT NEW WORK,

NINETEENTH CENTURY MIRACLES:

OR,

SPIRITS AND THEIR WORK IN EVERY COUNTRY OF THE EARTH.

A COMPLETE HISTORICAL COMPENDIUM OF THE MOVEMENT KNOWN AS "MODERN SPIRITUALISM."

This Work forms a full and exhaustive account of all the MAIN INCIDENTS OF A SPIRITUALISTIC CHARACTER which have transpired in EVERY COUNTRY OF THE EARTH from the beginning of the Nineteenth Century to the present time.

The subject matter has been collated from the most authentic sources. The contributors include some of the most learned, scientific, and honoured personages of the age. Testimony has been gathered up (in many instances by the Author in person, during her extended travels) from every country, and includes the Spiritualism of all peoples whether savage or civilised. The scenes are world-wide, but the period of action is limited to THE PRESENT CENTURY.

THE SPIRITUALIST will find in this Work a complete manual of every phenomenon he wishes to read of, refer to, or describe to others.

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THE SCEPTIC will be herein answered, and THE OPPONENT refuted at every point.

To every student of Psychology, Spiritual Science, Religious Reform, Mesmerism, Spiritualism and Occultism, the Author—in deep earnestness of purpose and in the name of the wise controlling spirits, who have commanded her work, and assisted unceasingly to aid its execution—ventures to affirm that, both for this and many succeeding generations, this volume will prove a COMPLETE LIBRARY of the subjects dealt with, and a manual of incalculable value

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This Volume contains nearly 600 pages, royal octavo, fine tinted paper, handsomely bound in Cloth.

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SPECIAL SUBJECTS TREATED OF.

History of Mesmer and Mermerism—"The Philosopher's Stone"—"Elixir Vitæ"—Somnambulism—Clairvoyance—Psychology—Seership, natural and acquired—From Mesmerism to Spiritualism—Magic—Witchcraft—Sorcery—Necromancy—Occultism—"Spiritism"—"Spiritualism"—"Theosophy"—Reincarnation—IMMORTALITY DEMONSTRATED—Facts, Fancies, and Fanaticisms of Spiritualists—Spiritual Science and Religion—Proofs Palpable and Imaginary—Doctrines and Theories *versus* Corroborative Testimony—Hauntings—Obsessions, Spiritual Gifts, Practices, and Spontaneous Phenomena of Various Peoples—Origin of the Modern Spiritual Movement in Different Countries—Journalism and Literature of the Subject—Antagonism from without—Divisions within the Ranks—Deception and Hallucination—Thrilling Narratives—Wonderful Experiences—Heaven and Hell of Spirit Life—"Dwellers on the Threshold" and Angels in Paradise—Revelations of Life Hereafter in all Stages of Progression—Spirit Circles—Spiritual Workers, Pioneers, Journalists, Writers, Lecturers, Mediums, Artists, Poets, Healers and Martyrs—Trials, Prosecutions, Defeats, and Victories—All Sides of the Question—Every Phase of the Movement—All Classes of Witnesses—From the Convict's Prison to the Monarch's Throne-room—Revivals—Mass Meetings—Spiritual History Cast on the Ocean of Time—and ETERNITY.

Price for Illustrated Copies	15s.
" without the Illustrations	12s. 6d.
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PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM BRITTEN, THE LIMES, HUMPHREY STREET, CHEETHAM HILL, MANCHESTER;
E. W. ALLEN, AVE MARIA LANE, LONDON, E.C.

. Orders received by the Publisher; also the Secretaries of the various Spiritual Societies, and all respectable Booksellers

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- In the spring of 1884, Emma returns to the US, almost certainly to market Nineteenth Century Miracles....
- But perhaps also to test her relevancy in the US, after an absence of three years
- There is scant coverage of her time in the US, but she does draw a crowd estimated at 8-10,000 people at Lake Pleasant, NY in August of 1884
- She was in company of at least some of her TS associates (HJ Newton, for example)
- In May of 1885, she announces her return to England in The Medium and Daybreak, and her availability for work

FAREWELL ADDRESSES, BY MRS. EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN, IN MANCHESTER.

