THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE MAGAZINE PAGE

W. T. Stead's Efforts to Bridge Life and Death Told by His Daughter

Interesting and Intimate Details of the Beliefs and Spiritual Experiments of the Great Journalist Who Lost His Life on the Titanic.

peculiarly familiar to readers of this newspaper. The greatest militant journalist of modern times, indefatigable apostle of peace, honored by every civilized nation, subjects of world-wide interest. His death in the Titanio disaster was felt as a loss to all

The achievements of Mr. Stead sprang from the single motive which was the inspiration of all his activities—his evidently passionate desire to benefit his fellow beings in the highest sense of that word. With that ideal in view he did not hesitate to hazard his fortunes and his future. For accomplishing one of the greatest reforms in the history of his country, England, he was sent to prison. But he came out a universally recognized champion of hu-man progress and enlightenment.

He was the adored "Chief" of a closely united family, whose members worked, suffered and rejoiced with him. To this fortunate circumstance the multitudes of readers who came under the influence of Mr. Stead's writings while he was yet living are indebted for a faithful, graphic and comprehensive view of the man himself and his labors and teachings

now that he is dead.

This invaluable record is furnished by his daughter, Estelle W. Stead, in a volume entitled "W. T. Stead, Personal and Spiritual Reminiscences," just published by the George H. Doran Company, New York.

As the title of Miss Stead's book suggests, the spiritual element in Mr. Stead's character was always in ovidence. It is well known that in later life he conducted elaborate investigations into spiritual phenomena, believing it possible, and seriously undertaking the task of ercoting a "bridge" between this world and the next, so that death might not wholly separate souls which had been congenial upon earth. A bureau of research and experiment was established. Writing of this in her book Miss Stead says:

mbered that several tim

from Mr. Stead. In the last paragraph of her book Miss Stead writes:

"Three weeks after his passing he came to the Upper Room in the Inner Sanctuary of Julia's Bureau. (Julia A. Ames, tounder of the bureau). In that room, where he had himself so often spoken of the life to come and conversed with those who had already passed onward, he—the beloved Chief—came and spoke to those who prayed and waited, knowing he would come. Clearly he showed his face, that all might see, and as it faded into darkness his voice rang through the room, and he spake, saying:

his voice rang through the room, and he spake, saying:

""All I told you is true . . ."

From family history Miss Stead extracts an interesting explanation of the difficulties that lie in the way of spiritual communications from the other world. Her brother Willie, her father's assistant in his work and between whom there was deep affection, had died in the harness. It was a terrible blow to her father. But a year and a half later he wrote:

"When my boy was here our offices were connected by telephone, and it is much the same now. He writes to me through several mediums; he shows himself to my friends. I myself have seen his materialized face."

Then Miss Stead quotes the following measage which her father received from Willie on December 15, 1911, the day after the anniversary of his death, but which he called his "birthday":

"W. Stead, Jun. My dearest Father, My

"W. Stead, jun. My dearest Father. My birthday":

"W. Stead, jun. My dearest Father. My birthday message is ever the same. The better on before. When I think of the ideas I had of the life I am now living, when I was in the world in which you are, I marvel at the hopeless inadequacy of my dreams. The reality is so much, so very much greater than ever I imagined.

"You and I and all people that on earth do dwell, are too apt to imagine this life as only an extension of the old life. Everything is to be as it is, only more so. But everything is not as it was. It is a new life, the nature of which you cannot understand, although it is possible to explain something of it by analogy.

"Imagine yourself a caterpillar on a cabbage leaf. Things will be better on before you, you say to the caterpillar. But what does better mean to the caterpillar? More cabbages, even more cabbages, and ever cabbages; more sunshine, less rain and no hungry birds to eat you up. All caterpillary ideas limited by the sensations and aspirations of a cabbage world. After a time the caterpillar becomes a butterfly. But how can the butterfly explain to the caterpillars the conditions of his new life, the buoyancy of flight, the joy of love, the sweetness of the honey flowers?

"These essentials of the new existence are incapable of being explained to the caterpillar mind, for the vecabulary of the onbbage would contain no words capable of conveying concepts entirely alien to the caterpillar's senses. So it is with me. I tell you it is better on before, always, and far better than I dreamed of. But when I come down to tell you whereig the betterness consists I feel like the butterfly sitting by the exterpillar and endeavoring to

explain what eight is, what light is, what flight is, wherein lies the joy of love."

