

THE ANTI-MESMERIST.

“TREMBLE, THOU WRETCH,
THAT HAST WITHIN THEE UNDIVULGED CRIMES,
UNWHIPT OF JUSTICE.”—*Shakspeare.*

No. X.]

Bath, Saturday, February 15th, 1845.

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INTRODUCTION.

WE had hoped to have completed our task. No one has disproved ought that we have asserted. No one has attempted even to answer our challenge. Dr. Elliotson is afraid to meet us, because he knows full well that we understand the art better than he does, and the effect of our labours. By the exposures which we have made, and the directions whereby we have enabled others to test the so called science, Mesmerism is at its last gasp in London, and in many country places where it so lately flourished. Six years of untiring investigation, involving many opportunities of witnessing patients and experiments, guided by that physiological knowledge which a medical man can alone possess, and aided by contributions from all quarters, and keen observers, must give to him who has enjoyed these opportunities, and made the most of them, a right to consider his opinions of value, and his authority of weight.

Had our printer been a little more careful in the nine preceding Numbers, we should care for little alteration: we should have little to add, and nothing to take away, and should rest content that our arguments and facts are unassailable. But since the completion of the first edition of this Work, impositions so public and so

palpable have been attempted and detected, that we feel called upon to spread them far and wide. Our worst predictions have been fulfilled, our gravest suspicions verified, and he who after reading them can listen to professors of Mesmerism deserves to be cheated as he will be. Miss Martineau too has made some noise in the world. It was necessary to see how much credit was due to her. And more operations have occurred at Leicester. We are happy to be able to reduce them to their just value. The personal slanders that Messrs. Collier, Vernon and others have spread about ourselves and our book, only evidence how deeply we have stung them, and are the greatest eulogiums they could pay to us. They say we once lectured on Mesmerism. They say we intended to convert the *Anti-Mesmerist* into a mesmeric journal!

Fraud must be supported by falsehood, and No. X. is the only answer they merit. From first to last we have been and shall be the uncompromising opponents of them and their science!

2, Bath Street, Bath, Feb. 12, 1845.

INSENSIBILITY TO PAIN.

AGAIN have the Leicester people been frightened from their propriety, by two operations; the one amputation, the other, strabismus or squinting, performed by Mr. Toswill, under mesmeric influence, and witnessed and attested to have been without pain, not only by the operator and mesmeriser, but by men known to us for their probity, and in every other matter for their sagacity, whilst the patients themselves declare that “they were ignorant of the operations having been performed, and felt no pain.” The report was not furnished to the Leicester paper in an authentic shape, but as the one we extract from (that in the *Journal* of November 15) was evidently written by a believer, we have a right to assume that it speaks as favourably as it may. And what evidence does it give of the truth of the patients' assertions, or the witnesses'

belief? Why, on the day appointed for the amputation she was "thrown into the necessary condition," but before the operation commenced she seems to have been frightened, for "she woke up," and no operation was performed that day, and the usual nonsense is put forth, of the "mesmeric influence having passed off." Whilst waiting for one of the surgeons, just as in the second case, the arms, which were rendered cataleptic or rigid, "sunk gradually, as the arms do after having been some time in this condition." Ignorant stupidity! Why this is the very concession that destroys the whole case. Cataleptic and rigid arms *never do sink*, until the exciting condition be removed; and it was only because the arms of mesmeric patients were supposed to be held up longer than ordinary arms could be held up, that any man believed in the influence. Now, forsooth, the patient may put them up or down, as he or she may please, and still we are called upon to concede catalepsy! Out upon such rubbish!

But we have stronger evidence than this that the girls were neither mesmerised, nor unconscious, nor insensible. The first girl, immediately preceding the operation, on the second day, "maundered" out the following: she "hoped it would not hurt her much;" that if done, "Mr. Paget would do it," "that the Lord would support her, and give her fortitude to bear up under the trial;" and we are gravely assured by the journalist that this was "nothing more than a dream," and asked to believe that she was "insensible and unconscious."

The other girl sat "*upright in her chair, but not fastened to it.*" Look back to our preceding pages, and you will find that this settles the question. *She could not sit upright in her chair, and be unconscious.* But there was "*a painful expression in the features, and a quickness of breathing;*" and yet we are called upon to "call this nothing," in defiance of painful facts, and this too by a writer so ignorant and so credulous, that he solemnly declares that "MR. TOSWILL TURNED THE EYE OUT OF ITS SOCKET, DIVIDED THE PART WHICH CAUSED THE OBLIQUITY, PERFORMED ALL THE PROPER DRESSING, AND PUT THE EYE INTO ITS PROPER PLACE AGAIN."

Well may Mr. Fullagar, a surgeon of Leicester, declare that the operation "proved one of the most signal failures that Mesmerism has ever experienced since the days of Okey or Lakin."

Another operation appears to have been performed at Leicester under mesmeric influence, and without pain. It was for strabismus or squint eye. The boy says he felt no pain, and has no recollection of the operation. But what evidence have we in proof? *C'est bien aisé à dire.* It is easy enough to feel and deny that you feel; and this boy shewed his insensibility by sighing, and crying out, "Oh dear, pray put down my arms," evidences of pain more audibly given than are manifested by nine out of every ten of those men, women, or children, who have submitted to a similar operation.

Again we say, Out upon such rubbish! Out upon the men, noble or plebeian, who lend themselves to such quackery!

DR. STORER.

DR. STORER, who seems to be endeavouring to establish himself as a mesmeric doctor, and is about to publish his pretensions, has written to us, and requires that we give *his* contradiction to the testimony of every man of name in Bath. He allows that the "black book" was read "in another room," that the "soda box" was thrown upon the ground by the clairvoyante, and that the "string was broken;" but he wishes us to believe in clairvoyance upon these occasions, because *he* has witnessed so many instances of it. Those in public have been shewn to be fraudulent, every one of them. Of those at his own house, upon which he says that he builds his faith, and requests us to repose ours, our readers may judge, by the following letter from a surgeon, to Dr. Cardew, which he has kindly put into our hands. If, after this, Dr. Storer would address the public, he must seek some other channel.