On Sunday, April 6th, 1884, two addresses will be given by Mrs. Emma Hardinge-Britten, previous to her departure for America, in the Co-operative Hall, Downing Street, Manchester. Service in the afternoon at 2.30, and in the evening at 6.30. Collection towards defraying expenses.

Tea will be provided at a charge of 6d. each, for friends from a distance. Tickets may be had at the door before the commencement of the meeting. Friends are requested to obtain them before going into the hall, so that full provision may be made for all.

Friends desirous of contributing flowers to place on the platform, will kindly send them to the Hall, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on that morning.—*Con.*

LIVERPOOL FAREWELL TO MRS. BRITTEN.

Mrs. Britten sails for Liverpool on April 15th, and on the evening of April 14, which is Easter Monday, and therefore a holiday, she will be entertained at a farewell gathering at Rodney Hall, Rodney Street, Mount Pleasant, at 7 o'clock. The Liverpool friends will be glad to be assisted in their purpose, by the presence of all friends within reach, and it being a general holiday, no doubt the attendance from surrounding districts will be large. Tickets, 1s. each.

On Sunday, April 13th, Mrs. Britten will deliver her last two discourses in Rodney Hall.

Newcastle, Manchester, and Liverpool are important centres, and the excellent arrangements made will enable vast numbers to attend and take part in these interesting meetings.

MACCLESFIELD.—On Monday evening, Mrs. Britten will deliver a farewell oration, in Paradise Street Free Church, at 7.40.

The Medium and Daybreak, April 4, 1884

EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN TO HER FRIENDS IN ENGLAND.

Mr. Editor, *MEDIUM*:—Will you kindly allow me space in your columns to announce that we propose to sail for England per *Britannia* on the 2nd of May, expecting to arrive some time about the middle of the month.

To the Spiritualist Societies within an accessible distance of my home in Manchester, I shall be happy to render service as a lecturer on the same terms as when I was in England before. Applications can be addressed to me at the Limes, Humphrey Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, and I will reply as soon after my arrival as possible.

I beg to add that my return to England has been induced by purely private and personal reasons, and my stay will be determined by the same causes, hence, I may not have the opportunity of remaining for any extended period of time with my esteemed fellow-workers in Spirituallism, and consequently I am desirous of doing the utmost I can, while I am able, to promote the progress of the Cause to which I am devoted.—I am, Mr. Editor, very faithfully yours,

EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN.

The Medium and Daybreak, May 8, 1885

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- For the duration of 1885, all of 1886, and most of 1887, Emma returns to the Spiritualist circuit, moving within a triangle bounded by Liverpool, Newcastle & Nottingham, roughly
- How, precisely, she is earning her living is unclear, but it is certainly to a large extent dependent on what she receives in fees from the local societies before whom she speaks
- Even today, her schedule would be seen as extreme for a man or woman of her age...

THE MANCHESTER SOCIETY OF SPIRITUALISTS.

A GRAND BAZAAR, SALE OF WORK, CONVERSAZIONE, and a Unique MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT will be given on the 12th and 13th December, 1887, at the Co-OPERATIVE HALL, Downing Street. The proceedings will commence at 3 p.m. with an Opening Address by Mrs. EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN, to be followed by an Exhibition of Beautiful and Useful Articles, on Sale for the occasion.

The Evening Sale will be enlivened by some peculiar and interesting Musical Selections, arranged specially for this occasion.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to be amused and instructed.

Tea, Coffee, and other Refreshments at nominal charges.

Admission, 6d.; Children under 12 Half-price.

As this Bazaar is undertaken solely in aid of the Manchester Spiritual Society's Building Fund, the largest donations will be thankfully received, the smallest not rejected.

