



AND WEEKLY ORACLE OF DESTINY.

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THE UNSEEN DWELLERS IN THE WOODLANDS.

CHARMING legends have been conjured up from the remotest of primæval day about certain elfin creatures which were supposed to inhabit the forest scenery and people the wild herbs with aerial life. Such were the reveries of our ancestors, which gradually merged into those delicious embodiments of fancy called the "fairies," and reduced the dim suspicions which had been formerly entertained with regard to a species of spiritual populace among the woodlands to a mere reality and matter-of-fact. Insomuch did these poetical creations fasten upon the popular mind, that the peasant no more doubted of the existence of Titania or Oberon than he did of that of the rabbits in the adjacent warren, while the upsetting of a milk-pail or the breaking of a porringer was invariably attributed to the mischievous agency of Puck. Unhappily, it has become too much the custom, now-a-days, to ridicule these eccentric notions, and to look with a frigid eye of pity upon the ignorance of our forefathers. Now, although we do not ambition to become the resurrectionist of a worn-out fable, we must express our deepest admiration for those sentiments which undoubtedly originated a dream so beautiful and good as this. No longer does man picture to himself the dim dancing of the

fays among the sorrel, no longer does he hearken at twilight for the faint murmur of their music in the grass, no longer does he shake the cherry boughs to see a shower of fairies dropping from the blossoms; the mushroom and the green circles are shorn of their mystic associations; the shady brake and sunny glade are abandoned only to the lizard and the casual deer. Society, on the average, is satisfied with knowing that carbonic acid is absorbed by vegetation, and that oxygen is exhaled in exchange, that the gossamer upon the dandelion is a mere ordinary seedling, caught up upon the rustling surges of the wind, and sown at random, and not a feather for the bonnet of some knight among the elves. On the contrary, such conceptions are derided as both frivolous and mawkish, and the icy worlding turns him again to his ledger and slate with a contemptuous shrug, and leaves the stupendous forests, as he imagines, a vast solitude, a region of unpeopled fruitfulness. Those, however, who can appreciate, even to a small extent, the divine economy which Omniscience everywhere displays in the ordering of his creation, can readily dispense with the accordance of the mere animals in human shape. They can perceive the matchless amplitude of nature, and the compactness with which the Deity has stored its every shred and fibre with innumerable lives; they can behold the prodigal ~~wit~~ of the

First Cause, and, reasoning by analogy, they can look out upon each of the apparent voids upon the globe, and exclaim, "This cannot be a wide waste of lonesomeness, for God loves the voluptuousness of his works; nor can we suppose that over fragments of the world he broods *alone*." We have already broached this theory when discoursing on the clouds, but so truthful do we deem it, and so beautiful withal, that we can never resist an opportunity of enforcing its belief upon our readers. Yes, it is ennobling to our faculties to cultivate such hypotheses as this; it lifts the mind up above the grovelling exigencies of a worldly life, it enlarges the scope of our thoughtfulness, and vivifies the operations of the inner spirit. A creed of this description is, moreover, consonant with right reason, and enlarges under the scrutiny of judgment. Impressed with the accuracy of our deduction, that a chasm of nothingness, in the midst of so much glowing profusion, is an anomaly that jars upon the intellect as an impossibility, we are assured (at heart) that the arid deserts of Arabia, solitary as they appear to the outward senses, are rife with unseen existences. How much more conceivable is it, therefore, that the glorious and umbrageous woodlands which are scattered with such beneficence over the territories of the two hemispheres are not, according to the popular supposition, abandoned only to the intermittent bands of wolves and jackals, but are rather haunted by myriads of invisible and admirable creatures!—that these fantastic legends of the older times about the fairy frequenters of the green dells are not simply chimerical and fabulous, but are, on the contrary, evidences that our ancestors entertained a vague conception of the actual state of things! Under this aspect, the loveliness of our leafy glades are enhanced a thousand-fold, for we then revel in the consideration that our pleasures in those verdant nooks are participated by multitudes of unseen but sentient beings, and that the same delicate foliage of the chestnut and the whortleberry that screens us from the effulgence of the sunbeams, forms the resort of more lofty and purified spirits. These circumstances would, moreover, account for the origin of that excessive and mysterious gladness which thrills us to the very heart, and brims up to the eyes in a "stress of marvellous joy," when alone among the underwood of the silent trees. Then, stirred at the credence of the vicinity of our mute and mystic companions, we are enabled more fully to rejoice in the delicious majesty of the branches, and loiter with increased delight among these sylvan scenes, when, in the fine and thoughtful language of a favourite poet,—

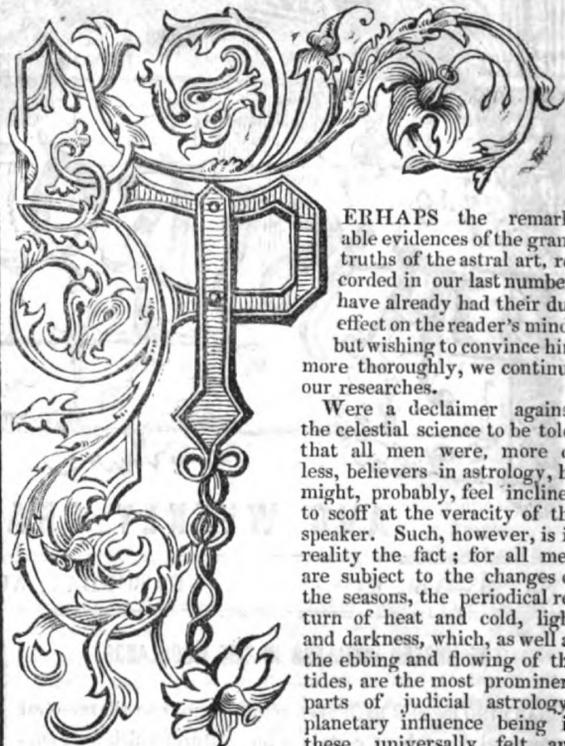
"—Waters lift their silv'ry arms to greet
The green moss thick'ning rich in noonday sun;
Pastures and lawns, and wood-nymphs' quaint retreat,
Kindling with sprouts, by thousand dews are spun;
From clasping earth sweet herbs and grasses rise,
Load the fresh gale and mix congenial sighs."

THE TRUE END OF INTELLECTUAL CULTIVATION.—The highest purpose of intellectual cultivation is to give a man a perfect knowledge and mastery of his own inner self, to render our consciousness its own light and its own mirror.

A FEW LEAVES OF FATE FROM THE ASTROLOGER'S PORTFOLIO.

I'll not believe that the arch-architect
With all these fires the heavenly arches deck'd
Only for show; and with these glittering shields,
T' amaze poor shepherds watching in the fields!
I'll not believe that the least flower which pranks
Our garden borders, or our common banks,
And the least stone that in her warming lap
Our mother earth does covetously wrap,
Hath some peculiar virtues of its own,
And that the stars of heav'n have none.

DU BARTAS.



PERHAPS the remarkable evidences of the grand truths of the astral art, recorded in our last number, have already had their due effect on the reader's mind; but wishing to convince him more thoroughly, we continue our researches.

Were a declaimer against the celestial science to be told, that all men were, more or less, believers in astrology, he might, probably, feel inclined to scoff at the veracity of the speaker. Such, however, is in reality the fact; for all men are subject to the changes of the seasons, the periodical return of heat and cold, light and darkness, which, as well as the ebbing and flowing of the tides, are the most prominent parts of judicial astrology; planetary influence being in these universally felt and admitted; and thus far all men are astrologers. Changes in the weather, and the various phenomena which affect the atmosphere, proceed from the same cause, which is neither more nor less than the positions, aspects, and configurations of the stars.

To the same source are readily traced the dispositions, habits, and fortunes, of individuals, as well as those mighty events which cause kingdoms to rock and reel to their centres; those which originate the foundation of new dynasties, which give rise to new laws, customs; and, in short, those causes which, acting by gentle or opposite means, "raise the beggar from the dust to sit with princes," which pull down the pride of the lofty, and make or mar all earthly happiness; for every organised being in the universe is amenable to the "skye influences."

Nothing can prove this celestial influence more than the strange succession of fortunate and unfortunate events, experienced by many individuals. Some there are, who glide quietly through life, floating upon the stream of time like a boat on the waters of a broad and tranquil river, carried on by an unruffled tide of prosperity, and lighted to their journey's end by the cloudless sun of happiness; others, again, are to be met with, whose star seemed to rise in clouds, to hold its course through storms, and to set in blacker darkness than that which gave it birth. The whole lives of some individuals are but a manifold succession of continual disasters, trials, labours,

and disappointments. Thousands, to whom not any blame can be attached on account of injudicious or improper conduct, are injured, and eventually ruined, by a strange and singular concatenation of circumstances which no human prudence could prevent. Certain times and seasons are found to be more than usually disastrous and evil to certain people; a fatality frequently runs through whole families, numbers of whom frequently die together, through the sympathy in their horoscopes. Some seasons are notoriously remarkable for heat and dryness, wet and cold; at other times malaria, floating, as it were, in the air, causes unusual mortality.