"41, Gay Street, Jan. 7, 1845.

My dear Sir,—In answer to your request, I now send you an account of what I saw and heard with reference to Jane Knowles' asserted clairvoyance at Mr. Storer's residence.

About 11 A.M. a messenger most hurriedly desired me to go thither directly, which summons I obeyed as soon as possible, and there found Dr. Daniell. I was met at the door by the announcement that she was reading everything put before her. I found her in her usual wild flighty mood, when excited with success or wilfulness. She was said to have read the words 'Fourth' on the title-page of one book, and 'Work' on that of another, besides words in several such boxes as were commonly used on these occasions. These books were taken from a small book-case in the room wherein (from the varied domestic articles in use) I presume she spent most of her time, so that she had full access to them. I was requested to put a word in a box, for which I was directed to the shop in front. On passing round, I ascertained, as far as I could in so short a time, that on the counter lay no other bill than one of those announcing her exhibition, *from which bill several words had been removed.* Of course I did not take a word from it, but from a book in my own pocket, which was then tied up most firmly in a box of the above-mentioned description. In the hurry the bottom was slightly pushed in; over this, however, a piece of paper was pasted. This box and its contents she at once started with up stairs, not alone, as I quickly followed her, and required that she should permit my presence. She came down and after having for some minutes tried in vain to decipher the word, her exhibitor, Dr. Owens, stepped to her aid, and said 'she was tired,' and 'as some doubt might arise in consequence of the broken bottom, she had better desist, having read so well.' The vaunted book I then looked to, and found that in its rusty rough back was nearly obscured the printed figure 4, that had escaped his notice, but not Dr. Daniell's, who told me of it on leaving the house, which fact was confirmed subsequently by myself, and at the public meeting.

These facts are written to the best of my knowledge most correctly, and will not need one word of comment, to display their utter absence of value to prove anything else but the ready acuteness of that little unfortunate, to make the best of each incident whereby an impression in her favour might be formed.

I need not remind you how crest-fallen the exhibitor was when he heard of and saw the existence of the printed figure.

Yours most faithfully,

"Dr. Cardew.

JOHN S. BARTRUM."

MISS MARTINEAU.

We did fancy that we had so far exposed the mesmeric fraud, that henceforth it would retire to the hovels of ignorance or the sinks of iniquity, as knavery or folly might

elect. But we confess ourselves to have been astounded by the utter prostration of intellect, the wilful perversion of heart and head, evidenced by the lady whose name heads this paper—and whose talents (however, eccentric) have hitherto commanded admiration and respect.

We knew that ignorance will believe anything, that successful cunning will assert anything, but we were not prepared to find the truthful becoming false, or the logical incapable of the commonest act of reason. We could never have believed, that she whose fancied mission it has been to convict the world of prejudice, should have shewn herself the credulous-bigot, the unblushing asserter of impossibilities, the dupe not only of her own weakness, but even of the shallow tricks of cunning attendants.

What is it that she wishes the world to believe? Why that she was suffering under a most painful and long-continued disease, for which her medical attendant could prescribe no remedy; that she was reduced to the lowest stage of weakness, mental and bodily; that from the sofa to the bed was the extent of her airings, and that the agonies she suffered were only to be appeased by large and repeated doses of opium; that her only prospect, almost her only hope, was a speedy termination of her sufferings. So firm were her convictions in this matter, that she believed them the necessary results of her position, and that they were more than participated in by her surgeon, of whom she thus speaks: "My kind and vigilant medical friend, the most sanguine man I know, and the most bent upon keeping his patients hopeful, avowed to me last Christmas, and twice afterwards, that he found himself compelled to give up all hope of affecting the disease, of doing more than keeping me up in collateral respects to the highest practicable point. As to all the essential points of the disease, I was never lower than before I made trial of Mesmerism." Now let us hear what her surgeon says. His name is Greenhow; he is her brother-in-law, resides near her, and as he speaks of repeated conversations he has held with others upon her case, he could and would be instantly confuted, were he other than strictly correct. He says, "Knowing well that no symptoms of malignant disease of the affected organ existed, I always believed that a time would arrive when my patient would be relieved from her distressing symptoms, and released from her long-continued confinement. She never willingly listened to my suggestions of the probability of such prospective events, and seemed always best satisfied with anything approaching to an admission that she must ever remain an invalid;" (one of the truest evidences of hypochondriacism, and a flat contradiction to her statement.—Ed.) "Often than once (he adds) I have made use of the somewhat strong expression that some day, probably ere long, Miss M. would take up her bed and walk." And from his report we gather that she was suffering under a most painful affliction, which commenced as early as 1839, in the 37th year of her age, and which, although it produced great general derangement of the system, irritation and pain, was by no means of a dangerous character, but one which there was every reason to expect that time would ultimately cure. With this opinion Sir C. M. Clarke, who saw her in '41, coincided, as is manifest by the following extract: "It was my intention to say that I perfectly agreed with you as to the nature of the complaint; that although the majority of these cases did not yield to external applications or to internal remedies, that nevertheless the disorder produced mechanical symptoms only, and did not lead to any fatal result, and further that such disorders frequently subside." Sir Charles

prescribed, and Miss Martineau must reconcile the public, if she can, to the following contradiction of her own previous statements, written by herself sometime after she had taken his medicine: "I suppose I owe my much-improved comfort mainly to them (the pills of iodide of iron); indeed it is very great." And Mr. Greenhow does not hesitate to affirm that Miss Martineau had been the subject of progressive improvement begun in or antecedent to the month of April (two months before she saw Spencer Hall); "and as regards the relief from the distressing nervous symptoms connected therewith, the time had arrived when a new and powerful stimulus only was required to enable the enthusiastic mind of my patient to throw them off"