OLDHAM.—On Tuesday, December 13th, Mrs. E. H. Britten will give her celebrated lecture on "New Zealand," the paradise of the Southern Seas, illustrated by splendid limelight views of the people and country before and after the late volcanic eruptions. Doors open at 7, to commence at 7-30. Tickets, front seats, 6d.; back, 3d. Proceeds towards the liquidation of the debt.—*J. S. Gibson, Sec.*

By the middle 1880s, Emma is ruthlessly mining her own life, and her eclectic collection of ideas, for lecture topics. She's also embracing the methods and practices of other successful lecturers, and learning how to pair up her lecture topics and her periodical appearances for maximum marketing effect.

"Illustrated by splendid limelight views" = PowerPoint 0.1

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- November 18, 1887: the inaugural issue of The Two Worlds
- Emma will occupy the editor's chair until 1892, when she is forced out as the result of a stock manipulation scheme perpetrated by William
- Occultist as well as spiritualist in its orientation from the first issue
- Definitely a middle-class Spiritualist undertaking, with tendencies toward small-s socialism
- But behind it... someone's money

OFFICE OF "THE TWO WORLDS" 61, GEORGE STREET,
CHEETHAM HILL, MANCHESTER.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

"THE TWO WORLDS" will be sent to any address within the United Kingdom, or to places comprised within the Postal Union, including all parts of Europe, the United States, and British North America. One copy, post free, 2d.; for thirteen weeks, 2s. 2d. Annual Subscription 8s. 8d. in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS are inserted at 6d. per line, 1s. for three lines. Remittances must accompany all orders for one or three insertions. Monthly settlements for larger and consecutive advertisements, for which special rates can be obtained on application to Mr. E. W. WALLIS, to whom all Post-office Orders and Cheques should be made payable, and all business communications should be addressed.

Accounts will be issued monthly, and the Directors respectfully ask the favour of prompt remittances.

"THE TWO WORLDS" Publishing Company, Limited, has been registered, but we shall be happy to allot shares to those spiritualists and societies who have not joined us. Send in your applications for shares at once.

TO CONTRIBUTORS.—Communications intended to be printed should be addressed to the Editor, The Lindens, Humphrey Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester.

PUBLISHING OFFICES.

"THE TWO WORLDS" can be obtained of JOHN HEYWOOD, Deansgate and Ridgefield, Manchester, and 11, Paternoster Buildings, London; and is sold by all Newsvendors, and supplied by the wholesale trade generally.

THE TWO WORLDS.

Editor:

MRS. EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN.

Sub-Editor and General Manager:

E. W. WALLIS.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18th, 1887.

SALUTATORY.

WITH the issue of this number the promoters of the new spiritual enterprise, entitled, *The Two Worlds*, make their first appearance upon the stage of public opinion, and their first essay to enlist the sympathies and command the support of every reader interested in the subjects to which this journal is devoted. In sending forth this inaugural number to represent the stupendous interests involved in the title adopted, namely, *The Two Worlds*, it is assumed that the public may expect a more definite explanation of its aims and purposes than is to be found in the preliminary announcements.

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- During Emma's editorship, The Two Worlds serves at least four purposes
 - Major coordinating vehicle for Spiritualism outside London, and for the emerging national coalition of Spiritualists
 - Platform for the launch of 'new voices' in the movement (J. J. Morse, Wallis, A. E. Waite, among others)
 - Emma's personal platform -- for her propaganda, and for her fiction (several EHB novellas published serially during her editorship)
 - The voice of the 'amorphous opposition' to Theosophy (Deveney) -- led by "Sirius"

BOOK REVIEW.