The brute creation, the insect tribe, the vegetable world, nay, even the shell fish at the bottom of the unfathomable ocean, feel and succumb to the effects of this occult influence, inherent in the stars. To ascribe such events to the will of Providence alone, is merely an equivocation. Providence, no doubt, by its divine will, rules over all things; but we are not the less honouring it by unravelling the mighty machinery of the stars and planets, which are the secondary causes in the hands of the Almighty to govern the universe. Providence wills it to be so: this we grant; but these are the means by which it effects its sublime purpose. And who shall gainsay the power of Him who holds his midnight counsels with the wide-spread book of Heaven, where the God of light and truth has left the impress of his own image?

Ye stars! bright legions that before all time!
Camp'd on yon plain of sapphire, what shall tell
Your burning myriads, but the eye of HIM
Who bade through Heaven your golden chariots wheel?
Yet who earth-born can see your hosts, nor feel
Immortal impulses—eternity?
What wonder if the o'erwrought soul should reel
With its own weight of thought, when the keen eye
Sees *fate* within your track of sleepless glory lie?
For ye behold the mightiest. From that steep
What ages have worshipped around your King.
Ye heard his trumpet sounded o'er earth's steep;
Ye heard the morning angel's o'er it sing.
Upon that orb, above me quivering,
Gaz'd Adam from his bower in paradise;
The wanderers of the deluge saw it spring
Above the buried world, and hail'd its rise,
Lighting their lonely track with Faith's celestial dyes.

Doubtless, it may be affirmed that there is an advantage in learning, both for the usefulness and the pleasures thereof. There is something (as a great writer observes), "positively agreeable to all men—to all at least whose nature is not most grovelling and base, in gaining knowledge for its own sake; all this kind of gratification is of a pure and disinterested nature, and has no reference to any of the common purposes of life; yet it is a pleasure—an enjoyment; while the practical uses of any science or branch of knowledge are undoubtedly of the highest importance; and there is hardly any man who may not gain some positive advantage in his worldly wealth and comfort by increasing his stock of information." Even the mere gratification of curiosity, the knowing more to-day than we knew yesterday, the understanding clearly what before seemed obscure and puzzling, the contemplation of general truths, and the compounding together of different things—is an agreeable occupation of the mind; and besides the present enjoyment, elevates the faculties above vulgar pursuits, "purifies and refines the passions, and helps our reason to assuage their violence." Hence, the utility of judicial astrology; since the calculation of a nativity presents a most scientific and ingenious, as well as curious process, so admirable in all its parts, and so beautiful in itself (leaving truth even out of the question), as to strike the mind even with wonder. The data on which the astrologers' predictions are founded being mathematically and philosophically deduced from an analysis of the cycles, arcs, and evolutions of the heavenly bodies, as they move forward through the ethereal fields of celestial space. Astrology is, in fact, one of the most sublime of all the sciences, and it shines forth with unblemished lustre when applied to the sublunary fates of mortals; since it not only leads us to examine our own failings, but will, in almost

every instance, afford consolation in the afflictions of this transitory life; and this, too, by lawful means—as lawful as the most innocent amusements of society.

And here it may be fearlessly inquired, who is there among men that would not ask concerning his future fate, did he believe in, or were he in possession of, the means? Even the most cursory retrospect of our past life would furnish us with numerous instances, where the possession of a little foresight might have had wondrous efficacy in the promotion or mitigation of disasters or troubles—cases wherein a little such knowledge as astrology furnishes by reading the stars, would have been invaluable. And it is well known to the students in this art, and worth noticing in these pages, that there is scarcely an enterprise, or speculation, or indeed any concern of human life, whether relating to subjects of weal or woe, sickness or health, marriage, travelling, life, or even death itself, but a skillful astrologer can give a tolerable and, in most cases, a correct presage of the leading events thereof, and its final termination. Cowards may, indeed, shrink from the mere contemplation of the fate which awaits them; evil minded persons may dread discovery and retribution; a few sceptics may doubt; and fanatics or bigots may deride; but the sun still shines in the heavens, the moon still holds on her refulgent path through the starry firmament; and while these splendid monuments of astrology remain glittering on high, even as so many glorious landmarks, the denial of the art is vain and superfluous.

Even the common world
Teems out with things we know not; and our mind,
Too gross for us to scan the mighty *whole*,
Knows not how busy all creation is.

A rehearsal of the records written on the roll of antiquity, as with a "living pen," furnishes the most elaborate proofs of this extraordinary power possessed by astrologers. Cowley, the celebrated poet, writes thus:—

'Tis said that in the *natal* hour
The stars of Heaven have wondrous power!
The planets bright in goodly show,
Govern and rule all things below!
'Tis said that prophet, priest, and seer,
All honour the astrologer.
And well we know that legends old
Have oft of seers and prophets told!

In the reign of Darius Hystaspis, King of Persia, flourished a celebrated astrologer, whose name was Gjamasp, surnamed Al Hakim, or the Wise. The most credible writers say that he was the brother of King Gushtap, and his confidant, and chief minister. Dr. Thomas Hyde, in speaking of this philosopher, cites a passage from a very ancient author, having before told us that this author asserted there had been, among the Persians, ten doctors of such consummate wisdom as the whole world could not boast of the like. He then gives the author's words—"Of these, the sixth was Gjamasp, an astrologer, who was the author of a book, intitled "Judicia Gjamaspis," in which is contained his judgment on the planetary conjunctions. And therein he gave notice that Mohammed should be born; that the Magian religion should be abolished, &c.; nor did any astrologer ever come up to him." He also wrote an account of all the great conjunctions of the planets which had happened before his time, and which were to happen in succeeding ages, and wherein the appearance of new religions, and the rise of new monarchies, were exactly set down.

Albumazar, a professor of judicial astrology at Bagdad, in the caliphate of Almamorem, became wonderfully famous. He wrote expressly from the Persian astrologers, and, it may be, from the works of Gjamasp.

The appearance of a comet determined the intrepid and ferocious Timour, in the midst of his quarrels with Baezed I., to decide for war. He was at first impelled by terror to prepare the means of avoiding a rupture with the Othomans, when he consulted Abdullah Lissan, at that time the most skillful astrologer of the East, and desired his opinion respecting the tendency of the comet. The astrologer declared that this phenomenon having appeared to the west of his dominions, and of the constellation Aries, could only have an evil influence

in regard to his enemies, and that it presaged the utmost disasters to the Othoman empire. Relying on this prediction, Timour determined immediately upon war, refusing every kind of accommodation, and entered, at the head of a powerful army, the dominions of the empire. The consequences of this war between the two heroes of the East are well known; as also the disasters which befel the Othoman monarchy after the fatal battle of Angora. The astrologer's predictions, in their exact fulfilment, thus became matter of history.

The life of Mohammed II. affords a striking instance of astral skill; the astrologers foretold that his reign should become illustrious in matters of conquest; these predictions had a powerful effect on the projects of this monarch, who became the conqueror of Constantinople, the destroyer of the Greek empire, and one of the most illustrious princes of his family, for genius, talents, and erudition.

In the reign of Selim II. (1592), there appeared a comet, which had the brightness and magnitude of Venus. This excited his apprehensions, which were augmented by the predictions of his astrologers, who declared that this phenomenon announced the calamities which excessive rain would inflict upon the empire. Forty days afterwards, says the historian, "they imagined themselves threatened with an universal deluge." Incessant rains overflowed his dominions in Europe and Asia; laid waste three of his chief cities; swept away on all sides, men, cattle, houses, and rendered impassable, during several weeks, the bridges and public roads. This prediction, which is well authenticated by historians, affords a striking instance of the singular skill possessed by the Arabian astrologers, and how astonishingly correct those rules must have been on which their presages were founded.

In the writings of Nostradamus, the famous Gallic astrologer, are to be found almost every important event that for centuries past has taken place. One of his most famous predictions, which was prophesied and printed full three years before it happened, was that relating to the death of Henry II. of France, who was killed at a tournament, by Montgomerie, by an unlucky thrust in the eye, through the gilt bars of his royal fashioned helmet. The words of the prophecy were "that the royal lion would be slain (en cage d'or) by a thrust which would put out his eyes." Nostradamus flourished about the middle of the sixteenth century, and in his book it is distinctly prophesied, that "in 1792 the Christian religion would be abolished in France, and many of the nobles and clergy put to death." This is really a wonderful circumstance, and entirely unaccountable by any other than scientific principles, when it is considered that the prophecy was made about 1556, or near 242 years before the event.

Antiochus Tibertus was one of the most famous astrologers of the fifteenth century; and although his death was very unhappy, yet his singular predictions render his name immortal, seeing that they are attested by the most creditable historians. He was a native of a town in Romagna: a certain officer carried him to Paris, where he studied; and where, following the bent of his genius, he applied himself to the occult sciences, or rather to all the branches of that secret and curious art called natural magic.

Considering, in his own mind, that this science had been derided from its having been mostly in the hands of bold, ignorant, and profligate persons, he thought to restore it to its former credit and repute, by giving it all the advantages that could be possibly derived from physics, mathematics, natural philosophy, and the fine arts, of which he was a perfect master. The pains he took in this respect were attended with rather more success than he anticipated: so much, indeed, that before he quitted France, he had attained a very high reputation, and was considered as the cleverest astrologer of the day.