So much for the medical portion of the case! So much for the credit due to her assertions! It is manifest that Miss Martineau was a perfect hypochondriac, that in process of time her brain became so affected by the laudanum she took that she was fast approaching that extatic state so graphically described in the opium-eater; and that a strong impulse being given to her hopes, by a sudden faith in mesmeric mystery, she did "take up her bed and walk," but not in strength, not in sanity. She was wisely directed to the cliff for air, to the sea for an object; her mind was carried from its unhealthy cell, where it had so long laid festering, into heaven's breezes and earth's beauties; and although at first false perceptions ministered to false feelings, and old worn-out tugs, manned by dirty men, were changed by her dizzy brain to radiant argosies or Triton's shells, still her frame gained strength, her mind gained tone. And as her Lethean opiate was left, she lost her ailments, all but one, *the one* delusion, into which her wanderings have centered and now remain. From a hypochondriac, chained by physical disease, she has become the victim of an hallucination, not the less egotistical because it has an outward aim and object. Selfish and vain, Mesmerism were nothing to Miss Martineau, did it not appear serviceable to Miss Martineau, and from first to last the veil of philanthropy has been but badly woven, with which she would vainly seek to guise the love of notoriety, that has indelicately imagined female ailments fitting revelations to the multitude.

However, her mental abjectness is now complete. Not only is she contradicted by those around her; not only does she plainly and flatly contradict herself, but she puts forth childish drivellings as "highest wisdom," and gravely stakes her truthfulness and sense on palpable impostures.

It seems that attached to Miss M. is a girl of the name of Jow, "who lives with her aunt in a cottage at the bottom of Miss Martineau's garden;" that she has waited on her for the last five years, and that she is subject to a disease of the eye, for which it was resolved to try the mesmeric cure, which was first attempted by Miss Martineau's maid in the kitchen, on the 1st of October last, at which time Miss Martineau declares that "she (Miss Jow) was wholly ignorant of Mesmerism, and had no more conception of the phenomena she was about to manifest than she has consciousness of them at this moment." Will our readers believe that Miss Martineau commenced her mesmeric experiments in June, just four months before Jow was mesmerised; that this girl lived in her garden, was constantly in her house, and witness to doings which certainly have not been hid under a bushel? And yet we are asked to admit a downright falsehood as the base whereon Miss Martineau's credibility is to be erected. "We do not accuse her of falsehood, any more than we would charge a lady with falsehood who should protest that she was Mary Queen of Scots, believing herself to be so;" but that she is

labouring under a lamentable delusion, which has utterly perverted her faculties, and rendered her incapable of distinguishing truth from falsehood, is as evident as that Miss Jow and the lady's maid are gulling the poor lady to her heart's content.

Had we time and space, we should detail at length the barefaced impositions and the ludicrous pranks these two girls are daily playing off at her expense; but from one or two we may guess the rest, and if any jury in England upon reading them will declare Miss Martineau capable of "managing herself or her affairs," why we will believe in Mesmerism. We know not how we can offer a greater sacrifice.

"Soon after she was first mesmerised (writes Miss M.) I was undergoing my final severance from opiates, a serious matter to one who had depended so long and so desperately on them. As I have said I got through the day pretty well, but the nights were intolerable, from pain and nervous irritation, which made it impossible to rest for two minutes together. After four such nights, I believe my mesmerist's fortitude and my own would have given way together, and we should have brought the laudanum-bottle to light again, but for the bright idea, 'Let us ask J.' She said at once what my sufferings had been, and declared that I should sleep more and more by degrees if I took (what was as contrary to her own ideas of what is right and rational as to mine) ale at dinner and half a wine-glassful of brandy in water at night. I refused the prescription until reminded, 'Remember she has never been wrong.' I obeyed; the fact being kept secret between us two, in order to try every evening J.'s knowledge and opinion. She always spoke and advised in a confident familiarity with incidents known only to us two, and carried me steadily through the struggle. I lost my miseries and recovered my sleep night by night, till at the end of the week I was quite well, without stimulant or sedative." Bravo, Jow! ale and brandy-and-water are capital prescriptions for nervous ladies and single, who can't "rest o' nights," and whose maids are "made to know it." "Us two!" only "us two!" Jow couldn't possibly know a word about it, not she, any more than she did about Mesmerism. Miss Martineau, Miss Martineau! were you merely mad, we should mourn your fine mind's wreck; but to fall into second childishness before your time, is a falling off which only makes us laugh. From this time forth, it would seem that Jow determined upon a full development of all the mysteries. From "introvision" she proceeded to "clairvoyance," and has latterly, we are told, given evidence that she knows "how mental travelling is done." With her clairvoyant trick we shall close this article.

It appears that on the 14th of October a report reached Tynemouth of the loss of a vessel, in which was supposed to have perished a cousin of Jow's. This rendered her, as well as the Tynemouth people generally, agitated and anxious. As usual, reports of the most contradictory character were spread, and on the morning of the 15th J.'s aunt, "who lives in a cottage at the bottom of our garden," (Don't forget this!) and whose son was on board the vessel, walked over to Shields to make enquiries. Miss Martineau and her friend, however, went a long drive, "and took Jow with them," "and she was with us (says Miss Martineau) in another direction till tea time, and then on our return there were no tidings." "WHILE WE WERE AT TEA J. WENT OUT ON AN ERRAND." On the evening of yesterday she had been too agitated to take her usual "seance." Nay, so little faith had she in her own clair-

voyant power, that she had actually proposed to walk over to Shields herself to make enquiry! But what did she do now? now that she had been out "on an errand?" Why she rushes in, comes "straight up to us," and demands her "seance." She is "presently asleep," and the lady's maid then asks her, "Can you tell us about the wreck?" and J. replied, "Oh yes! they are all safe: MY AUNT IS BELOW TELLING THEM ALL ABOUT IT." More she said "of moving accident by flood and field;" of storm and rescue, safety and repose; but we will not insult our readers by one word of comment upon this most lamentable evidence of how low great minds can fall, when infirmity and age creep on together.