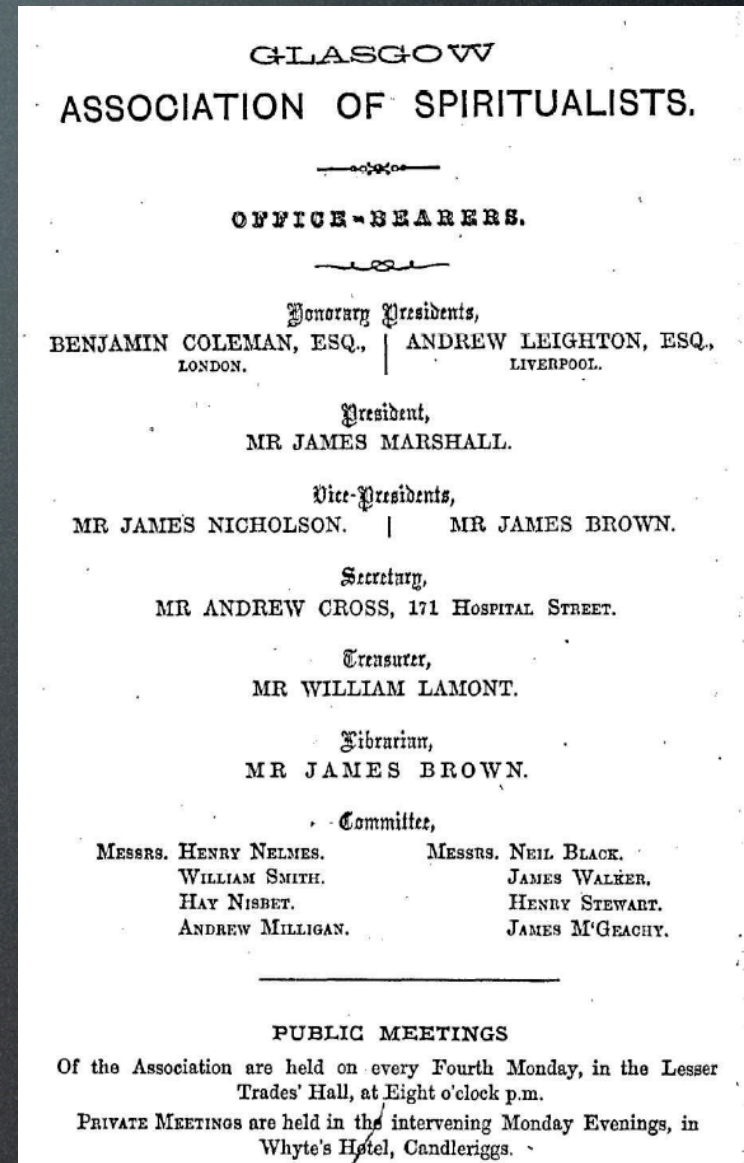
WE deeply regret that other matters of pressing moment have, of late, occupied our columns to the exclusion of those notices of books, pamphlets, and tracts, which we have received in great numbers, and which we hope yet to call attention to. This apology relates especially to the noble, philosophic, and instructive work, published by George Redway, of London, entitled "The Light of Egypt." We had hoped to have found space to give abundant quotations from this admirable treatise, one which supplies not only fine suggestive views of planetary cosmogony, but also furnishes a good corrective, founded on the basis of science, fact, and reason, to the groundless assertions of theosophy, some of which appear in quotation in this number's Leader. Ere we close this merely preliminary notice that we have been favoured with a copy of "The Light of Egypt," we would call its author's attention to the fact that a certain American editor of a Theosophical Magazine, entitled *The Path*, after venting on this fine work all the abuse, scorn, and display of ignorance and insolence that his malice could dictate, ends by adding that this book is "by Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten." We trust it needs no open disclaimer on our part to assure the gifted author of "The Light of Egypt" that this rude and uncalled-for piece of mendacity could only have been designed by the writer to add injury to insult, and compel the Editor of this journal to express her regret that she has not the smallest claim to stand in a position implying ability far beyond her capacity to attain to. It is hoped that this public disclaimer will be sufficient to atone for the intended injury to the esteemed author of "The Light of Egypt," and explain to him the animus with which his comments on the fantastic theories of the day are received by a prominent theosophical journalist.

The Two Worlds, August 16, 1889

This admirable treatise...

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- The Amorphous Opposition
 - Led by EHB, and the HBoFL
 - Peter Davidson's 1871 work on the violin was published, in Glasgow, by...
 - Hay Nisbet, who was a champion (and publisher) of the materials emanating from...
 - David Duguid, the painting-and-writing medium, employed in the bicycle works owned by...
 - James Robertson, who wrote the only posthumous biographical sketch of...
 - Emma Hardinge Britten, who knew Robertson, Duguid and Nisbet well...