Upon his return to his native country, where that sort of knowledge was in the highest repute, he found it necessary, for his own security, to ingratiate himself with some of the petty tyrants, or little princes, that were possessed of the several cities and territories in Italy. Nor it was long before he gained the confidence of Pandolpho Malatesta, at that time Sovereign of Rimini, with whom he lived in the greatest ease and credit. His reputation was quickly raised to such a

height (as well by the curious books he published, as by the happy verification of many of his predictions), that his house was continually thronged, either with visitors, who were persons of distinction, or clients who came to him for advice; so that, in a very short time, he amassed a competent fortune; and as he was esteemed, courted, and beloved by persons of the highest rank, he might according to appearances have promised himself a comfortable journey through life, as well a peaceable old age. But fate (to whose decrees Antiochus Tibertus was no stranger), had, it seems, willed otherwise. In a word, he has established his fame to posterity by three strange, yet incontestable predictions: one with respect to his most intimate friend; another, in regard to himself; and the third, relating to the prince, his patron. Each of them wholly improbable at the time when they were delivered: all of them inscrutable, by the rules of human policy or prudence; and yet all exactly accomplished.

This friend of his was Guido de Bogni, one of the greatest captains of his time, as well as one of the bravest and boldest men that ever lived. He was very earnest with Tibertus to reveal to him the secret of his destiny. After considerable reluctance, this master of his art declared that Guido would certainly lose his life by the hands of one of his best friends, upon an ill-grounded suspicion. Some time after this Tibertus calculated his own nativity; and made no scruple of declaring that himself was fated to lose his head upon the scaffold! Pandolfo, his patron, would likewise have his horoscope calculated, which Tibertus would willingly have declined; but, finding it impossible, he would not hazard the credit of his art by telling a falsity; and therefore, although he was at that time the richest person in all Italy, Tibertus ventured to acquaint him, that after suffering great want, he would die in the common hospital at Bologna!

Not long after this, Guido was made commander-in-chief of Pandolpho's army; upon which the Count de Benlivoglio, who was father-in-law to that prince, wrote him a letter, in which he assured him "that he had made a shepherd of a wolf, and that Guido was actively intriguing with the Pope, and had promised to deliver up the city of Remini whenever he desired it." The tyrants of Italy were never men of much discernment, and therefore the Prince Pandolfo, as soon as he had this information, made a great entertainment, to which he invited all its favourites, and, among the rest, Guido, and Tibertus the astrologer. At this supper Guido was stabbed (exactly as the latter had predicted), and, as it was suspected that Tibertus, from his great intimacy with him, might have had some share in the conspiracy, he was thrown into a dungeon, and loaded with irons. It may easily be imagined that Tibertus passed his time very unpleasantly in this dismal situation, and therefore it will not be deemed surprising, when it is stated, that he endeavoured to seize the first opportunity of escaping which offered. It seems the gaoler to whose care Tibertus was committed had a daughter of singularly mild and gentle manners, whom he at length persuaded to furnish him with the means of breaking out of his dungeon into the Castle Ditch, from whence he might easily escape. In the interim, Count Benlivoglio had discovered that the information he gave his relation was ill-founded, and of this he sent him an account as soon as it was in his power; at which news Pandolfo was greatly affected, and grieved at his late rash and cruel measures. It was, however, impossible to recall his unfortunate general, Guido, from the grave, but he gave instant orders that Tibertus should be set at liberty. The persons who brought these orders came just at the fall of night, and, strange to say, precisely at the time that the astrologer had forced his passage into the ditch, where, after a slight search, they found him. When this was reported to the tyrant, his former suspicions returned upon him with redoubled vigour; and recollecting at the same time the prediction of Tibertus, that he should be deprived of his patrimony before his death, he concluded that the first information could not be groundless; but that, without doubt, the astrologer must be concerned in some such pernicious design. To free himself therefore from these apprehensions, he gave orders that, the next morning, Tibertus should be beheaded before the prison gate, which was accordingly done; and

thus the second prediction was verified, in a manner equally strange, and out of the reach of human foresight to penetrate, unassisted by the rules of art. Let us now proceed to the fulfilment of the third prediction, which took place soon after.

It is to be observed, that though the intelligence of the count proved false with respect to the persons concerned, which very probably was the result of his own suspicions, yet his information was right enough in the main; for a conspiracy was actually carrying on, to place the city of Remini into the hands of the Pope; and it was accordingly seized by the Duc de-Valentino not long after; but in the confusion which this occasioned Pandolpho made his escape. He fled for some time from place to place, vigorously pursued by his enemies, and meeting (as is generally the case with tyrants) with very few friends: at length, having endeavoured to show dissension among his own children, he was abandoned by them, and all else; inasmuch that, falling ill of a languishing disease at Bologna, where nobody cared for him, he was at last carried to the hospital, where he dragged out his days in penury and pain, and at last died there exactly as the astrologer had foretold.

The death of William, the Earl of Pembroke, was foretold by Lady Davy, from his horoscope, to happen on his birthday, in 1630 (which is mentioned in Rushworth's collections). When evening came, the earl cheerfully took notice "how well he was;" saying, "he would for Lady Davy's sake, never trust a female prophets again."—He was, notwithstanding, found dead in his bed next morning!

If these facts are not sufficient to excite the attention of the incredulous, we would point out to their notice the obvious effects of that dread celestial messenger, the "blazing Comet," which was never more plainly exemplified than in the life and fortunes of the now harmless, but once puissant conqueror, Napoleon Bonaparte. Without tracing his career of fame to his forlorn end, be it first of all remembered that he was born in August, 1769, and for several months preceding his birth the northern regions of the heavens were visited by one of those blazing messengers of fate; and without following his steps to the summit of his fame, let us pause a moment to behold him upon it, surrounded by majesty of his own creating. Himself seated on the throne of the world; Spain on his west, the allotted portion of one brother; Westphalia, of another, on his eastern quarter; Holland on his north, having the third for her king; and on his south, with the crown of Naples, was decked the husband of his sister! At every point were his military dukes and minor relatives posted; and the validity of his solid greatness seemed ratified by his illustrious marriage with the Archduchess of Austria. Could anything human appear more stable than the monarchy of France in 1811? But at the meridian of his glory a comet of prodigious character came to witness his eminent station! Returning from its perihelion, that magnificent luminary became faintly perceptible at the beginning of September, 1811, at which time it had acquired 20° of celestial North latitude, and was then vertical in the latitude of Corsica, and the southern extremity of natural France! Its splendour continued to increase, until it had reached 48° of latitude, at which time, blazing with unspeakable splendour, it hovered upon the latitude of Paris. Having traversed the heavens in such a track as to reign vertically over every point of latitude from south to north of France (let it be strictly noticed that its highest degree of lustre was at that precise time when it was on the meridian and zenith of Paris at noon-day!), it again retreated towards the south, retracing back again the whole of France, until it vanished over the latitude of Corsica. Can any reflecting mind fail to associate the appearance of this illustrious messenger of the skies with the fate of Napoleon? Let it also be remembered, that during the few latter weeks of his life, whilst the spirit of his mortal existence was gradually evaporating, the same blazing star of fate again appeared, as though it came a bark launched on the calm wide azure sea of heaven to meet his soul expiring, and bear it hence to its realm of rest! Let its errand be what it might, these facts are certain,—that at his birth it ministered; it came again, and testified his fame; once more it came, to beam

upon his bier! Reader, we would have thee reflect on the foregoing, and thou wilt doubtless come to the conclusion that a mighty power is, for wise purposes, given to the stars.

TWILIGHT.

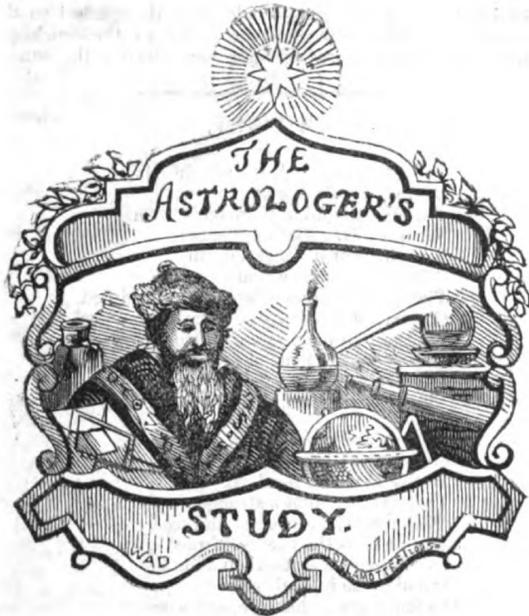
Yes, there's a spell in twilight's hour,
Of mystic, of resistless power;
Through the mind its magic charm
Sheds a soft, a soothing balm;
O'er the soul it flings a chain,
Bringing in review again
Thoughts and scenes we deemed had fled,
O'er which perchance our hearts have bled;
Yet through mem'ry's glass now viewed,
And twilight's hour of solitude,
In more soft and mellow light,
They cross our spell-bound memory's sight.