DR. CARDEW'S CHALLENGE.

MOST of our readers will probably have heard of the challenge this gentleman, inserted in the *Bath Herald*, defying all the world to produce a true case of clairvoyance, and expressing his willingness to stake £1000 to £100 upon the result.

After the lapse of a considerable period, Messrs. Owens and Vernon accepted the challenge; soon after which Dr. Cardew sent them his conditions, which were as follow:

"I challenge Dr. Owens in the sum of £1000 to produce a person, who will in my presence, and that of four or more friends (hereafter to be named) read a certain word or words, in clear printed letters, I will put into a seidlitz powder box, after it has been secured in any manner I may think proper, that is to say, with string, paper, paste, gum, wax [or any other composition or material whatever,] subject to the conditions named below: provided always that Dr. Owens secures to me the sum of £100 (which shall be lodged in the hands of a certain umpire hereafter to be named prior to the engagement taking place) in case of failure, which sum, if forfeited, shall be placed at the disposal of some charitable institution in the city of Bath.

CONDITIONS.

1. The box, once named and verified, shall continue in my possession, and shall not be permitted afterwards to pass into the hands of any other person save those of the 'clairvoyant.'
2. For further security, and to prevent the possibility of legerdemain, a string, a few yards in length, shall be attached in any manner I may think proper, to the said box; which string shall be fastened to a chair or leg of a table, [held in my hand] during the time the experiment is taking place.
3. After such trial, the box to remain in my possession until the next attempt is made, and that as often as may be.
4. After the so called mesmeric influence is produced, no one excepting myself and the mesmeriser shall be allowed to approach the 'clairvoyant' within the distance of three yards, to be chalked out in the room by chair or any other means approved of.
5. The 'clairvoyant' is on no account to be allowed to leave the room or presence of the party, or to hide himself or herself, or any part of their person, or the box, without my permission, from the gaze of those present, during the time of trial.
6. The least infringement on the integrity of the box, or the strings or securities thereto attached, to render the whole engagement, as regards that box, null and void; and in that case, a new box must be prepared in the same way and manner as before; and any explanation of the contents of any box experimented on, which is not satisfactorily proved to be in the same condition (in regard to its various securities) it was in when given, shall not be received as testimony, or any proof of 'clairvoyance.'
7. Only one explanation of the contents of the box to be allowed, and that must be the word or words, in full, therein contained; and in the event of the whole contents not being satisfactorily stated and explained, or should any other interpretation be given, or anything short of the full contents, and anything but the contents be made known, then the said sum of £100 shall be paid to me within six hours after the failure of the experiment.

8. In case any dispute should arise upon the subject of the sixth condition, the same shall be referred to the opinions of two persons, one to be appointed by each party: such persons, previous to their expressing their opinions or entering into the subject, to choose a third person to act as umpire, in the event of their differing in opinion, and the opinion of the said arbitrator or umpire, as the case may be, shall be conclusive.

9. The meeting to take place at my house (4, Laura-Place) at such time and hours as may best suit the convenience of all parties.

On these conditions I agree to give Dr. Owens one hour every day (Sundays excepted) for one month, and if by that time the whole contents of the said box are clearly made out, agreeably to the terms laid down in the 7th condition, I will forfeit to him the sum above named (£1000); and in the event of the case not being clearly made out as aforesaid, and the conditions before mentioned not being fully and strictly adhered to and complied with, then Dr. Owens shall pay to me the said sum of £100."

It will be seen that they were perfectly fair if honesty were meant, and he even modified them in their favour during the negotiations, to his own risk. If we look at the alterations he *did* make, and the still larger concessions demanded of him; then if we turn back to the preceding pages of the *Anti-Mesmerist*, and find that Mr. Vernon told the Editor in the Adelaide Gallery publicly, that "Jane Knowles could almost read in a box already," inferring that she was *practising daily*; and when we find that in Bath the "received rules of Mesmerism" permitted "mantillas" to be thrown over the child so as to conceal her; that they allowed her to go behind window curtains, and would consequently afford precedent for *any* means of deception or concealment that long practice or cunning could compass or contrive; we shall understand at once the ingenuity and fraudulent intention of the improved conditions of Messrs. Owens and Vernon. The following are the most important. In Dr. Cardew's challenge he proposes to secure the box in any manner he may think proper, "that is to say, with string, paper, paste, gum, wax, or any other composition or material whatever." To the latter part of this condition Messrs. Owens and Vernon decidedly object; they demand that "no other material whatever is to be about the same." Of course not! Of what value would all their previous experiments upon string, paper, wax, &c., be, if when under "mesmeric rules" they had contrived to *melt* the wax, *break* the match, and then replace the string, dissolve the gum, or soften down the paste, all of which would be possible, and well worth the trouble of those who had *made up their minds to win*;—of what use, we ask, would all this labour be, if when the clairvoyant could "almost do it," some other material of wood or tin were substituted, and their preparations should have all been wasted? Of course they would not consent to any such security, and Dr. Cardew, most unsafely, in our opinion, *conceded the point*.