Paul Gaunt is beginning to plumb the depths of the influence that Scottish Spiritualism has had on the movement and on the modern occult.

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- Organizing Spiritualism
- The Lyceum Union Movement
 - “The children of today are to be the men and women of to-morrow, our representatives, pioneers and instruments of communicating spirits....it is our duty to teach them, and their birthright to be taught, that which we know to be true concerning our spiritual natures...”
- The National Organization
 - “What can take the place of the fast-decaying forms and tottering edifices of antiquated worn-out faiths? Nothing under heaven but proofs, direct and palpable, of a higher and nobler revelation -- one founded on facts, proved by reason and demonstrated by science -- the handiwork of the creator. Spiritualists! You have all this!”

Third Children's Edition, crown 8vo. boards, 9d.; by post, 11d.

The English Lyceum Manual:

For the use of Progressive Lyceums connected with English Spiritualists' Societies, compiled from various sources by EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN, ALFRED KITSON, and H. A. KERSEY. Contains Programme for Lyceum Session, choice Silver and Golden Chain Recitations, Musical Readings, Lyceum Songs, &c. Carefully adapted for practical use by all in the Lyceum.

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A MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT

Now challenges the attention of every true and earnest spiritualist in Great Britain, namely a

PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS.

At a recent gathering of spiritualists the question of the above-named *proposal* was mooted, and plans of organization were suggested with so much resolution, sense of duty, and hope of success on the part of the promoters, that it was determined to formulate the most available methods on which such an organization could be based, and pending their completion, to bring before the readers of this paper the following urgent reasons why the adoption of the *proposal* in question becomes no less a *duty* than a matter of pressing expediency at the present time. The following remarks, already accepted by the supporters of the plan for a national organization of spiritualists with much favour, should be considered with interest and attention by our readers:—

In view of the vast and wide-spread influence which modern spiritualism has exercised over human thought during the past forty-two years, and the unnatural and consequently irresponsible condition of its ranks, especially in this country, at the present time, we deem it a part of our human mission, whilst we yet remain to be workers in the earth sphere, to make some effort to utilize the mighty powers, and as yet unapplied influences, latent in the phenomena and philosophy of spiritualism, for wider and more effective good and use, than has hitherto been evolved from spiritual revelations.

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- There are a number of financial crises of one sort or another during Emma's tenure as editor, and the organization's financial reports (published in the paper) never make sense, except to show that the paper is loss-making, and something funny's going on, financially
- In January of 1892, a scandal erupts at the board of directors level
- William Britten has received anonymous "gifts" of more than 2000 pounds between 1890 and 1892, and invested it in shares for the Brittens in the corporation, creating a controlling interest for himself and Emma

THE TWO WORLDS.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1892.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors on Monday, Feb. 8th, the following resolution was passed unanimously: We, the Directors of *The Two Worlds* Publishing Company, Limited, express our regret that circumstances have arisen which have occasioned Mrs. Britten's resignation as Editor of *The Two Worlds*, and that we, in accepting the same, desire to tender our best wishes for her future welfare."

Pending the time when it may be expedient for me to give fuller explanations of those "good and sufficient reasons" which oblige me to retire from the editorship of *The Two Worlds*, I desire to say my voice will not be hushed nor my pen idle when a fitting opportunity occurs for me to serve the cause of Spiritualism. My heart and hand, brain and mind, belong to the Spirit world, and if I murmur because those wise rulers of this earth's destiny have imposed upon me a hard and severe trial in the last four years' experience, I am reconciled in the belief that the most influential of all teachers is experience, the most thorough of all lexicons, the book of practical life, and that the object of our earthly pilgrimage is so to live on earth that, at last, we may be prepared to commence life on a higher plane of existence.

To all who need to communicate with me henceforth, orally or by letter, my ONLY ADDRESS IS The Lindens, Humphrey Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester.

EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN.

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE COMPANY.