Strange and mystic twilight, thou
Cool'st the poet's parched brow;
In thy shade he pondering sits,
Through his mind a strange dream flits
Of the world's contempt and woe,
And he feels the keenest throes
Of disappointment—then anon
Wanders he in Helicon;
In fancy grasps his lyre, and woos
Once again the truant muse;
Twilight soothes his feverish brain,
And Hope resumes her sway again.

Mystic twilight! in thy beam
Much I love to sit, and dream,
To muse on all the hopes and fears
Which have cross'd my by-gone years;
Or with hope's fond earnest eye,
Dart into futurity!
Giving to the forms of air,
Which in dim and gloom are there,
Forms of beauty—minds of fire,
While my bursting heart's desire
Is to pierce the murky gloom,
And to know my future doom!

COUNSEL.—Pitch upon that course of life which is the most excellent, and custom will render it the most delightful.—*Pythagoras.*

HUMAN TIME PIECE.—The following singular account appears in a recent number of a French work, the "Bibliothèque Universelle." J. D. Chevalley, a native of Switzerland, aged sixty-seven, has arrived at an astonishing degree of perfection in reckoning time by an internal movement. In his youth he was accustomed to pay great attention to the ringing of bells, and vibrations of pendulums, and by degrees he acquired the power of continuing a succession of intervals exactly equal to those which the vibrations or sounds produced. Being on board the steam-boat on the lake of Geneva on July 14, 1823, he engaged to indicate to the crowd about him the lapse of a quarter of an hour, or as many minutes and seconds as any one chose to name, and this during a conversation the most diversified with those standing by; and farther, to indicate by the voice the moment when the hand passed over the quarter minutes, or half minutes, or any other sub-division previously stipulated. This he did without mistake, notwithstanding the exertions of those about him to distract his attention, and clapped his hand at the conclusion of the time fixed. His own account of it is thus given:—"I have acquired by imitation, labour, and patience, a movement which neither thoughts nor labour, nor any thing can stop. It is similar to that of a pendulum which at each motion of going and returning gives me the space of three seconds, so that twenty of them make a minute, and these I add to others continually."



Being Predictions of the Chief Events from Week to Week.

THE verifications of our past predictions, amongst which are conspicuous the conflagration of Smyrna (occurring on the very day prognosticated in No. 20), and the increased mortality amongst the aristocratic and legislative portion of the community, cannot fail to strike the most incredulous with a convincing awe. For the ensuing week we anticipate a curious disclosure connected with railway matters, and a few heavy instances of defalcation, that will, if we err not greatly, draw the attention of Parliament to the subject. Now beware of fires in the agricultural districts, and expect to hear of great distress consequent upon an increase of price for food and a decrease of wages for the honest handicraft of man. Labourers, and those in the employ of farmers and landholders, will suffer much this month from injustice and privation. A steam-boat, most probably one plying as a liner between the port of Liverpool and America, experiences a derangement of its machinery, which will lead to serious results. Several casualties in the coal-pits of the north are indicated by the planetary aspects towards the conclusion of the week.

THE ASTROLOGER'S CALENDAR.

A Diary of Auspicious and Inauspicious Days, with Weekly Indications of the Weather, deduced from Planetary Influences.

TUESDAY, August 5th.—Fair. Good for love or marriage. Ladies prosper.

WEDNESDAY, August 6th.—Fair and windy. Travel, conduct business personally. Op. v. houses, &c.

THURSDAY, August 7th.—Fair. Buy no railway shares, nor invest money in things of speculation.

FRIDAY, August 8th.—Cloudy, with distant thunder. Do not transact business with public bodies.

SATURDAY, August 9th.—Cooler, but fair. Surgeons and physicians may be consulted.

SUNDAY, August 10th.—Fair; rain at night. Expect strange news and new visitors.

MONDAY, August 11th.—Warm, dense atmosphere. Evil for commencing new works of art.

THE GREAT 'ALCHYMICAL AND ROSICRUCIAN MYSTERIES EXPLAINED.

PART I. (CONTINUED).—THE MULTIPLICATION OF GOLD; PREPARATION OF THE PHILOSOPHER'S SILVER; COMPOSITION OF THE TINCTURE OF CORALS; THE TRUE SOLUTION OF PEARLS; &c.



WE have already initiated our readers into the formation of that renowned, but heretofore obscure, and somewhat fabulous, production known as the "Philosopher's Stone." The chimera has been disclosed as a veritable reality, the impalpable has been actually touched and handled, the masquerade has been, for the first time, publicly abandoned, and the substantial form, which it previously concealed, has been displayed in all its grandeur, and all its nakedness. Accompanied by our attentive readers, we have described, with the most elaborate particularity, the ingredients and the process by which the olden alchemists manufactured that most marvellous and potent of all compositions, the stone which was to transmute and reduplicate all the other grosser metals into pure and admirable gold. As must have been remarked, during the perusal of our former paper, the system (which required to be carried out with such implicit and inexorable accuracy) was so tedious in its duration and so delicate and complicated in its action as to render success almost an impossibility. With an imagination susceptible of that nervous enthusiasm, which is so requisite for the performance of any important achievement, the searcher after gold had to combine a constitution of iron; for nothing scarcely short of steel thews and sinews could sustain the midnight watchings which were absolutely necessary in the execution of this task. It must, moreover, be remembered that these watchings were always done in the still agitation of solitude, over a furnace heated to a most debilitating temperature; the experimentalist breathed, for many hours in succession, an atmosphere charged with noxious vapours, while his brain was excited to an unhealthy extent by alternate anxiety, and hope, and trepidation. And when the reader has combined with these exigencies the awe inspired by so august and secret an experiment, he will acknowledge that the obstacles which retarded a successful issue were almost insufferable. We must, likewise, mention a circumstance that, in many instances, baffled the endeavours of the philosophers, namely, that some of the details in the operation were but imperfectly known, and hence, a minute too long in the crucible, or a second too little in the reverberating fire, have possibly destroyed the realisation of a dream which it took years to picture. Even when the endeavours of the alchemist have proved triumphant (as it has been solemnly attested that they have, by divers learned and religious men) when the glittering metal has gleamed amongst the scum and froth within the retort, when it has fallen at his feet in heavy yellow lumps, we can readily imagine that, in the excitement and glory of his accomplishment, the seer has forgotten the precise gradations of the performance. And thus he has, undoubtedly, marvelled and bewailed his fate at the false results of a second attempt, the secret fleeing from his grasp at the repetition,—so much depends upon an accidental felicity of manipulation. Amongst other instances of success in this wonderful undertaking, we may be permitted to mention that of Count Rus—"uppermost hill-master," in Steyer and Carinthia, two provinces of Upper Germany—who is reported to have transmuted, with a single grain of tincture, "three pounds of quicksilver into pure gold," from which was cast and struck a large coin, about the size, in circumference, of our crown pieces, but three-

quarters of an inch in thickness. Upon one side of this medal was stamped the adjoined inscription,



while upon the reverse side were the following, still more memorable words,



In pursuance of our promise to explain the various mysteries of these Alchemists and Resuscitators in as condensed and explicit a manner as possible, we will first enumerate the beneficial qualities of the philosophic stone when used as a medicine, and immediately afterwards resume the contents of the too-little-known and most precious manuscript work by Dr. Dee, from which our foregoing section (published in last week's "ASTROLOGER") was compiled.

The philosopher's stone was believed to be a most powerful and penetrant remedy for every description of disease. A single grain, when swallowed, was acknowledged to interpenetrate the body like a divine air, driving therefrom everything pernicious and substituting everything beneficial. It was conceived so materially to improve a man's frame as to make him, in the emphatic expression of the ancient writers, "a new man, preserving him without any accidents to his age, until that period which was fixed by the most High, for *contra mortem remedium non est.*"

Once more the balsamic odour stealeth round the chamber, the weird lamp is relit, the impenetrable curtain, which, for past ages, has screened these portentous secrets from the world, again riseth, the wand pointeth a second time into the laboratory of the alchemist, the voice of the entombed philosopher is again heard:—

"§ b.—How to Make an Ounce of Gold out of Half an Ounce.

"Take spirit of salts and rectify it with spirit of wine until it become sweetish. Pour this upon the spiritual gold of a purple colour (the formation of which has been already described), and it will simply extract the soul or sulphur of the

gold, without touching the body thereof. Now, the sulphur of gold doth graduate silver into gold, yet no greater quantity than there hath been of gold. But the body of gold, which must be as white as silver, being reduced upon a cupel with Saturn and a little copper, recovereth its colour from a whiteness to a rich yellowness, its property is restored in like manner, and it all becometh good gold."

"§ c.—The Philosopher's Silver.