In his fifth condition it will be seen that Dr. Cardew guards against such trickery as has been revealed by the "black book," "soda box," &c. Read that clause attentively, and declare, if you can, that it is not imperatively called for; nay, if the very fate of the experiments is not completely involved in it? Remember! he had to deal with men again and again convicted of impudent imposture; of men who had proved that they were capable of great cunning and the most unblushing audacity, and, *per fas ant nefas*, are bent on making money; and then say what was their object in demanding the following licence, of what future value will be the word of that man who stated after our lecture at Bristol that there were *no such conditions* demanded? What shall we say of one and all? but

that their words are not to be taken, that they can neither see a truth nor state one, and that as a mass they are as false as they are violent. This is the clause that Messrs. Owens and Vernon had the impudence to demand, and for refusing which he and their coadjutors dare to slander a gentleman, and circulate the lie that he "has flown from his challenge." They demand in the first condition that Dr. Cardew shall "take no part in the experiment except as an observer;" that "no person shall be allowed to approach within three yards of the clairvoyant except the mesmeriser, whose duty it will be to *conduct the experiment according to the received rules of Mesmerism*;" and consenting that the clairvoyant shall not leave the room, they open the door to every other possible mode of concealment and fraud, by insisting that "the box, when secured by Dr. Cardew, is to be read in the presence of the judges IN ANY WAY THE CLAIRVOYANT REQUIRES, AND IS TO BE FREE AND TO BE PLACED WHERE AND IN WHATEVER MANNER MAY BE DEEMED BY THE CLAIRVOYANT MOST CONDUCTIVE TO THE READING OF ITS CONTENTS!! We have only one remark to make upon this open avowal. It is the duty of the magistracy to look after these men.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The enclosed is Dr. Blair's reply to the Editor's request for a detailed report of Messrs. Owens and Vernon's doings at Colchester; and yet they go on as impudently as ever, and the public is as gulled as ever.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ANTI-MESMERIST.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am so utterly sick of Mesmerism, and its exponents, that the letters I intended to have published with reference to certain exhibitions at Colchester have been destroyed.

Mr. Vernon's last appearance here was attended even more numerously than before,—more especially on the last evening, when he had promised to show Clairvoyance beyond dispute. Large "posters" were distributed, and great preparation made. A "case"* was to be brought from Maidstone express, and we were to be utterly confounded. I did not attend the first lectures; Partridge wished me to assist at the last, and I went.

Vernon talked more than his usual nonsense, for he showed himself entirely ignorant of the anatomy and physiology of the eye; and of this, Partridge took care to inform the audience, rather to Vernon's confusion. This part of the *Lecture* is carefully *not* alluded to in the report of the *Essex Standard*! Then came the experiments.

It is sufficient that I tell you they were completely and highly satisfactory in every respect. Mr. Vernon acknowledged that they had, one and all, entirely *failed*, signally failed.

"Mental travelling" (!) was the first complete failure,—and then, I was requested to test him with his Clairvoyance; he was to see every thing in my pockets. The first thing he *saw*, was a piece of paper, *printed*, in my waistcoat pocket. I had no such paper, or any other paper about me,—but I had shown a small piece of paper to Vernon, and the chairman, a few minutes previously, as the means I intended to use to test him. I had purposely removed this paper from my pocket before I went to test the *patient*. What do you think of this?

Then he saw my watch—what more likely than that a surgeon should have a watch about him,—but I had *no watch*. I took everything out of my pockets, and put into them, (the waistcoat pockets,) a lady's *brooch*, and two ladies' rings. Of course he could *not* see them. He could see what was *not* there, but could not see what *was* in the pockets. Then a paper written by the reporter to the *Essex Standard* was handed to me, it was folded and placed on my leg, and covered over,—he saw the

* Evidently Dan's boy, whose history has appeared in the *Anti-Mesmerist*.

words "can you"—written in pencil, the paper contained the words, "Is Mesmerism true?" Then bills, and a book were placed on a table, and he saw the word "Mesmerism" on one of the bills, it was "Bentall's iron plough." A Mesmerism bill had been on the table all the evening, but previously to the experiment I had removed it, and placed others. He could not read the names of the book—though he was offered £1 10s. 6d. to do so. Afterwards he saw the word "History"—on a book, when urged to do so by Vernon. The book had "History" on a label on its back, and inside was "An Abridgement of the History of Scotland."

But you have had enough.

I cannot get you a number of the *Essex Standard*.

Mr. Vernon has promised to bring Alexis, or his brother, down here, and *show him gratis*—that is to say, if we will only pay his expenses.

What will you have after this?

Vernon said the whole thing was a failure—so say the audience. Some of them say it all went off well. His object was gained. He had a good house!—a capital house, and there's the whole thing.

Always faithfully yours,

CHAS. EDWARD BLAIR, M.D., &c., &c.

Colchester, Dec. 15, 1844.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ANTI-MESMERIST.

SIR,—I have been unavoidably prevented from replying to your letter of the 20th ult. until this evening, and I will now do it as briefly as I can; at the same time, I may possibly relate particulars of which you are already aware—if so, you will excuse me. I have not the particulars of Lakins' case by me, and cannot therefore give you *verbatim* Dr. Shaw's notes taken during the operation, nor his and Mr. T. Paget's letters on the subject, but I can give you the matter of them all, "authentically." After the operation at which those two gentlemen were present, Hollings, the mesmeriser, published a long account in the papers, describing it as a *most triumphant exhibition, the girl not having shown the SLIGHTEST SYMPTOMS OF SUFFERING*. Unfortunately that was rather too good to be true; and the next week Dr. Shaw and Mr. T. Paget thought it necessary each to send a letter to the paper, stating that they must, for their credit's sake, refuse their assent to Hollings' account, "which was not a correct one," Mr. Paget stating that once or twice the girl evinced so much suffering, that he thought her on the point of squalling out, and remarked to Mr. Tosswill, the operator, "Go on; don't mind her." Dr. Shaw's letter went to prove that he could not see anything in the case which made in the least in favour of Mesmerism.

The next week produced a rejoinder from Hollings and Tosswill, who charged Dr. Shaw with stating one thing at one time, and just the reverse at another; and in proof of this, published his notes taken during the operation. Unfortunately again, they prove nothing in their favour and much against them: "the pulse was quickened, the respiration hurried, the face flushed; there were moanings and sobbings, and a tight grasping of another's hands."

There the matter ended: all they made out at last being that it rested upon the girl's own statement that "she felt no pain."

