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AN ACT FOR THE Suppression of Fortune Telling, AND OTHER PURPOSES.

We learn, through the daily papers, that the above mentioned act has passed through both the House of Representatives and the Senate at Harrisburg; and only remains for the Governor to sign, for it to become an established law.

We would ask those gentlemen at Harrisburg what were their intentions when they exerted themselves so much in trying to get the above named Act passed? Perhaps they would answer, to put down fortune-telling or planet reading, &c. This reminds us of an anecdote that we once heard related of a crazy man, in an insane hospital, whom a gentleman once went to see, and asked him why such a *sensible looking* man as him was confined in such a place at that; the crazy man answered by saying, oh, it was only a *matter of opinion* that brought me here! I said that all the world was crazy, and they said that I was crazy and the *majority ruled*.

Now it is a *matter of opinion* with regard to believing in calculating nativities, planet reading, or fortune-telling, &c., (as different persons call it by those different names,) as some *people believe in it and some do not*; and it appears that the majority is to rule again with regard to *matters of opinion*, even in this *enlightened, free and glorious Republic*. Let the American people be robbed of this birth-right, that they cannot believe in matters of opinion as they think proper, and where will they be? God only knows; but, one thing is certain that they will make rapid strides *back to the dark ages*, when the inquisition, the thumbscrew, and the rack will be called into requisition. Some of the American people are afraid that the priests and the Pope are trying to get foothold in the United States, so as to practice some of

their infernal works, as they have done in some of the catholic countries. But only let the Legislature go on and we shall soon have no need of neither Popes nor priests, as those wise people at Harrisburg will be able to dictate to us what we *shall* believe and what we *shall not* believe, and if we do not believe what they tell us to believe, we are to be arrested and put in prison, not over two years, and have to pay a fine of not over two hundred dollars.

But perhaps some of those wise people at Harrisburg will reply by saying that the fortune-tellers, &c., are not to be fined and imprisoned for believing in planet reading, &c., but for practicing and receiving money for it. But that just amounts to the same thing. Whose fortune do the planet readers tell? Not those persons who do not believe in planet reading, &c., (because those persons go to spend their time and money in other pursuits, and they do not care about the fortune-teller, or trouble their heads about either him or his science,) but they tell those persons' fortunes that *do believe* in planet reading. And as many of those persons cannot command the time, opportunity or books, or perhaps have not the proper kind of abilities to study Astrology, so as to be able to read their own planet, they are willing to remunerate those persons who make it their business to study and practice that science, to do it for them, when they have need of the Astrologer's services, just the same as a believer in the art of medicine, who may not have had time or opportunities to study that useful science, when he is taken sick, prefers calling in a regular Physician rather than begin doctoring himself. The same may be said with regard to a lawyer, a parson, or any other profession.

If the Legislature, at Harrisburg, should pass a law to fine and imprison all the physicians who receive a remuneration for their trouble or skill, when they are practicing their regular calling, would not that oppress

all those persons who believe in the art of medicine, as well as the physicians themselves, because every man must live by the profession or trade which he follows. So, in like manner, will the Act for the suppression of fortune telling oppress all those who believe in *Astrology, Phrenology, Spiritualism, Clairvoyance or Animal Magnetism, &c., &c.*, (as the above mentioned Act includes the whole catalogue of these useful and delightful sciences.) And all these sciences are *matters of opinion*, as some people believe them, and some do not; and if the majority are to govern us in those beliefs or matters of opinion, and be allowed to go on, where will they stop? As I said before, God only knows!

Whatever business, trade, or profession a man may follow or study, either for gain or amusement, that man in studying or practicing that business, trade or profession acquires a certain amount of experience; he learns that certain causes produce certain effects, and certain results follow certain actions. He goes on in that manner, until he collects a number of facts, those facts serve him to reason from, to discover other truths, and by being often repeated, and always arriving at the same results, these facts become established to himself. And if that man has been studying or practicing any particular art or science that is not common or universal, he will acquire peculiar habits both of body and mind; his manner of thinking and reasoning, and, perhaps belief, will differ very much from those persons who have been engaged in other pursuits or speculations. His discoveries and facts—his experience and knowledge, will, perhaps, amount to proof sufficient to satisfy himself, but with regard to the world at large they will be only *matters of opinion*.

When Galileo by the use of the telescope discovered that the earth was not at rest in the midst of the starry heavens; and the Sun, moon, and stars did not whirl round the earth once a day, but that the earth and all the other planets were moving round the Sun, which was at rest near the centre of the Solar system; those great truths which Galileo had discovered by his own experience and steady application to the science of Astronomy, became proof sufficient for himself, but to those seven cardinals who had been engaged in other pursuits and other specu-

lations, and who condemned Galileo to be tortured on the rack, these great truths to them were only matters of opinion, and the MAJORITY RULED.