"Taking common salt, and quick or unslacked lime, reverberate them together in a wind furnace with the strongest fire; extract the saltpetre with warm rain water, coagulate it to dryness, mingle again with it fresh quicklime, reverberate it, extract again, and repeat this for a third time. Take then calx of silver (after having prepared it by dissolution in aqua fortis), and mix it with the prepared salt. Putting this into a glass phial, pour on it the common aqua fortis, such as the goldsmiths use, made of saltpetre and vitriol. Draw it off by distillation in hot sand: pour on it fresh aqua fortis; and, having it likewise, repeat this a third time, giving at last very strong fire, so that the matter in the glass may flow very well. Allow it then to cool of itself in the furnace, and the silver will become a single piece of a transparent blue. Extract this with vinegar, until you can extract no more. Edulcorate that which is extracted, so as to cleanse from it every particle of salt. Cohobate vinegar upon the dry sulphur, till it appears like unto a sapphire. Reduce the same silver into small filings, add to it its weight of salammonia, and sublime it in a glass body, when the salammonia will carry with it the sulphur of luna, of a marvellous pleasant sky colour. Put this sublimate into a glass dish, edulcorate it well with distilled rain water, and the salammonia will be separated. Dry the sulphur of luna, put it into a little receptacle, pour on it good rectified spirits of wine, set it in heat for twenty-four hours, and the spirit of wine imbibeth the sulphur of luna of a *fine transparent blue, like a sapphire or ultra-marine*, and leaveth some few feces behind, which must be separated and skimmed away. This soul or sulphur of luna, otherwise called the philosopher's silver, was conceived to be peculiarly efficacious in dispelling restlessness and wakefulness during the night-time. About five or six drops of a tincture prepared in the above manner, and mingled with a goblet of generous wine, caused all gloomy and mournful reflections to vanish like dew—vapour before the face of the God of Day; and, administered in similar proportions, it rendered the somnambulist quiet during slumber.

"§ d.—The Tincture of Corals.

"Take red corals, break them to pieces, pour on them a common spirit of salt, and the corals will be dissolved. Draw off, by distillation, the spirit of salt, and edulcorate the residue carefully. To one mark of this powder, take half an ounce of common sulphur, pulverised, and having mingled it together, reverberate the mixture until all the sulphur be burnt away. Grind an equal quantity of camphor with the corals, and burn the camphor likewise away. Then edulcorate the corals well, pour upon them highly rectified spirits of wine, digest them for eight days, when the tincture of the corals will elevate itself, and go into the spirits of wine. Pour off what you have extracted, after that draw off from it the spirits of wine, and there remaineth the tincture of corals behind, in the bottom, like a red fat oil of olives.

"This essence was regarded as a wondrous remedy against madness; six drops in a spoonful of wine caused insanity to disappear, comforted the brain, enlivened the faculty of memory, banished misanthropy, sweetened the blood, imparted a glow to the heart, and made the spirits buoyant and cheerful.

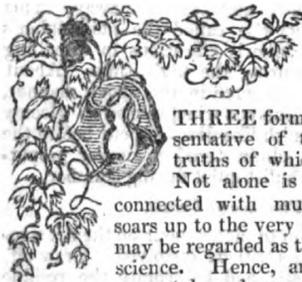
"§ e.—The Solution of Pearls.

"Taking some excellent verdigrease, grind it small, then dissolve it in distilled vinegar, pour off the clear, and throw away the feces. Place the clarified vinegar in a glass vessel, distil it off to a thickness, put it in a cold place, and there will shoot from it a fair vitriol. Turn this vitriol into another glass, and, pouring on it highly rectified spirits of wine, dissolve the vitriol therein to the greatest extent possible; separate the feces from this compound, and afterwards distil the spirit of wine likewise to a thickness. On your setting

this again in a cold place, the vitriol shooteth once more. Having accomplished so much, you will turn the vitriol into a glass body, and, by means of distillation, draw of the phlegm in Balneo Mariæ, till the matter become dry; hereupon, take it out, put it into a glass retort, distil again with a stronger fire in sand, and you will obtain a pleasant vinegar. In this vinegar dissolve as many pearls as its strength will permit, for this particular description of vinegar is most potent as a dissolvent of pearls, loosening up their substance, but not their shells. The pearls being thus melted down, draw off the vinegar in Balneo Mariæ, till the pearls be very dry indeed; upon which you must edulcorate them in rose-water. Put these pearls thus prepared into a glass vessel, pour some spirits of wine upon them, digest them in gentle heat for four-and-twenty hours, and there riseth a pleasant liquor from the pearls, which doth mount and swimmeth upon the spirit of wine, like unto an aqua vite made of cinnamon. This pour off, together with the spirit of wine, and keep. So divine a quintessence of a most precious jewel, as may naturally be surmised, was deemed of yore a very medicine of magic and infallibility. Somewhere about half a spoonful of the impregnated spirit of wine, with merely four or five drops of the oil floating upon the top, was imbibed. This was presumed to dissipate swimings in the head, vertigo, whatsoever is hurtful to the eyes, hummings about the tympanum of the ear, and rheums in the brain." Nay, in the express language of the antique manuscript before us "it imparted comfort to the heart, strength to the very marrow and bones, and was, moreover, a most precious treasure against many distempers."

The interval of silence and of darkness hath again come upon the astrologer in his weird solitude.

THE NUMBER THREE.



IF all the numerical characters none is of so much distinction, or so worthy of our consideration, as the mysterious and sacred triad.

THREE forms the characteristic and representative of the most sublime and awful truths of which we have any knowledge. Not alone is it in a remarkable manner connected with mundane circumstances, but it soars up to the very essence of the First Cause and may be regarded as the grandest symbol of Omnipotence. Hence, an ancient mathematician has accurately and earnestly exclaimed—"Three is an uncompounded number, a number of perfection, a most powerful number." According to Pliny, the leeches used, when called in, of old, to spit with three deprecations before administering a potion to the patient. Corporeal as well as spiritual, things consist of three—beginning, middle, and end. All time is comprised in three—past, present, and future; all magnitude is contained in three—line, superficies, and body; every substance consists of three—length, breadth, and thickness. Magicians were wont to consign the world to the disposal of three invisible princes—Oromasis, Mitris, and Araminis; which may be regarded as the types of the body, mind, and spirit. There are three hierarchs of angelic spirits. There are three powers of intellectual beings—will, memory, and understanding. There are three quaternions of heavenly signs—fixed, movable, and common; and also of houses—centres succeeding, and falling. There are, moreover, three heads in every sign, and three lords of each triplicity. There are three graces amongst the heathen goddesses; three fates; three furies; three judges; Cerberus with three heads. Three theological virtues—faith, hope, and charity. Three degrees in the social system—king, lords, and commons. Three particularities in the human frame—brain, heart, and digestive organs for the thought, life, and nourishment of man. Three degrees of comparison—positive, comparative, and superlative, together with other instances which it would require three times our space to recount.

CURES OF INSANITY BY MESMERISM.

"—— Can such things be?"

And overcome us like a summer cloud,
Without our special wonder?"—MACBETH.

MESMERISM, sharing the fate of all other systems, has been, and is, vigorously assailed and staunchly defied by those who, from prejudice or reason, subscribe to its doctrines, or deny its asserted powers to exist, and one need not be surprised to find both of these positions most tenaciously held and most resolutely defended; for, as forming one of the many hypotheses which mankind have to discuss, there is probably not its equal in pretensions, presumptive or established. That by its influence a general bodily languor or indisposition to exertion—frequently verging on that peculiar semi-amorphous state hitherto supposed, wherever its existence was determined, to indicate an abnormal condition of the cerebral organs—may be produced, few will deny who have paid a passing attention to the "Mesmeric exhibitions." These exhibitions, although they may not have tended to advance the interests of Mesmerism as a system based on scientific principles, have nevertheless established the fact, that, by a certain apposition of bodies, there is an influence propagated and received, by which the mesmerising body is able to produce in the body mesmerised, *volens volens*, such a general inactivity or unimpressionability of the nervous system, as that it shall be unconscious—or, at all events, not exhibit the usual symptoms of consciousness—of pain, irritability, or titillation, when such sufficiently powerful injuries are inflicted as would, in the body conscious, cause suffering, inconvenience, or at least spasmodic action. And if Mesmerism could "no further go," even this would be abundantly enough to form a line of demarcation between established fact and wild conjecture, and opens a wide field for discussion and experiment.—And discussion and experiment can alone determine whether in Mesmerism there lie the seeds of a science which, ripened by the midnight toil of philosophers, shall in due season spring up into a tree, yielding not alone blossoms and fragrance, but fruit of a value not to be imagined by this generation.

Dating the present era of Animal Magnetism from the promulgation of its doctrines by Mesmer in his own land, but little success seems to have attended his early endeavours to proselytise; and perhaps, but for that influence in high places, which enabled his opponents to procure a decree of banishment against him, there would not now be occasion to discuss the merits of a system which has by its convincing truth, been of force to occupy the minds of academies and governments. Mesmer, on quitting the land of his fathers, journeyed to Paris, that city which is "all things by turns, and nothing long;" where, as the humour was in his favour, he was welcomed, fêted, and established as the guardian of the health of the court of Louis the Sixteenth. Possessing the influence of a court-physician, it is not to be wondered at that his doctrines should find many converts, not only in France, but in other countries also, our own amongst them. But in these latter little if any progress was made; whilst in France a commission was established to inquire into the pretensions of Mesmerism and report thereon. Accordingly, in the year 1784—the same year that Mesmer quitted Paris to seek restored health in the most rational manner possible,—by change of air, scene, habits, and diet,—either because he lacked faith in his own science, or because no one could be found possessing enough of the magnetic influence to affect him—the commission, composed of several of the most eminent medical men of Paris, together with some non-medical members of the Academy of Sciences, met and investigated the matter submitted to their adjudication.