Next came the amputation by Paget at the infirmary, as detailed in the paper I sent you. I was not there, my presence not being very acceptable, for I state unhesitatingly that all Mesmerism is a compound of fraud and blasphemy; but many medical men were present, amongst whom were Mr. T. Macaulay and Mr. Bowmer, both of whom assured me that the girl showed every sign of intense suffering, calling out, "Save me! help me, Lord Jesus! save me, O Lord," &c., continually. Mr. Paget, a day or two after confirmed this to me, and added, "It was most laughable yesterday to see little Hollings' countenance. We were going through the wards, and came to the amputation case, when Hollings said, 'Well, my dear, would you like to be mesmerised when your stump is dressed?' 'Oh no!' said the girl, 'no more of that stuff.' Hollings looked quite aghast."

As to Tosswill's strabismus cases, he must be an ignorant blockhead to publish such rubbish, notwithstanding amongst the four persons present at his last case one was a *midwife*. In the first case the only two professional men present refused to

sign his testimonial that no suffering was evinced; and yet he has foolishly got them to write some, which he has published in the *November Medical Times*, but which *distinctly* state that the girl appeared to suffer quite as much as patients ever do under that operation. In the second case, the boy himself called out to have his hands put down.

I have operated more times for strabismus than Mr. Tosswill, by a great many cases, and without any mesmerism; but I assert that in the majority of them the patients have evinced very little pain indeed, and when the operation was over have expressed themselves surprised, and quite willing to submit to it again if it were necessary.

With all these facts staring us in the face, I think Mesmerism is nearly at its last gasp in Leicester.

I am, Sir, your most obedient,

Leicester, Feb. 2, 1845.

— FULLAGAR, Surgeon.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ANTI-MESMERIST.

SIR,—According to your request, and also in concurrence with my own wishes, ever to expose falsehood and imposition, I will give you a short and plain account of the manner by which, in conjunction with several medical gentlemen, I was enabled to expose the fraud of Clairvoyance practised by the child Jane Knowles; and both before and since sanctioned by Messrs. Owen, Vernon, Storer and Co., who have embarked so boldly in that traffic of deception, which is now classified under the generic term of "Mesmerism," and which, under the mask of "Science," is being palmed on the good people of Bath.

On Saturday, Nov. — Dr. Owens, accompanied by the so-called Clairvoyant, called at my Photographic Institution for the purpose of being Daguerreotyped, when pending the process Dr. O. proposed that the aforesaid Clairvoyante Jane Knowles, should give us "a taste of her quality" by reading *sans eyes*, &c. after the most approved Mesmeric fashion; for this purpose, after the usual "passes" had been duly administered, I was requested to give something as a trial of skill: I accordingly prepared a book by placing a printed paper under the cover, which I secured by tying transversely round the middle, leaving the ends open, as at that time in my innocence I imagined she would openly, setting opacity at defiance, read the words on being given the book; but to my dissatisfaction, she was enveloped to the ground in a large cloak, and after some fumbling, she managed to decipher the writing, which I immediately saw might, *under the cloak, have been easily done by lifting the covers where they were not secured by string*, I suggested this, and demanded a stronger and more decisive proof, which was granted, and I then prepared the book, which both from its colour and the fatal blow it has given to Clairvoyance, has obtained the distinctive title of the "black book." This book, after first placing under its cover a printed paper, I bound with twine, thrice transversely, and once longitudinally, and it was thus delivered to Dr. Owens, who examined it, and gave it to Jane Knowles; who, after poking about under the cloak, demanded leave to go into a separate room, which she did, and after being there ten minutes, came out, and wrote on paper, what she said was on the paper underneath the cover, she wrote thus, "tions and donations," at the top, Park, Bath, and all down figures," this was partly true, the bill was a leaf from the Park book of subscriptions, headed thus—

"VICTORIA PARK, BATH.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS."

And then followed certain sums given by parties as subscriptions, &c.; being much engaged with parties calling on me in my profession, I did not, at the moment, strictly examine it: I granted to Mr. Storer, who was there, that the words corresponded; and stated I should be happy to give a correct account of the affair to the medical men, and I laid the book aside for further examination. Just then a party of five medical men in search of Mr. Storer came in, and at Mr. Storer's request I showed the book. One of these gentlemen, Mr. Thos. Barrett, took the book from me, and retired to a small room. Desirous of seeing fair play, I followed, and found that by bending the covers (flexible leather ones), Mr. Barrett had slipped up one of the transverse ties, this set a greater angle free, and by bending the cover, part of the printed paper underneath became visible,

and the part thus exposed corresponded letter for letter with the words and half word written by Jane Knowles on the paper which was, and is still, in my possession. Here then was the key to the mysteries of Clairvoyance, here was an insight into the arcana of Mesmerism, as practised by Dr. Owens, and patronized by Mr. Storer. By bending and slipping back the string, the book was restored to its original appearance, and thus appeared perfect as when delivered over to Jane Knowles. I may here state, that I had previously prepared a miniature case in a similar manner, but this being stiff in its texture, would not yield to the Mesmeric manipulations, and was rejected as impracticable by Dr. Owens, while the book being flexible was accepted, but the only words read were those which by the aforesaid fraud were easily exposed; and this was the science which in the nineteenth century was proposed by two men, one signing himself M.D., as one of the great truths of the age, which was to expose the hidden secrets of Nature, and relieve all the "ills that flesh is heir to." Connected with the above, there was one little transaction, to the truth of which, although not a witness, I can vouch; previous to the black book phenomenon, Mr. Storer had prepared a soda powder box with a word inside; and this box previously tied with string was, during my absence, given to Jane Knowles to decipher. After retiring to the private room for some minutes, she rushed out with the string broken, to conceal which she flung the box on the ground, when Dr. Owens coolly stepped forward, and picking it up, said it had burst the string in the fall, but as the box was unopened, that was immaterial; and then the clairvoyante wrote the word on the cover of the box. This is one of the great facts cited by Mr. Storer in proof of clairvoyance. Leaving this plain statement for the public to give their verdict, I shall now only observe that I am happy it has been in my power to expose this most impudent attempt at deception, and sincerely wishing you every success in your attempts to unveil the imposition of Mesmerism as practised by the aforesaid firm,

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,
JAMES FREEMAN.