But of Mr. Stead's systematic and well-guarded efforts to prove the possibility of thought transference between persons separated by a considerable distance, she writes

candidly:

"The telepathic test invariably failed; not one of the cases succeeded in impressing the test word on the 'sensitive."

The light which Miss Stead turns upon the character of her father, and the motives which actuated him in all he undertook, gives her book an interest and value of a solid and permanent nature which are possessed by few volumes of this kind. For example, she shows by his own testimony how, at the age of eighteen, the future great journalistic peace advocate had already resolved that his personal interests should always be subordinated to the interests and progress of mankind. He was already deciding upon a career in journalism, and without compensation in money was filling columns in the local newspaper with well-worked-out plans for the betterment of local conditions.

But it was his study of the works of the

But it was his study of the works of the American poet, Lowell, which crystalized his altruistic leanings. Miss Stead quotes:

"It was then that I came upon Mr. Lowell's little-known poem. Extreme Unction," which I find marked in pencil, "This poem changed my life."

This was the illuminating verse:
God bends from out the deep, and says,
"I gave thee the great gift of life;
Wast thou not called in many ways?
Are not my earth and heaven at strife?"
The quotation continues:

Are not my earth and heaven at strife?"

The quotation continues:

"The idea that everything wrong in the world was a divine call to use your life in righting it sank deep into my soul. And there, in the darkness and gloom of that time of weakness and trial, I put away from me, as of the Evil One, all dreams of fame and literary ambitions on which I had fed from my boyhood, and resolutely set myself to do what little I could, there and then, where I was, among these who surrounded me, to fulfill 'the trust for such high uses given."

"It was one of the decisive moments of my life. Since then I can honestly say that I have never regarded literary or journalistic success as worth a straw, excepting in so far as it caused me to strike a heavier blow in the cause of those for whom I was called to fight."

Mr. Stead became editor of his local newspaper, The Northern Echo, in 1871, and remained there always true to his bonvictions in his work until 1889.

"It has even been my fate," Miss Stead quotes from her father's letters, "to be called to try to atem the tide of popular fury. My first experience was when, in 1876-8, I had to act as Mr. Gladstone's humble lieutenant in keeping the North of England as far as possible immune from the jingo madness that raged and clamored for war with Russia."



The Late Wm. T. Stead.

"My father with Oliver Cromwell's pistol, a statue of Gen-feral Gordon, and a copy of "The Imitation" of Thomas a Kempis given him by Gordon." (Hiustration from Miss Stead's Book, "W. T. Stead, Personal and Spiritual Reminiscences.")

and Spiritual Reminiscences.")

a world's peace advocate, which was later to take him to St. Petersburg, to the Vatican, to the Balkans, to South Africa and to Constantinople on a peace mission to the Sultan.

Of the most absorbing interest is Miss Stead's account of her father's course, when, in 1885, as editor in control of the London Pall Mail Gazette, the whole civilized world was electrified by the shameful disclosures made in that newspaper under the title, "The Maiden Tribute of Modern Babylon."

From her father's autoblographical writings Miss Stead quotes the following paragraphs which formed the basis of his editorial creed:

"Ideal to be simed at. "Thy kingdom come, Thy will he done on earth as it is in heaven.

"To be ever in the van, going shead, accepting the responsibilities and discharging the duties of leadership of our race in its upward strivings after the ideal; to hear new words of command in every cry of the sor-

fresh exertion by every spectacle of sin and

"Every man and woman who falls short

of the perfect manhood of Christ Jesus cries out for help to realize that manhood, which is their birthright in Christ, with earnestness and emphasis, proportioned to his remoteness from the ideal (Lowell's 'A Parable,' last verse). Mem make Christ's image into paupers and

"To redeem the world, every agency for good is needed, and new agencies still.
"The great need, intelligent sympathy and imagination.

"True Catholicity, character, all else in-cluded, to be encouraged; their baser parts discouraged, more by favor to the good than "To work on, to yearn on in faith.

"Christ, the best remedy for pessimism and despair. He saw all the chances, and seeing, chose as the best part the life of shame, sorrow and death. The prize was worth the sacrifice. If it was so for Him, it is not less so

Referring to the "Maiden Tribute" sensa-tion, Miss Stead quotes direct from her father's writings:

"In the Spring of 1885 the Chamberlain of the City of London, a venerable old man of seventy-five, came to me in great distress and informed me that owing to the unexpected defeat of Mr. Gladstone's government and the confusion occasioned by the installation of his successor, a bill for strengthefing the laws for the protection of girls and young women, which had been introduced into the House of Commons by the outgoing government, would be sacrificed.

