

ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENT

Letter from Dr. Andrew Jackson Davis to the Members of the Gladstone Hall Lyceum (March 15, 1909)



OFFICE OF
ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN TO BODY AND SOUL.

Patients received (only by appointment) in his office, 63 WARREN AVENUE, BOSTON, MASS.,
Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M. Office closed during July and August.

To the Members *Boston, March 15, 1909*
of the Gladstone Hall Lyceum
representing England's first
loving and most grateful greetings,
for your unanimous Resolution,
imparting your combined con-
gratulations and fraternal best
wishes (prayers?) for my part
in unfolding the spirit and
power of the Children's Pro-
Lyceum. Your united voice
is heard, and your blessing
is felt, with 1,000 thanks, by
your friend and fellow worker,
Andrew Jackson Davis.

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Physician to Body and Soul

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DATE OF WRITING

March 15, 1909 (*Boston, Mch 15 1909*)

RECIPIENT

Members of the Gladstone Hall Lyceum

DOCUMENT TRANSCRIPTION

Boston, Mch 15, 1909 To the Members of the Gladstone Hall Lyceum & "representing England's first"— in loving and most grateful greetings, for your unanimous Resolution, imparting your combined congratulations and fraternal best wishes (or *prayers?*) for my part in unfolding the spirit and form of the Children's Progressive Lyceum: Your united voice is heard, and your blessing is felt, with 1,000 thanks, by Your friend and fellow-worker, **Andrew Jackson Davis**

Transcription Notes & Observations:

- **Children's Progressive Lyceum:** A spiritualist educational movement founded by Andrew Jackson Davis in 1863. The manuscript truncates "Progressive" as "Pro" at the line wrap before resuming with "Lyceum".
- **Parenthetical note:** The phrase "(or *prayers?*)" appears written above "*wishes*" as a stylistic/conceptual addition by the author.
- **Printed Stationery:** Written on official physician letterhead from Davis's Boston practice (63 Warren Avenue).

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE & LOCAL CONTEXT

1. WHAT THE LETTER DISCLOSES

Writing from his medical practice in Boston, Massachusetts, Dr. Andrew Jackson Davis responds to a formal, unanimous resolution forwarded to him by the members of the Gladstone Hall Lyceum in England. Davis acknowledges their fraternal congratulations and gratitude for his foundational work in establishing the **Children's Progressive Lyceum**, closing with a heartfelt sign-off offering "*1,000 thanks*" to his "*fellow-workers*."

2. SIGNIFICANCE IN GLOBAL SPIRITUALIST HISTORY

Known as the "**Poughkeepsie Seer**," Andrew Jackson Davis (1826–1910) was one of the central philosophical pioneers of Modern Spiritualism. In 1863, inspired by spiritual visions of child instruction in the higher spheres, he founded the Children's Progressive Lyceum. Unlike traditional Victorian Sunday schools, the Lyceum introduced progressive physical calisthenics, music, open inquiry, and moral philosophy without threats of eternal damnation.

Written in **March 1909**—just ten months before Davis's death in January 1910—this letter serves as one of his final recorded personal communications expressing gratitude for the global reach and international adoption of his educational framework across the Atlantic.

3. IMPORTANCE TO NOTTINGHAM SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Nottingham holds a singular, prestigious position in British Spiritualist history. In **1866**, Mr. Jonathan Hitchcock established the **very first Lyceum in Great Britain in Nottingham**, establishing Gladstone Hall (Lamartine Street) as the pioneering centre that introduced Davis's Lyceum movement to the United Kingdom—hence Davis's specific annotation acknowledging them as "*representing England's first*."

A Primary Historical Relic: For Nottingham Spiritualist Church, where this framed manuscript hangs, the letter provides direct, primary documentary proof connecting the founding father of Spiritualist youth education in America directly to the British pioneers in Nottingham. It stands as a tangible bridge spanning over a century of continuous spiritual heritage.