THE Directors feel it to be due to themselves, as well as to their cause, that the foregoing reply should be made to the circular issued in reference to the Extraordinary Meeting of February 1st, especially as proceedings were commenced in the Court of Chancery by Dr. Britten and Mrs. Britten to obtain an order restraining the company from confirming the resolution passed at such extraordinary meeting.

On Monday morning, February 22, the case came on for hearing before the Deputy Vice Chancellor, and was argued by counsel on both sides. Affidavits had been put in by Dr. Britten and Mr. R. T. Ashworth on the one side, and by Mr. Peter Lee (chairman), Mr. S. S. Chiswell (scrutineer), and Mr. E. W. Wallis (secretary), on behalf of the company.

The contention of Dr. Britten was that proxies had been discarded on insufficient grounds. The Judge upheld the main objection of the scrutineers, and, therefore, dismissed the appeal with costs.

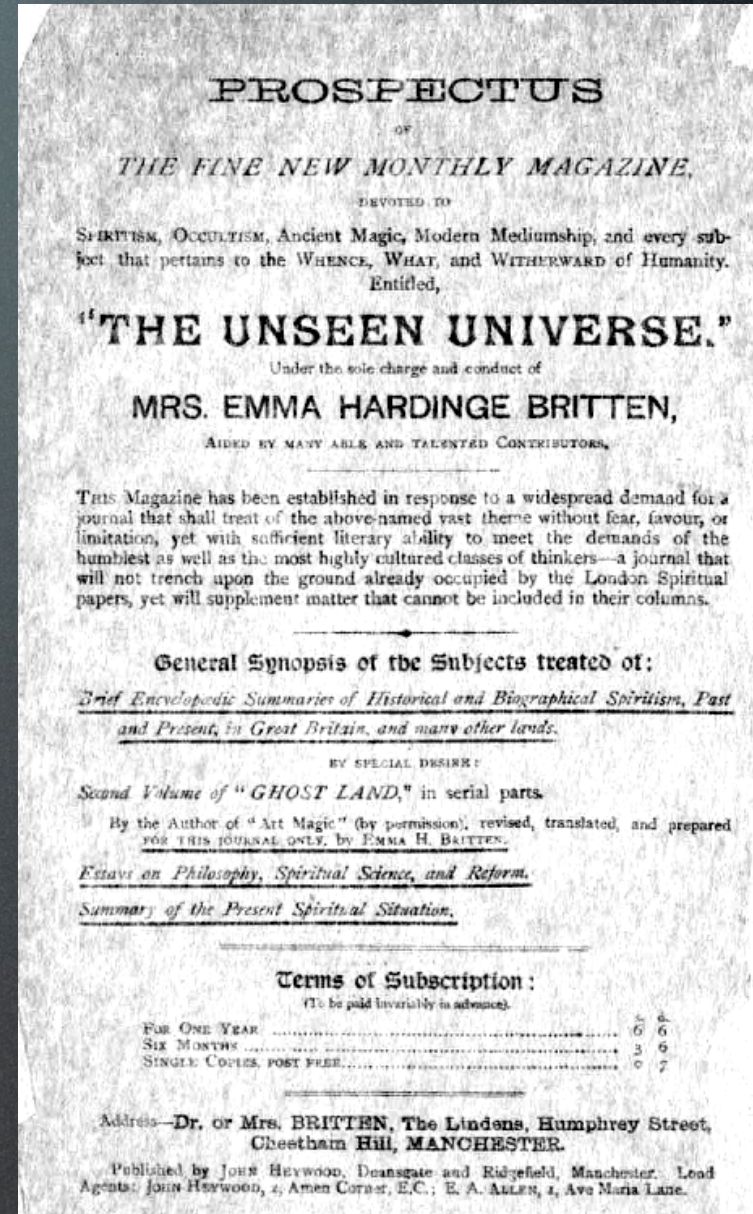
The Two Worlds, February 26, 1892

CHANCERY OF LANCASHIRE (MANCHESTER DISTRICT).—Cases to be heard to-day (Monday):—
Adjourned summonses: Stewart v. Taylor and Woolf v. Pemberton. Motions: Kingsbury v. Outram, Bailey v. Roberts, Buckley, and Co. Limited, Ashworth v. Roscoe, Threlfall v. Wilde, Lund v. Young, Cochrane v. Layland, Union Bank of Manchester v. Dain, Britten v. "The Two Worlds" Publishing Company Limited, and Shaw v. Wolstenholme. Originating motion: Re Thomas Adams deceased. Petition: Hodge v. Brammall. Further consideration: Cochrane v. Layland and Bamford v. Garside.