Photographic Institution, Bath, Jan. 21, 1845.

FAC-SIMILE OF THE "BLACK-BOOK" REFERRED TO IN THE PRECEDING LETTER.



COPY OF THE CLAIRVOYANTE'S AUTOGRAPH OF WHAT SHE READ.

tion and or the donations.
 6 0 all down figures.
 6 0 at the top Park Bath

COPY OF THE PART OF THE BOOK WHICH IS EXPOSED IN THE PLATE, AND CAN BE READILY SEEN.

Victoria Park, Bath.
 Subscriptions and Donations.

£	s.	d.
1	1	
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EXPOSURE OF VERNON AND OWENS AT WORCESTER. — See *Worcester Chronicle* of Jan. 29, 1845.—We wish this to be considered our parting kick at Mesmerism; therefore we perform

what would otherwise be considered a work of supererogation, and briefly describe one other detection of these charlatans. During the proceedings which took place at Worcester, E. A. Turley, Esq., the chairman of the evening, "applied gum to both the eyelids" of Jane Knowles "with a camel's hair pencil, after which he covered them with a quantity of cotton wool, and over all he tied a white handkerchief. On attempting to read, the plan was found effectual. "After some minutes, the child declared that *she could not read if she tried*;" consequently Mr. Vernon gave up the experiment as "a direct failure." Of course he did: of course it was! We never yet saw him perform an experiment that was not a complete failure, although we have seldom found him honest enough to own it. Adolphe was now introduced, mesmerised, and his eyes bandaged. Mr. Walsh then placed his hands upon the bandage, and finding that Adolphe was "*making attempts to open his eyes*," he protested against the experiment. The Rev. Mr. Sargeant declared it the greatest humbuggery he had ever seen, and Dr. Streeten left the room in disgust. "*O si sic omnes!*" but the world is full of fools, and knaves prey upon them. But Adolphe read—and how? Why listen! "The chairman then proceeded to take off part of the bandage, and on doing so said that the tears had dissolved the gum, and caused the cotton wool to give way, thus leaving an aperture by the side of the right nostril, *up which he had passed his pencil.*" He appealed to Mr. Vernon to say if it were not so. Mr. Vernon said there certainly was a distinct mark, along which a small probe might possibly be passed! Oh we are very sick! What say ye now, ye Bristol boobies? He who declared that this was *not* the way that Adolphe read. We say it was, is, and always has been. He a patient! why we will back our boy against him for a hundred. "Mr. Walsh said that Mr. Vernon had been guilty of obtaining money under false pretences." We should like to be informed when he ever obtained it otherwise.

DETECTION OF OWENS AND VERNON AT BRIGHTON.—It is not at Bath merely, or Colchester, or Worcester, that these charlatans have been detected. At Brighton, among other experiments, Vernon declared that "Adolphe" could detect a mesmerised half-crown from unmesmerised ones, and here follows the experiment. A half-crown, *perfectly clean*, was marked by Mr. Lawrence, surgeon, and handed to Vernon, who placed it between the palms of his hands, repeatedly blew upon and rubbed it, for a considerable time. Whilst this was going on, Mr. Lawrence warmed some others at the fire, upon which Vernon smiled, as well he might. When Vernon said the half-crown was mesmerised Mr. Lawrence demanded to see it, which Vernon refused, *as well he might*. The mesmerised half-crown was then placed on the platform, in the midst of some others, and then thrown into a hat by Mr. Cahill, of Kemp Town. The clairvoyant, HIS EYES NOT BEING COVERED, BUT WIDE OPEN, took the half-crowns out, *one by one*, in rapid succession, appeared to put them to his nose and his mouth, and fixing upon one, handed it to Vernon, who gave it to Mr. Lawrence. The marks made were so obliterated, that he denied it, but upon closer scrutiny, discovered that some substance had been rubbed on it, which at once distinguished it from the rest. In fact, a chemical stain was on it, which upon being tested by Mr. Montague Phillips, a chemist, proved to be a *preparation of mercury*. Mr. Phillips reduced it to a metallic state, and the exposure was so complete, that on a succeeding occasion, when in addition to Vernon's mode of bandaging, a handkerchief was proposed to be thrown over Adolphe's head, Vernon would not allow it; some one then called out that he "*shirked the experiment*," when Adolphe, who was declared by Vernon not to "*understand a word of English, and was still in the mesmeric state*," tore the bandages from his eyes, and **POURED**, as did his masters shortly afterwards. Of course the usual, or more than the usual amount of insolence followed from him, who is rightly declared in a letter from Worcester this day received, to be "*the most audacious and impudent of living men.*"

JAN. 25, 1845.—BERNARDO EAGLE is at this time amusing the good people of Bath, by an exhibition of clairvoyance, which may really give the Mesmerisers a wrinkle, if they will but visit him, *The Editor knows how it is done and so will they*. It is too faithful a copy of their own proceedings to be mistaken, the only difference between them being that his performance as far excels theirs as does his honesty. A little girl is blindfolded on

the platform, and Eagle goes among the audience and asks any one for any thing. If it be a coin, he turns round and asks her "Of what metal it is composed?" "What is the date, value, reign, country,?" &c., to all of which she answers correctly and at once. Then numbers are whispered to him, and she immediately declares them. Odds and ends from dissimilar pockets—scissors, keys, sweetmeats, carpenters' rules jointed with silver—enough in number and variety to stock a curiosity-shop, are given to him, and a simple *unaccented* question elicits from her an unhesitating and accurate description of their nature. Steel, copper, gold, half-farthings and threepenny-pieces, satins and silks, velvet and brocade, are all apparently seen; and when we were present, she actually stated that "*one half-crown had been in the fire and was burnt,*" which was the fact. Go see the Wizard, ye wretched bunglers! then "hide your diminished heads" for ever!