Meanwhile of wonders the books are full; wonders calculated not merely "to make the vulgar stare," but to arrest the attention and interest and occupy the thoughts of thinking men. Amongst these, few are more remarkable than those of the cure of insanity by the magnetic influence; and fewer it may be added, are the respects in which Mesmerism could well be likely to prove a blessing than in the cure or alleviation of that saddest scene of sadness, "the fall of intelli-

tual greatness from its height." A most curious case of this kind is related by Dr. Teste, in his "Manuel Pratique du Magnétisme Animal;" from Dr. Spillan's translation of which we extract it:—

"In the month of August, 1819, Mr. Crooswijck, of Rotterdam, aged twenty years, was attacked with epileptic fits. These fits frequently returned, and assumed such a degree of severity, that in the month of October following the patient passed into a state of frenzy and madness. Four strong men were scarcely able to hold him. Placed, by way of precaution, in an alcove, he broke with his own hands a strong camp-bed; the doors of the alcove, though secured with great strength, fell to pieces under his violence; they were obliged to reconstruct them three times.

"During the months of January and February there was a little calm, but the first of March his madness broke out anew, and the patient demolished every thing he could lay his hands on.

"After having exhausted, without success, all the ordinary resources of the medical art, the last physician they had consulted, the learned M. Sander, took advantage of some moments of calm to induce the patient to let himself be magnetised; I was called in. At my first visit, though I had been informed of all the previous circumstances, I was struck with astonishment and fright on seeing the furious state of this young man, and the havoc which he had committed. I could not but recoil at the idea of risking my own existence in my attempt to save him, an attempt, too, that was to all appearance hopeless. I succeeded, however, in calming my own emotions before the persons who were present at this visit, and I made up my mind. The feeling of my duties to humanity, the desire of restoring an unfortunate young man to his disconsolate family, the ambition to vindicate the honour of my profession, urged me to the resolution of despising every personal danger, and of devoting myself to the destinies of my patient.

"On the following day I undertook my first operation. By the effect of magnetisation, the patient passing into the magnetic sleep became calm; but he experienced a dragging sensation, and convulsive movements in the arms and legs, joined to a sense of fluttering over the entire body. The tongue projected from the mouth, and though he retained his intellectual faculties, a circumstance which I ascertained by the signs he made to me for the purpose of answering some questions I put to him, he was completely deprived of speech. Dreading the explosion of his madness, the terrible effect of which I had constantly before my eyes, I sometimes calmed the motion of the nerves, and sometimes left him his free course, leading him gently to its termination.

"After having slept the magnetic sleep for one hour, the patient awoke, and extended his limbs three times with considerable force. He had no consciousness of what had passed, but he felt himself relieved and comforted. When I left him he was in rather a comfortable state.

"I continued the magnetisation for two days; the magnetic sleep, which was gradually developing itself, was interrupted by fits of frenzy so violent that the patient tore his clothes, his bed, &c. I allowed him to proceed to a certain extent, and then abruptly interrupting his fury, I exercised on him that great magnetic force, by blowing my breath upon him. He generally awoke after a magnetic sleep of an hour, calm and relieved. The effect of magnetisation and of somnambulism increased from day to day. The number of persons who came to be present at the treatment likewise increased daily. Already they were rejoicing at seeing the calm succeed the violent paroxysms. This joy, however, was entirely premature: the frenzy of the patient became so alarming that, not only for myself, but for all those who were to approach him, the enterprise was extremely dangerous. My magnetic force, however, retained its influence over him. After these operations I succeeded in making him pass into a complete state of somnambulism. Then it was declared to me that he could be cured only by magnetism; and announced to me beforehand, with the strictest accuracy, the hours and minutes when his paroxysms would take place. I obtained in this way the knowledge of the danger I should have to encounter, as also of the means of preparing myself to meet it:—"After eight or nine

days' magnetisation, the critical moment for the patient and for me was decidedly approaching. He foretold to me that in three days he should have a paroxysm of madness which was to last for two hours and a half.—'This frenzy,' says he to me, 'will be so violent, that I cannot answer for the danger you will have to incur. It is a great task for you to undertake my cure. When my madness will commence to develop itself, you must allow it to go on for twenty minutes, and then it will be excessive; but after having burst the doors, you must suddenly throw yourself upon me, and stop my paroxysm. I do not dare promise you that this great effort will succeed; but if you do not undertake it, there is not a hope for me: I must inevitably perish. The only means remaining for me I have now told you; but mind, in no case will you get out of it without suffering.' He became silent for an instant; and then, with tears in his eyes, he asked me, 'Will you venture to undertake it?' I was moved to the very soul; I had to sustain the struggle of a thousand different impressions which alternately lacerated my heart. I took my resolution. 'In the name of God, be it so!' I exclaimed. The poor young man seized my hand, kissed it with transports, expressed his gratitude to me, and advised me to tell him nothing on his awaking of what had occurred in his magnetic sleep.—The dreaded day appeared; at five in the morning I repair to Mr. Crooswijck's house, accompanied by the worthy surgeon, Van Wagening, who, under all these painful circumstances, faithfully afforded me his aid and assistance. Though my heart was oppressed, I formed my plan of conduct. I took off my cravat in order not to be strangled; I took a cordial, and prepared for the attack. A six o'clock, the moment predicted by the patient when in a state of somnambulism, the paroxysm commenced. The madman set up a frightful howling; he tore the clothes about him, the bed-clothes and his shirt. The twenty minutes were nearly elapsed; we took away the pieces of timber which barricaded the doors of his room, and all around me took a precipitate flight. I remained alone: the door of the apartment was shut on me. At a distance I contemplated, not without horror, the frightful figure of my phrenetic patient, like to a ferocious beast; his tongue hung out of his mouth, and his hands were directed towards me like the claws of a tiger: his countenance was really frightful. The fatal moment was come, the battle must begin. Collecting all my force I sprung on the unfortunate fellow, and seize him by the shoulders. There we are pitted, one against the other, like two pitiful enemies; he seizes me also by the shoulders, and the struggle commenced. The earth seemed to sink beneath my feet, my hair stood erect on my head. I aroused my courage, blew my breath on the poor madman with all the intensity I could, knowing by experience that this means gave me most power over him: I had the good fortune to triumph. This terrible struggle, which I sketch with difficulty, had lasted but five minutes, when the patient fell on the ground as if absolutely dead: he was in the magnetic sleep. I fell myself quite exhausted by his side. My clothes were torn to pieces. 'Rest a little,' said the somnambulist to me; 'two more violent paroxysms are still to follow; I shall apprise you of it by making the signal with my hand . . . M. Dr. Wagening and the elder brother of the unfortunate patient came in. I had scarcely recovered from my exhaustion, when the patient gave the fatal signal. These two gentlemen had to support me by the loins; the patient, in his frenzy, made every effort to seize me by the throat; it was only by the intensity of my blowing that I succeeded in keeping him sufficiently removed from me to prevent him from satisfying his rage. Let any one figure to himself my situation; I was just on the point of yielding, when all at once this paroxysm was checked and a calm supervened. After some minutes' rest, the third paroxysm was manifesting itself in a form still more alarming than any of the preceding. I passed once more through the terrible ordeal, but came off victorious.—'It was thought that the evil was now surmounted; already they were shedding tears of joy, the patient himself was covering my hands with the most ardent kisses to testify his gratitude to me. Alas! we had conjured away but the least portion of the storm. In the ordinary magnetisation, and the same day at eleven o'clock before noon, the hour at which I magnetised him, the somnam-

bulist predicted to me, that for three consecutive days he would be attacked with madness and hydrophobia; that the third day the evil would be at its height; that if on that day before four o'clock in the afternoon he had not drunk water three times, his ruin was inevitable. The first two days passed away under frightful circumstances. The unfortunate madman was more dangerous than ever: he broke the strongest pieces of furniture with his hands, demolished the chimney-piece and the window-sashes, at the risk of tumbling down the wall. The terrors of the third day were beyond all conception; the maniac called for drink the third time; I take the vessel, but he upsets it, falling on me in order to pull out my teeth. The fatal hour was going to strike; all was lost. The unfortunate man continued his demolitions, always without hurting his hands, his only instruments. He is often going even to break the door! We are all on the point of running away, in the conviction that we had done every thing that men could do in order to save him. Four o'clock is just going to strike! but the thundering voice of the unfortunate man crying out three times, 'Drink! drink! drink!' strikes our ears with a feeling of inexpressible joy; I run up to him, present him the cup; he hesitates, refuses; I exhaust all my magnetic power on him, and he drinks.