Manchester Courier, February 21, 1892

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- Emma wastes no time in launching her successor publication, The Unseen Universe
- Despite the second volume of Ghost Land, a very interesting novella, The Mystery of No. 9 Stanhope Street, and the promise of “many able and talented contributors”, the periodical is largely Emma (and Margaret, her sister, the librarian of the Manchester Foreign Library), and lasts only for 12 issues
- The start of several “books”
- UU is concluded hurriedly, hacking up the novella-in-progress rather badly



1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- Ghost Land, Volume 2 (1892)
- Advertised as in existence since the publication of Volume 1 in 1876
- Covers Louis De B____'s experiences in the United States, which are astoundingly similar to those of EHB, and those EHB records in MAS and NCM
 - Louis is a witness to some of the events in MAS and NCM
- Will be included in the annotated edition of Ghost Land, in preparation

EXTRACTS FROM "GHOSTLAND," VOL. II.;

OR,

RESEARCHES INTO THE REALM OF SPIRITUAL EXISTENCE.

By the Author of "Art Magic."

*Translated and Collated by Emma H. Britten.**

PART I.

WHAT a wonderful teacher is memory, and what a divine privilege bestowed by the Creator on the creature is the power of retrospect!

As I paced the deck of the steamer that bore me away from the land of my birth and the scene of the sad experiences with which the last record of my biography closed, I seemed to be born into a new life. I had many times before in my changeful career felt as if my very identity had become so altered that it was possible for the soul to live many lives in one, but I never experienced this idea so forcibly as during the period of temporary repose afforded me by my voyage. I could go over and over again in retrospect the series of changes through which I had passed since childhood to the then present hour.

I recalled my boyish life at the German university; my first experience as a mesmerized subject with Professor Felix von Marx and the "Berlin Brotherhood," and even after the lapse of so many years I felt returning upon me the sentiments of astonishment and delight I experienced at discovering in my soul flights through space that I could see, hear, move, and travel with almost lightning speed, and that without the aid of my poor, sleeping, inanimate body.

* By permission of the author.

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- The Mystery of No. 9 Stanhope Street (1892)
- To my way of thinking, the most interesting fiction Emma wrote (and on a word-count basis she wrote as much explicit fiction as non-fiction, during her life)
- Ann Sophia is dead (d. 1886), Emma is 69 years old, and still the primary breadwinner, after 54 years
- She is, I think, wrestling with the daemons of her childhood in this novella
- The mother does not fare well; nor does the daughter.

THE MYSTERY OF No. 9, STANHOPE STREET.
A ROMANCE OF REAL LIFE.
By Emma Hardinge Britten.
CHAPTER XII.—CONCLUSION.

It was a sad and pitiful revelation disclosed by the official inquiry concerning the events of the night recorded in our last chapter. As the reader may have already divined by the names and brief history given in the cellar by the children whose mother lay dead in the corner of that woeful place, those children were the orphans of Stanhope's friend and fellow student in art, Reginald Balfour. The fate of the unhappy Maddalena, the neglected and ill-educated wife of Balfour, was precisely that which has befallen many another hapless wife, unfaithful to her marriage vows, adored one hour by the seducer, deserted the next. In London, whither she had been brought by her destroyer, she had insisted on keeping under her own charge her two little children, whom she passionately loved, while her temporary *protector*, weary of them and jealous of her divided affections, was equally determined that they should be sent away somewhere—anywhere—removed from intrusion on his selfish gratification in the society of the object of his fleeting fancy. All this was learned by a letter partly written by the wretched woman and found in the pocket of her ragged gown. It was addressed to her foster mother, Madame Baillie, to whom she seemed to be in the course of appealing, but as that letter was neither finished nor directed, no one save Sir Richard Stanhope could have known the party for whom it was really designed. This fragment of writing and the testi-

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- The story turns in part on a young girl, corrupt and corrupted by a cast of characters, including the girl's mother, who rents her out as an artist's model to painter Richard Stanhope (who lives at No. 9 Stanhope Street...are we repeating Stanhope enough?)