"'All our work,' said the Chamberlain, 'will be wasted unless you can rouse up public opinion and compel the new government to take up the bill and pass it into law."

It is history that Mr. Stead's shocking disclosures in the Pall Mall Gazette accomplished the needed reform. It is also history that a technical flaw in the evidence he presented enabled a biased court to send Mr. Stead to prison.

book peculiarly interesting in its relations to the inner life of one of the most picturesque

Moving Pictures of Men and Women Who Builded the City.

SIMPLE LIFE OF OTHER DAYS

collections of Pushing Parces and Sivents Which Mark the Upbuilding of Nebruska's

stories ever told. It is impossible to put into this brief parrative all the leading evente that transpired in early days, for Omaha's huay, thriving and progressive

rivations of those days. The vanks of

Lure of the Gold Picids. In 1848, the cry of the gold fields of Omaha bad a newspaper in her earlier California was heard, setting the people existence. It was called the Arrow and of our country meanly wild, Hundreds was printed in Council Rtuffs. J. W. started for the Pacific coast, some in Pattison was its editor. There were only

where to begin. But I will try and reinte what I can remember of what I river to make claim to some of the
have seen and heard and will attempt to
play author to the little group of friends
before me, with many of whom I have
been companion and associate for the
last half century or more.

These little anecdotes have been told
over and over again, only to become to
the great astonishment of all, was realincluding the disc crossed the
many times more than this has been acturned to Kanesville. To these men belong the honor of making the first nurvey in Nebraska, which comprised the
land south of Howard street, including
the heart of the pieness the awesical
stories ever told. It is impossible to put to Omaha and applied to Washington, D. C. for the establishment of a mail route between Kansaville and Omaha, which was no sconer saked than done, and on ily now stands upon the site where but in Omaha was received by him from May4, 1864, the first letter ever received and tute and andured the hardships and here, there were not many correspondents

enjoy these remarkscences, while the new- of Omaha. The cathles and supplies were men of the World building. It was a comer experty listens to the recital of brought over from Kanesville in a wagon. Very rude affair made of rough boards that which to him is new and interesting. The Hon. Hadley Jones of that town and cloth with the same for shelves and How I regret the good old days and all was called upon for a speech, and in counter. Mr. Ish spent his summers here the pleasant, happy ways, now perished the absence of a grandstand started to and during dull times, his winters in from the earth. No more the worn bread deliver the oration from the wagon. Booneville Later on, he purchased this winner sings, no more the cottage tools. Two blacksmith's anvils fired a salute, property, a large building was built tree rings with sounds of hearty mirth. He had not jongressed very far when thereon, which he occupied till his The good old days! The cheerful nights' the Indians at distance, heard the noise death several years ago. We had then no electric lights, but oil and came in great numbers. The women In the year 1865 Edward Rosewater

year's styles. There'll never be such accepted one of the lots that the town es, and heds were stuffed with hay, one who would build upon them. A few when paper collars were the rage. Oh, years later he induced my parents to dear, delightful bygone ago, when we come to Omaha and locate, which we were young and say. least what is left of us.

teams, some on hors-back and many on twelve issues covering a period from foot. With this number came a William July 18 to November 16, 1854. Mrs. D. Brown who reached Kanesville, and James K. Ish is the only one that I By MRS. WHOMAS COMMACK.

D. Brown who reached Kanesville, and James K. Ish is the only one that I be made a state of the annual related; perceiving a great opportunity to entire series. Its editor, Mr. Pattison, make money concluded he would run a was like George Francis Train, a flow-association in Omaha, February M:

It is difficult to make up some of the course of pioneer days in our city and state, being there is such a vast and varied multitude of interestins and the flig Mundy know of that Is in the only one that I is an interesting and the flig Mundy know of that has in her peacestion the make money concluded he would run a was like George Francis Train, a flow-ferry boat to carry the travellers across ery and enthusiastic writer. He wrote many families and enthusiastic writer. He wrote many families and enthusiastic writer. He wrote the Missouri to Omaha. This he did many families and enthusiastic writer. He wrote the Missouri to omaha. This he did many families and enthusiastic writer. He wrote the Missouri to omaha. This he did many families and en

> to literary work. In 1864 he returned water Omaha would have lost many a to Omaha and in 1885 established the warthy enterprise. World-Herald, a democratic organ, and



Mrs. Thomas Cormack

Mr. and Mrs. William P. Snowden came from Kanceville to Omaha, Mr. and Mrs. Newell returning to Kanesville three weeks later. Mr. and Mrs. Snowden remained and to them belongs the honor of being the first actual settlers. Miss Tina artist of this city, still resides here and is with us on this occasion. The first Western Union and other Integraph
Integrate were no books or maga
Integrated to make the books are trained to make the book with father
Integrated to make the book was never completed.

