

answer the same in a forthcoming number. The editor, belonging to the large class of doubters, has expressed his views on the subject in an article entitled "Spirit or Ghost," which appeared in the April *Monist*.—*Ed.*]

CHARITY.

BY THE HON. C. C. BONNEY.

Of all the angels sent us from the throne
 Of the Divine, the loveliest one is known
 By the sweet name of Charity. Her face
 Filled with the beauty of celestial grace,
 Turns from the splendors of the rich and strong,
 To seek the lowliest in sorrow's throng,
 And change their tears and wretchedness and pain
 To peace and joy. She asks no other gain
 Than the delight of making others blest
 With food and shelter, raiment, work and rest,
 Virtue and peace, pure lives and worthy deeds,
 And all the graces that the great world needs.

A SPIRITUALISTIC SEANCE.

To the Editor of The Open Court:

As an inquirer into the phenomena of Spiritualism, I was naturally interested in the article in *The Open Court* of December, 1901, written by Lieut.-Col. Gardner—"An Evening with the Spiritualists."

The account of a *séance* at Boston brought to my mind an incident which—occurring within my own experience, a few years ago—has led me to regard a great deal of present-day "Spiritualism" as about the lowest form of "Materialism" to which mankind can descend.

I was invited one evening to a *séance* in one of our New Zealand towns: about twenty persons were present (male and female, say half and half). The meeting was presided over by an individual known to the others as "Brother" Jones, who opened the proceedings by requesting "Brother" Fish to oblige the company with a prayer. Brother Fish's abilities in this direction were extraordinary indeed: he addressed Omnipotence with a fervor and unctuousness which would have done credit to a Salvation Army officer or Latter Day Saint; and at the same time gave utterance to a caricature of the "Lord's Prayer" which (could it only have been reported) would have been worthy of a prominent place in the French "Comic Bible," or the "Annals of Blasphemy." The prayer concluded, Brother Fish was invited to sing a hymn; upon which that personification of piety led the congregation in a strictly original version of "Abide with Me"; I say "strictly original," because though he knew the tune well enough, his knowledge of the words was limited to "Abide with me, fast falls the even tide," which he adapted to the tune, with consummate solemnity, from beginning to end: the effect of this "exercise" upon myself was more ridiculous than sublime. This part of the proceedings being over, Brother Jones stated that, the regular medium being absent, their friend Brother Bell would give an "inspired" address; and Brother Bell having