One of the grandest triumphs of this wonderful picture was that this reptilian form conveyed to every beholder the impression of human intelligence in the very act of speaking, whilst an equally irresistible sentiment of conviction seemed to pervade the veiled yet nude and unexceptionably modest angel of the flowery bushes—gleaming in her eager, large, azure eyes, and revealing eloquently in her bending form—that she was listening. The picture was at once a marvel of history, revelation, and artistic perfection. After a long and almost breathless pause of admiration the visitor murmured —"Matchless! Perfect! Supermundane!"



Eve Tempted, by John Roddam Spencer Stanhope (1829-1908) -a version of this painting was in the permanent collection of the Manchester Galleries

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- JRSS' work was on display in various forms (oil, tempera) from 1877 onward
- Though Spencer Stanhope was a habitué of the London theatre, and Emma's age peer, there's really no evidence that they knew one another
- But Richard Stanhope is clearly John Roddam Spencer Stanhope, down to physical description, residence, body of work
- Was she telling us that the sensualist was JRS Stanhope? Or Philip Henry Stanhope? Or what?

The Mystery of No. 9, Stanhope Street. 635

masked executioner, axe in hand, holding up a real decapitated woman's head by its long fair waving tresses of gold, whilst the mock executioner cried out in bombastic French, 'Behold the head of the murderess, ADINA MORANI, put to death this day for the murder of her lawful husband, Jacopo Morani, of —.' At this point I saw no more, heard no more. I KNOW beyond a peradventure that heart, mind, brain, all, all, gave way. I *died* to the Richard Stanhope I had been, and after many long weeks of raving lunacy I became a new spirit in the old body, but a worn out wreck, a miserable, woeful, sham of a man, with no thought but to live, because I must, and to do something in the shape of feeding those more hungry and miserable than myself. Whether this state was, as I now think, the obsession of some spirit even more miserable than myself, or a mania of my own soul, induced by agony and horror, I can never quite determine. I think, myself, we may live many lives in one body, and yet, by the force of circumstances and outward impressions, our minds may become so changed that the former individuality of our soul may be lost, though our body remains the same. Be this as it may, I believe that I had but one ray of reason during many weeks of madness, and this was when the doctor in attendance upon me informed me that the ghostly tragedy (the representation and memory of which had so fearfully affected me) had been enacted by a woman, wife of a billiard player who had passed himself off as her brother in order to attract custom by her beauty. That the wretched woman having in prospect a much more wealthy marriage with a rich dupe, had, with the aid of her equally wicked mother, put her husband to death. The mother had escaped to the Continent, added the doctor, the daughter confessed her crime on the night before her execution.

"What more need be said, my Ethel, to explain the

1881-1892: Queen of the Midlands

- March of 1893: The Unseen Universe folds after twelve issues, rather hurriedly
- Emma obliquely cites “private and personal motives [that] must of necessity actuate every individual in the conduct of life-work,” but declines to elaborate -- she’s strapped
- And angry: “My second reason for suspending the monthly record of what I hoped to make an aid in this great work of spiritual progress is because I have been constantly solicited, by those who know in fragments something of my past wonderful life, to give its fuller details, in such an autobiography as will show what wise, strong, and loving spirits can do, and have done, for a young, un-friended foreigner in a strange land conducting missionary work in the face and defiance of popular opinion. When the good spirits, who have thus led and supported me, combine with the good friends who have still found me out, even in the midnight obscurity of Manchester Spiritualism, and urge me to the writing of this autobiography, I cannot refuse their plea; in fact, compliance is inevitable.”
- Her life is all she has left to sell.