"Nothing was yet done. In the course of our ulterior magnetisations, some days after the last trials, he predicted to me three other paroxysms, still more terrible, which would occur at different epochs, more or less distant. 'He would be saved, provided I could continue on him the same treatment.' These three crises really did occur in frightful progression. The unfortunate man was encompassed by a copper girdle, to which had been affixed an iron chain, fastened by strong hooks to a stake fixed in the ground. In the first of these crises he demolished everything that the length of his chain allowed him to reach. Before the second, he was placed in a house which was in a state of demolition. Nothing could resist him. More than two hundred persons came to be witnesses of this formidable delirium. The day preceding the day when the third crisis was to take place, the patient was removed to Schiedam, to an uninhabited house; and there, attached to a long chain, which was fastened to a solid block, he could vent his rage on the thick stone walls. At Schiedam every one was in motion; here, as at Rotterdam, the police were at my disposal, and I had great need of them to keep order among the people, whom curiosity or the idea of seeing a *miracle* had brought from all parts. The last three crises were got over as the preceding. When restored to his reason, the patient still experienced some nervous attacks, which were soon calmed by magnetisation, and the paroxysms went on diminishing by little and little, and at length returned no more.

"This interesting young man enjoys perfect health, and joins to a calm mind the full possession of his intellectual faculties."

HUMMING OF GNATS.—It appears very probable that the humming noise emitted by the gnat when flying about in a dark room is useful to the insect itself, for, as it would be differently modulated according to its distance from, or nearness to, surrounding objects, it may have the effect of preventing its injuring itself by knocking against obstructions to its flight. As a proof of the great difference in sounds arising from even but trifling causes, we have only to take a card in hand and whistle against its edge at a little distance, and then a greater distance, and then against its flat surface at a greater or less distance, and we shall observe that the tone widely differs under each of these circumstances. Now, if we suppose that the gnat knows, from either instinct or experience, that sounds thus differ according to such circumstances as the above, it may learn its situation in a dark room by the variation produced upon its piping noise (which may thus be as serviceable to it in the dark as its sight in the day time), and avoid breaking its wings, or otherwise hurting its by flying against anything in its way. In the same manner, probably, one may explain the utility of the cockchafer (*Melontha vulgaris*), the dung-beetle (*Geotrupes stercoraris*), and many other insects.



In which all Questions from Correspondents are answered gratuitously, in accordance with the true and unerring principles of Astrological Science.

TO OUR QUERRISTS.—This department of our work involves the solution of "horary questions," so called from a figure of the heavens being erected for the hour in which the question is asked, and from the indications manifest in which the corresponding answers are derived. It will, therefore, be absolutely necessary for all correspondents to specify the exact hour and day on which they commit the question to paper for our judgment, and the replies will then be given accordingly. As this important feature of the starry science will necessarily occupy considerable time which he is willing to devote, without reward, to benefit the public, THE ASTROLOGER hopes that the liberality of his offer will protect him from the correspondence of those who desire adjudication upon frivolous subjects, or who are merely actuated thereto by motives of idle and foolish curiosity. All subjects on which they may be really anxious, can be solved with absolute certainty; and the election of favourable periods for marriage, speculation, or commencing any new undertaking with advantage, will be cheerfully and readily pointed out from week to week. All communications addressed to "THE ASTROLOGER" will be considered as strictly confidential, and the initials only given in the oracle.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SOMNUS.—There is yet another inscrutable property about dreams, not enumerated in our correspondent's catalogue; and this peculiarity is, perhaps, the most startling and unaccountable that the mere materialist or infidel meets with in his metaphysical and physiological studies. We allude to the extraordinary fact, that new characters and incidents are encountered by the dreamer; people, whose features he has never seen in this world, but with whom he holds so natural and uninterrupted an intercourse night after night that he becomes, at length, perfectly acquainted with their dispositions, and would recognise them instantly were they to meet in actual life. A wonderful and authentic instance, to this effect, is extant in a thin quarto volume published during the years 1811, 1812, and 1813, by a physician who had attended, during several months, the individual upon whose mind this extraordinary phenomenon was developed. The patient was a young girl who, from a spinal complaint, was afflicted with a most miserable deformity and contortion of the limbs; and this young creature recounted to her medical adviser, every morning, the dreams with which she had been haunted during the preceding night; dreams of such a marvellous symmetry as to induce that gentleman to note them down from the lips of the unfortunate female. These very visions constitute the mass of the book which we have mentioned, and the beings, who are therein depicted, are so strangely natural, while the incidents follow and originate one another in such a probable and likely manner, as to render the work quite a miniature novel, in its way, at the same time that it is a psychological curiosity. In this narrative the patient herself figures as the heroine, while a tall, dark, handsome man (different, in every respect, from any one she had ever seen, and really quite an original, in his way) is the hero. This man appears in nearly all her dreams, and is a marvel that would puzzle our correspondent.

MOON IN LIBRA.—The child will recover, you will have to remove, and probably next year will bring your directions forward to marriage.

E. B. (Cheltenham).—The perusal of our fair correspondent's letter has afforded us the most sincere gratification, since it is an evidence at once of her interest in our labours, and of the general appreciation of our intentions and our endeavours to disseminate knowledge and good-will among our fellow-creatures. We have a little rose-bud of gratitude to tender to the "young Mesmerist" through whose kindness we have gained the introduction of E. B. The Astrologer could express his acknowledgments still further if E. B. would favour him with some effusion of those talents and accomplishments which she has so blushing enumerated, but the mere possession of which is an honour to her mind, her industry, and her heart. Could our gentle initialist favour us with a further communication? Let her rest sure of its receiving our earliest attention, and the strictest confidence of secrecy. From the recent misadventure in her correspondence a series of unfortunate misunderstandings will result; but a personal interview with him would dispel all doubts, and reinstate her in his affections. If this interview can be obtained her anxieties will be removed; the union will take place, and her calamities will, on the whole, be dispersed. We cannot, however, write with any degree of certainty of precision unless E. B. can oblige us with more details.

J. F. (of P. C.)—Promotion is in store for you; but your perseverance and patience, already severely tested, will have yet to be called to your support under the delay which will precede your advancement to a higher grade in your calling. The fates have been playing sad tricks with the thread of your destiny hitherto; they have been knotting it and singeing its frail substance to a meagre tenuity: your life will, however, be lightened up by the sunbeam of prosperity. Gird up your loins for a struggle; there is a triumph for you, visible even now upon the horizon.

E. DE B.—An unavoidable accident prevented the publication of an answer to your former inquiry; and your first communication having been mislaid, you must favour us with the hour in which it was written. As to your present question, we can satisfy our correspondent with the assurance that a situation will be obtained, but not before several unexpected circumstances have occurred. Remember, however, during the development of these temporary calamities, that the plum which has been attacked by the bills of those marauders, the linnets, is always the sweetest to the palate.

OPHELIA (Rue).—Thanks to the Lady Ingram for the introduction of so welcome a correspondent; thanks also to the gentle Ophelia for her courtesy. We could wish to assuage your sorrows, but, alas! cannot venture to buoy you up with a too delusive hope. His unhappy career is *not* ended, but he is well nigh irreclaimable. Still do not despair. If you do not receive a singular intimation respecting him within the seven following adumbrations of our satellite the moon, write to us again; but we foresee a certain change at that period which would tend to ease the sufferings of your mind to some extent.

ALONZO.—She will be above the ordinary stature slightly; amiable, a good housewife, and—a brunette. Alonzo will see that we have enlarged the scope of his very reasonable curiosity, as we are ever anxious to satisfy those who combine eagerness with suavity.

BLANCHE FISHER.—Thou wilt be happy in the attainment of thy desires, but not in the way anticipated. Follow up thy profession with zeal and earnestness, and victory will be the consequence. Take a lesson of assiduity from the perseverance of that somewhat loathsome insect the spider, whose industry is not interrupted by the sudden gust which occasionally destroys its web, or the fallen leaf that entangles its delicate meshes.

GABRIEL.—We feel it our duty most strenuously to recommend you *not* to abandon your present occupation; the plant which grows sturdily in its original position often withers on being transplanted. Ponder well on this advice before you make any definite movement. As to your interrogation whether we can allow of a personal interview with any of our correspondents, the Astrologer takes this opportunity of assuring all such applicants, *en masse*, that the extraordinary demand on his time precludes him entirely from such a proceeding. If *one* were granted, the appointments would be interminable.

R. D. W.—The general aspect of your nativity is propitious, though we caution you against perils on the water, several of which are indicated. We thank you for the interest you testify in our labours, and regret the announcement of our publication had not previously encountered you in your rambles. The Astrologer is hopeful that those who have already experienced the benefit of his gratuitous astral advice will do all in their power to let others partake of this most beneficial knowledge. The hearts of all our intelligent querists will tell them that so trifling an acknowledgment of our labour is incumbent upon them. "Tell it in Gath; publish it in the streets of Askalon."

J. S. B * * * * N.—Our reply to your first inquiry is in the affirmative; H. A. B. will continue where he is at present, but remove sooner than either anticipate.

SYNTAX.—We regret that you did not fully perceive the force and emphasis of our late symbolical recommendation. Now, however, we would wish to impress upon you the absolute necessity of your continuing in your present position, sustained by the assurance that such a line of conduct on your part is the best that can be adopted. Though the nut of the cocoa is rugged and hard, there is a toothsome kernel within, and a genial milk in the kernel. Thus, though your present fortunes are somewhat gloomy, proceed with courage and resolution in your occupations, and time will prove fraught with recompense; for the nut that drops from the branch, prematurely, never ripens. Weigh our remarks, and act according to their dictates.