TESTIMONIAL

TO JAMES QUILTER RUMBALL, ESQ., SURGEON.

SIR,—We, the undersigned medical practitioners in the city of Bath, feel it a duty to express to you the great pleasure we have experienced from attending your lectures.

We consider that your physiological demonstrations of the fallacies of Mesmerism are conclusive, that your exhibitions of the supposed phenomena of clairvoyance, phreno-mesmerism, &c., are superior to anything the mesmerists can do; and we feel that science generally, and our profession in particular, are under deep obligations to you for the complete manner in which you have exposed this popular delusion.

We cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing our sense of your merits as a lecturer. Amusing, instructive, and at the same time deeply philosophical, we feel that it would be an act of injustice if we omitted to state that those among us who have attended your phrenological lectures, desire to express their highest approbation of them.

Bath, February 12, 1845.

J. CARDEW, M.D.,

Physician to the Bath Hospital.

P. BALLANTINE FERGUSON, M.D.,

14, Rivers-street.

EDWARD HODGES, M.D.,

9, Gay-street.

JAMES TUNSTALL, M.D.,

Resident Apothecary Bath General Hospital.

GEO. L. WOOD,

Surgeon to the Bath Gen. Hos.

THOMAS BARRETT, Surgeon,

Deputy Coroner for the County of Somerset, 40, St. James's-sq.

JOHN S. BARTRUM, Surgeon, 41, Gay-st.,

having attended the Lectures on Phrenology only.

GEORGE SKINNER, Surgeon,

20, Belmont-street.

The Editor offers no apology for inserting the following report of his lecture at Bath, because it is published in a paper which has strong mesmeric tendencies, and will weigh with many who will not listen to his arguments or understand them:—

MESMERISM EXPOSED.—On Tuesday evening last, Mr. Rumball delivered an Anti-Mesmeric lecture at the Assembly-Rooms. Mr. Rumball has been for some time favourably known, and, apart from the interest attaching to the subject in this city, after the repeated visits of Dr. Owens and the exhibitions of the powers of his clairvoyants, we can speak of the evening we spent in listening to Mr. Rumball's lecture as a most agreeable one. He has very considerable talent as a lecturer; commands a fair flow of language; rising indeed at times to eloquence, is evidently

a well-educated man, and altogether contrives to render the subject a highly interesting one. He took a brief but comprehensive view of the rise and progress of Mesmerism, from the time of Mesmer himself, down to the present day; alluding, in due course, to its introduction into this country by Baron Dupotit, and the embracing of its doctrines by Dr. Elliotson; the decision of the French Commissioners appointed to enquire into the alleged new science, was also noticed, as well as the reversal of that decision by the Commission subsequently appointed. These and many other topics equally interesting, formed the matter of the lecture, and then came the experiments to shew the deception practised by the professors of Mesmerism, all of whom, public and private, masters and pupils, the lecturer included in the category of being either dupes or impostors;—the public professors, men who made a living by lecturing upon the subject, together with their patients, Mr. Rumball classed as impudent charlatans; while those, in private life, who had been induced to believe in the existence of the mesmeric influence, he reckoned as the dupes of their own imaginations.—With regard to the "clairvoyance," the lecturer shewed the facility with which an audience might be deceived, by allowing his own eyes to be covered (and that in our idea most effectively) by one of the audience with adhesive plaster, and then a thickly-folded handkerchief placed over it; when, notwithstanding the seeming impossibility, he read the title of a paper handed to him; explaining afterwards that by working the muscles of the face he had loosened the plaster until he got a small glimpse of light down by the side of his nose; that he then, while pretending to be holding the paper above his forehead, (after the manner of "clairvoyante") put his thumb under the handkerchief and pulled the plaster a little further away, until he succeeded in reading the line, when, under a similar pretence of shifting about the paper, he pressed the plaster down closely again, only taking care to keep the paper before his face, in order to conceal his *modus operandi*. The result of the experiment was received with rapturous applause.—The "exposure" of Phreno-mesmerism was conducted in as clever a way as that of the Clairvoyance, with the difference that Mr. Rumball "developed" the different organs in the head of a youth whom he had trained for the purpose, and whom he threw into a sham state of mesmeric coma; the different organs "manifested" themselves, without contact, by merely being pointed to by the lecturer, one of the audience choosing from a number of cards handed to him on which the names were written down. The entertainment altogether was cleverly conducted, and was a complete *exposé* as to means which the unprincipled resort to for the purpose of deception. Mr. Rumball shewed clearly how all might be done that the mesmerists profess to do; although it does not follow that therefore all must be done as he supposes. It is not, however, our intention here to enter into any discussion as to the truth of Mesmerism, *per se*; Mr. Rumball attacks it manfully, root and branch; we give him credit for the honesty of his own convictions, but take the liberty of claiming the same charitable construction for those of others who may not concur with him; and heartily recommending our readers who may take an interest in the matter either way, to avail themselves of the opportunity of a repetition of the lectures, we for the present take leave of the subject.—*Bath Herald*.

IN compliance with a very general wish, MR. RUMBALL will return to BATH, and form TWO PHRENOLOGICAL CLASSES of Twelve Lessons each, commencing March 2.

Subscription to the Morning Class . . . £1 10 0

" " Evening ditto . . . 0 10 6

Names received at the principal Booksellers.

A FEW Copies of the Editor's LETTER TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR ON McNAUGHTEN'S CASE, and the PUNISHMENT OF DEATH, remain unsold, Price 1s.

In the Press, and will be published on the 1st of May, his LECTURES ON PHRENOLOGY.

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