Western Union and other Integraph
Integrated to make a point of the pressure of the amendation of the pressure of the amendation of the pressure of the amendation of the pressure of the same integrated to make a street where the observed of all
Integrated to make the books are until our bedding that the ploneers were the possessors of the first integrated to will be the pressure of the cast. He founded The point would make the cold air gallivant beats.

Integrated the greatest in-bounds to work the observer, so we salled forth in our inpoint would make the cold air gallivant beats.

Integrated the greatest inbounds or which the ladders were
talked of Meak's ark until our bedding the point of the landing daily
integrated to the

was the first private dwelling and Mr. and Mrs. Snowden moved into it after a residence of three months in the St. Nicholas hotel. The event was celebrated of Omaha was given on this occasion. They danced till morning to the music of Mr. Davis' fiddle. There were few ladies house had no doors or windows so they hung quits and blankets over the open-

The Pride of the Town. The pride of our town was the new brick state house erected on Ninth street between Douglas and Farnam streets. It was two stories with hall and stairway however, and returned to Omaha and enin the center. The first territorial egis- gaged in the banking business and other lature ever convened in Nebraska met in this building January 16, 1855. And prominent men till his death. His wife thereafter meetings of all kinds, ligious, business and social, were held as his memorial. This bequest was in acthere till it was torn down some years cordance with the wish often expressed

which made it difficult for children to city of Omaha, in control. W. I. days. Kenney, Henry Pundt, James Donnelly and Harry Taggart. These were our first Nebraska was taken, which was 2,702. fire fighters, seven of the bravest men This, of course, did not include the Inthat ever fought a fire, and I believe dians. Omaha alone today has a popu. and Chicago streets. The central High that Andy Simpson is now the only sur- lation of over 150,000. We had then no electric lights, but oil and came in great numbers. The women In the year 185 Edward Rosewater is with us on this occasion. The light company I, of the Omnha Fire department of the unity would explode and blow the anylis and all were thrown into the where he was stationed in the War destantly cross the road and sometimes view followed by the entire audience the improvement of the partment office in the military telescence; there were no books or maga-

she was doing well if she knew last year to seek his fortune in the west. He ONE OF OMAHA'S PINE PIONEER Mr. Snowden built the fourth house, and out of the mud during chairman of a committee of citizens to other log cabin on a lot given to him a fire. For a long time only one string quickly arrange a program which was by the ferry company. It was located on of hose was available. The water was carried out the next afternoon following Tenth street south of Howard street. This furnished from visterns built in the the glad tidings, Alvin Saunders, George center of the streets.

First Telegraph.

who won a fortune and national reputation in building the first telegraph line to the Pacific coast. While engaged in the room for those who were tired from teresting Brigham Young in the project, and employee alike observed the anniand from Salt Lake City to Sacramena, Cal., he traveled over the mountains. through the forests and wildernesses on by him during his life that it should In 1857 a Mrs. Smith came here and bear his name.

opened a little school in the basement Francis Burt was our first territorial of the First Congregational church on governor, and Jesse Lowe was elected Douglas, west of bixteenth street, which March 3, 1857, Omaha's first mayor, both closed after a year. Those who could stalwart democrats of the old state. The afford it had tutors or a governoss to in- political slate has changed from time to struct their children. This was the be:- time, and the democrats are again, with ter way on account of the scattered John H. Morehead governor of the with me recall pleasant memories of this homes and rough condition of the roads, state, and J. C. Dahlman, mayor of the dear old school and it is a fact, too, that get about. In 1866, the town being mostly ture politics of our city and state will composed of wooden buildings hastily and be is hard to predict, but I am sure what- which grew the men and women who It was the pioneer who struggled early as postmanter. There being few residents with his pen did valuable service for this time is one esteemed friends and are today the progressive as postmanter. There being few residents with his pen did valuable service for this time is one esteemed friends and the state of the progressive being few residents with his pen did valuable service for this time is one esteemed friends and the line have been and are today the progressive being few residents with his pen did valuable service for this time is one esteemed friends and the line have been and are today the progressive being few residents with his pen did valuable service for this time is one esteemed friends and the line have been and are today the progressive being few residents with his pen did valuable service for this time is one esteemed friends and the line have been and are today the progressive being few residents with his pen did valuable service for this time is one esteemed friends and the line have been and are today the progressive being few residents with his pen did valuable service for this time is one esteemed friends. After the line have been and are today the progressive being few residents with his pen did valuable service for this time is one esteemed friends and the line have been and are today the progressive and the line have been and are today the progressive and the line have been and are today the progressive and the line have been and are today the progressive and the line have been and are today the progressive and the line have been and are today the progressive and the line have been and are today the progressive and the line have been and are today the progressive and the line have been and are today the progressive and the line have been and are today the progressive and the line have been and are today the line have been an privations of these days. The ranks of sq it was said that Mr. Jones carried brasks. After the arrival of Dr. George present one of the scitors of The Bee, is a singular fact the first building burnt ever stopped to realize how strictly up- us can look back with pride and satisfactive been thinned from time the postoffice in his hat. So you see he L. Miller a drugglet was needed to fill who has grawn up and given his life in Omaha stood on the Paxton hotel site to-date and thoroughly modernized every- tion that we were members of that little to time by death, yet among those who was not only Omaha's first postmaster, his prescriptions, so James K. Ish, a from childhood to the present time to the where years after the Grand Cen. thing and everybody is becoming even to brown school house. In 1870 a four-room survive may be found some of our coun-but malicarrier as well.