ZOROASTER.—Your aspirations are most cordially appreciated by us, and we rejoice to think that our sentiments are so fully reciprocated by our readers. In former numbers you will perceive many directions for the guidance of those who are desirous of becoming disciples of this lofty science with the authors particularly recommended for perusal; these you had better follow, not despising the more antique as bygone and obscure, or discarding the more modern as too chimerical, for there are beautiful and very laudable peculiarities about each. At the same time you must be cautious in your selection. As for yourself, it will be advisable for you to procrastinate the union until you have obtained the promised advancement. Make every arrangement in your power for the completion of this necessary preliminary, and your marriage will be both speedy and fortunate.

ARISTIDES.—It is with singular pleasure that we receive communications of this nature, giving us the gratifying assurance that our endeavours to combat mere materialism, and all its prejudicial antipathies, have not proved futile. Our correspondent here confesses that, before the perusal of our publication, he "rejected everything that was not palpable and tangible," but that, as we have "strongly contended against these notions in our leading articles," they have been gradually dispelled; exclaiming in confirmation of these expressions:—"What vast fields you have opened to my view, wherein I find materials for the enjoyment of the beautiful and good!" and "how meanly I look upon that utilitarianism from which I have escaped, to luxuriate in the ideal and spiritual!" We can only observe in conclusion, that we have reserved the inquiries of Aristides for a careful consideration, and will shortly give our verdict.

LA MERE.—We do not perceive any indications of immediate evil; the anxiety incident to a mother's love for her offspring is too apt to conjure up phantoms of danger which do not in reality threaten. The noble personage alluded to will be here in time for the summer of the year ensuing.

J. S.—There is an advantageous change certain to occur to you within one month; but we do not think it will arise from a removal. There are no indications at all of marriage in the horary figure we have erected.

PENSIEROSO.—It is with the most sincere feelings of commiseration that we hear from our esteemed correspondent the announcement of a train of misfortunes which seems to completely baffle every endeavour, and crush every hope. To the inquiry made we respond most assuredly YES; but at the same time we are led, from unerring rules, to predict most emphatically a coming change for the better.

†—If you will carefully watch the progress of our revelations of the Rosicrucian Mysteries, and study the directions given therein, you will obtain all the information which you desire. Still we are fearful that you can never attain the object of your ambition, as such accomplishments require the most indomitable perseverance, courage, and fortitude.

The following, with other correspondents whose letters remain unanswered, will be attended to, and their judgments given next week. "T. PALMER;" "FIDE ET FORTITUDINE;" "J. WALL;" "AMICUS;" "MARK;" "ARIEL;" "S.D.;" "FATALIST;" "MILTON;" &c. &c.

RECEIVED.—THOMAS B. (You are under excellent hands, and, after a period of probation and a few unhappy relapses, will recover. As to your circumstances, the aspect of your nativity bodes little good—*save with courage and resolution.*—ROSE RAYNAS (Within sixteen weeks you will learn something definite upon the subject, and that in a strange and unforeseen manner; be not too sanguine).—EMMA S. [West Hackney] (Your misfortunes will be dissipated; but you must nerve yourself for their continuance yet awhile, and rouse all your energies to effect the desired amelioration).—STEVENS (No, to the first inquiry; to the second—Before another twelvemonth).—ELIZA C. [Borough] (There is a prospect of such an union within two years).—T. B. [Hamptonwick] (If we understand the question rightly, Yes).—J. JONES [Liverpool] (Will our correspondent put the inquiry more explicitly? we shall, then, be most happy to satisfy his anxiety).—R. E. B. (Persevere in your present profession, and, with determination on your part to overcome the difficulties of your position, good-fortune will be inevitable. Avoid a change as you would the bite of the tarantula).—E. MILES (To both your questions, Yes).—LADY SALE (In twenty-six calendar months; Mercury).—M. M. (Decidedly).—M. A. SYMES [Bristol] (The loss is irrevocable; you have not been deceived in your suspicions).—D. D. D. S. (Alas! no.).—SHELAH (But slight expectations must be entertained; still glean encouragement from the grain of barley which, from its very decay, arises to a fresh and nobler life, and flourishes in verdant luxuriance during the long summer).—EMMELINE (No, your destiny augurs better for the future; the tendrils, which have been so long climbing in the sombre shadow of the garden wall, are now fast creeping to its summit, and will speedily bask in the sunlight, from which it has been so long screened).—T. H. M. (Communicate with the *three* best among your employers, when you will hear something to your advantage, and a change will occur).—M. A. W. (He is not; nor has she any acquaintance with her destined partner).—W. R. [Birmingham] (Follow the wise dictates of your friends; but be cautious in your undertakings, for there are plain indications of fraud in a quarter that you little imagine. The 29th of September).—M. M. [Leeds] (You will enter upon a temporary employment before you obtain any permanent situation; the latter is somewhat distant and obscure; certainly, however, not before 1846. We have received two copies of this correspondent's application; M. M. and R. S. R. Thou art oblivious. But, happily, thy present forgetfulness hath benefited the revenue).—ANXIETY (No, thou art mistaken; the answer in No. 23 was to another; marry, there are too many *Anxieties* about the world, of which you yourself are an evidence. Know that the Astrologer's verdicts are given with too much forethought and judgment to admit of a second view: his edicts, like those of Fate, are irrevocable).—A. C. (Your conjecture is correct: you have seen him, and the union will be of ordinary happiness. Unless considerable gentleness is displayed on your part, there will be a tendency to numerous bickerings).—TAURUS (We are sorry to assure you that the work will prove unsuccessful if attempted).—D. H. [You had better continue at home; No, to the second question].—S. A. HAWKS (He will be changeable in his avocations).—KATE W. (Before her 23rd year).—E. A., AN ENQUIRER (What you desire would occupy too much of our time, as it is impossible, with such a host of inquiries as we receive each week to enter into minute details).—H. A. (State your inquiries more definitely, and we shall be happy to satisfy your curiosity).—JANE W. (We would earnestly exhort you to combine millinery, in a small way, with your present occupation. This combination, with

exactitude and industry, will prove the most advantageous arrangement you could enter into).—A. A. A. (Your questions are rather complicated, but we can assure you that it is most advisable for you to remain in your present location; a communication with him by letter would be the most advisable, and would settle the matter at once).—J. J. P. (Remain where you are, at least for the ensuing year, within which period a circumstance will occur which will determine your future movements).—ELIZA C. (It will be the former).—X. X. Y. (On the 2nd of September your hopes will be realised).—HANUEL (You have seen her, but are ignorant of whom we allude to).—WOODARD (The Rosicrucian MSS. are left at our office, and returned with thanks).

Our next number will contain the title-page, index, and preface, completing our first volume.

TO OUR QUERISTS AND SUBSCRIBERS.—Many letters having been received from persons resident in remote places, complaining that, in consequence of the difficulty and expense incurred in procuring the work, they have been unable to avail themselves of the gratuitous astrological advice we proffer, the following arrangements have been made to meet the wishes of our readers and the public generally:—All subscribers to "THE ASTROLOGER," by payment of six months' subscription in advance (8s. 6d.), or a quarter's subscription (4s. 3d.), will be entitled to a copy, sent every Friday evening, *post free*, to any part of the United Kingdom, and, in addition, have priority of attention in the solution of such questions as they may feel desirous of having calculated. All who may, therefore, wish to enjoy these privileges, are recommended to send their real name and address with the post-office order for the above sum, drawn in favour of our publisher, to OUR OFFICE ONLY, and, at the same time, state the initials under which they should be answered in the "ORACLE." Strict honour and confidence will be observed, and the utmost attention may be relied upon.

GENERAL NOTICE TO OUR READERS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

Early in August will be ready, complete, with title page and index, Vol. I of "THE ASTROLOGER," handsomely bound in crimson cloth, price five shillings, and forming one of the most interesting and complete works on the OCCULT SCIENCES extant. All the back numbers for the completion of sets have been reprinted, and, without any extra charge, can be obtained either direct from the office, as below, or, by order, through any bookseller and newsvendor throughout the country. With the ensuing volume will be given some choice and rare extracts from hitherto unpublished MSS., as an earnest of which we may proudly point to the series of papers now in publication, and detailing, for the first time in a modernised garb, the method of preparing the Philosopher's Stone, the Elixir of Life, &c. &c., carefully digested and elaborated from the scarce works of Dr. Dee, Raymond Lully, Heydon, Friar Bacon, Geber, Agrippa Ptolemy, Paracelsus, and other eminent Astrologers, Alchemists, and Rosicrucian Philosophers. The sublimity and purity of the creed inculcated by the articles in this work, the interesting nature of its disclosures on subjects not embraced by the columns of any other periodical, the gratuitous assistance it affords to those in doubt, difficulty, and anxiety, and the accuracy of the astrological deductions for the future guidance of individuals, to which thousands can at this moment gratefully testify, all tend to establish a claim upon the notice of the public, of which if they fail to avail themselves, no blame can be possibly attached to the conductors of "THE ASTROLOGER." Early orders for the volume are requested to be given as soon as possible, in order to prevent disappointment.

* * * All letters and communications are requested to be addressed to "The Astrologer," 11, Wellington-street North, Strand, London.

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