Young pharmacist and promising bost- press of this city and is one of the best trail hotel was burned. It was a small the men folks. They are getting out brick school was built on Pacific between try's most active and promising busi- press of this city and is one of the best trail hotel was a small the man folks. They are getting out price school was ount on recino between try's most active and promising busi- press of this city and is one of the best trail hotel was a small the man folks. They are getting out on recino between try's most active and promising busi- press of this city and is one of the best trail hotel was a small the man folks. They are getting out on recino between try's most active and promising busi- press of this city and is one of the best trail hotel was a small the man folks. They are getting out on the man folks. They are getting out of the city and is one of the best trail hotel was burned. It was a small the man folks. They are getting out of the city and is one of the best trail hotel was burned. It was a small the man folks. They are getting out of the man folks. They are getting out of the city and is one of the best trail hotel was burned. It was a small the man folks. They are getting out of the city and is one of the best trail hotel was burned. It was a small the man folks. They are getting out of the man folks. They are getting the young busines men of the town, many they can tell you all about it, and if this school in the year 1871 and under In July, 1884, a Mr. and Mrs. Newell and of whom served as volunteers. It was they only would they could tell you many the careful guidance and training of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Snowden came composed of Andrew J. Simpson. Frank interesting political stories of the early Principal Lyman E. Hutchinson and training of the careful guidance and training of the guidance and training guidance and training guidance and guidance and guidance and guidance and

cipal thing responsible for the wonderful

Francis Train and B. E. B. Kennedy spoke. The honor of removing the first mother earth belongs to Governor Alvin Another important event of 1890 was the Saunders, B. E. B. Kennedy, mayor of completion of the first telegraph line into Omaha, and George Francis Train, which Omaha by way of St. Louis. This line was a token that the commencement of was built by the late Edward Creighton, the first railroad in Omaha had begun. Forty-four years ago the golden spike was driven with a silver hammer at Promthis business he went by stage coach to nue of the Union Pacific railway, markings and arranged boards at the sides of Salt Lake City where he succeeded in in- ing the completion of the road. Officials versary. The driving of the golden spike onstration on the 16th of May, 1869, a horseback. Imagine, if you can, the salute of a hundred guns was fired from perils and hardships he encountered on Capitol bill and bells and steam whistles added to the din. There was a grand marched. High mass was celebrated in enterprises, and was one of our most Catholic churches and all other churches offered prayer. This event was cele-

brated in a like manner in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco. Early Schools. The first public school built in Omaha

was a two-room building in the year 1863, on the site now known as Jefferson square. It was there I first learned my A B Cs. It was supervised by Mr. and Mrs. Lyman E. Hutchinson, principal and assistant teachers, respectively. I am sure there are many here today who can within the walls of this rude building were planted the seeds of learning from Hetty McKoon (now Recs) assistant, the On October 24, 1864, the first census of first class entered the Omaha High school, which was a rented room in the Wright building, southeast corner of Sixteenth Capitol building, which had been torn Ophnilding Forces, down, and in 1572 was ready for occuif we were asked to name the prin- paner, and the classes under the high school instructors, John H. Kellom, S. D. Benis and Ralph E. Gaylord transferred answer that it was the Union Pacific to the new building. For us joy knew no