When Dr. Harvey, by his steady application to Physiology and Anatomy, discovered the circulation of the blood, his experiments by being often repeated and always producing the same results, were proof sufficient for himself. But to those Doctors who had been engaged in other experiments or speculation, they were only matters of opinion, and the *majority ruled*. For Dr. Harvey was treated with great contumely and lost his practice, and so got reduced in circumstances.

I might go on instancing Dr. Jenner, who introduced vaccination as a preventative of small pox; Dr. Gall, the hero of Phrenology; Dr. Mesmer, who discovered Animal Magnetism, and numbers of others too numerous to mention; and state how they were persecuted and imprisoned, and drove from one city or country to another, and how these men's discoveries were treated as *matters of opinion*, and the *majority ruled* in their day, but the majority only ruled for a time. "*For truth is mighty and must prevail*"

But let us suppose for a moment, that Astrology, Phrenology, and the other sciences, which the "act for the suppression of fortune-telling and other purposes" includes, are really false, and that those persons who believe in them, or practice them, are either duped or else imposters. What then? will the above named Act put a stop to those imposters, and people being duped by them?

Let those persons who believe that it will, read the account of the Salem witchcraft cases, in a former number of the Planet Reader. There they will read that the more witches were arrested and imprisoned, the more there were to arrest and imprison, until the prisons could not hold them all, and the more witches they hung, the more there were to hang, so that if they had only gone on, all the people in the colonies would have either been witches, wizards or devils; did they not accuse the governor's wife for being a witch, and if they had gone on a little longer they would have accused the governor himself. But when the witches were acquitted, and there were

o more to be imprisoned or hung, then here were no more witches to be had, they all died a natural death, and left none of their offsprings behind them.

The reader will find if he studies history, that whenever any government has begun making laws, to legislate in *matters of opinion or belief*, and began to put those laws into effect, they have acted on the matters of opinion or belief, like a pair of bellows act on the fire, the more severe they carried out the laws, the harder they worked the bellows, until they got the state of excitement to such a fervent heat, that it carried everything before it. No matter whether those opinions or beliefs have been false or true, or whether they have belonged to science or religion, or whatever they did belong to; whenever they have put the law on them, they put the bellows to the fire, and whenever they have carried the laws out with the most rigor, they have worked the bellows the harder, and the excitement became the stronger, until those matters of opinions or belief have swept everything before them.

Whatever nation or whatever age or time we refer back to, and trace it through history, we find that that has always been the case. I need only mention a few instances, and among the most prominent are the early Christians, or the followers of Jesus Christ. You may read in the New Testament how they were persecuted from city to city; and in history, how Nero and others tortured them to death. The Protestants or the followers of Luther, you can read in history how they were treated and persecuted by the Roman Catholics. I might go on instancing the Calvinists, the Methodists, the Quakers, the Witches both in this Country and in Europe, and of late the Mormons; besides all the different sciences, both medical and others. In short, whatever age or nation have began to persecute any particular person or party, for matters of opinion or belief, those persons or parties have begun to flourish, and their adherents or followers have sprung up like mushrooms, and spread over a large extent of country. Whereas, if they had only been let alone a great many of those persons who promulgated those matters of opinion or belief, would have died and been forgotten, and their matters of opinion or belief would

have died with them, and the poet's lines would have been verified in their case, like it has been in many others, when he says:

Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

I might here instance one more case of excitement and difficulties caused by the majority wanting to rule, in matters of opinion or belief, of which we have begun to feel its effects, but not as yet in their full force; although they have already split this proud Eagle in twain, and humbled it to the very dust; and God only knows how or where it will end. I allude to the present difficulties between the Northern and Southern States. The people of the Slave States believe that Slavery is right, and the people of the Free States, or Republicans, believe that it is wrong, and all this great excitement is all about a matter of opinion and belief, and the majority wanting to rule.

When will nations and law-makers learn sense from past experience? when will they learn to let persons and parties believe reason, and act as they think proper? provided those persons or parties, in so doing, do not injure or molest their neighbors. Give me the liberty to think, to reason, to argue, and to believe, above all other liberties.

[To be continued.]

AN OPINION ON THE AFFAIRS of the NATION,

For the Spring Quarter of 1861.

The Spring Quarter commenced on the 20th of March, at 9h 47m A. M., Philadelphia time, when 16 degrees of the sign Gemini was ascending, and 22 degrees of Aquarius was culminating. The planet Mercury is ruler of the year, and is retrograde in the eleventh house, in the sign Pisces, in his detriment, and making a conjunction of the planet Venus. The evil planet Saturn is lord of the 10th house, and is retrograde in the 4th, in square to Herschel, near the cusp of the ascendant; Jupiter is retrograde on the cusp of the 4th house in square to Mars, in the 12th. The Moon is in the 2d, in square to the Sun in the 11th.

These are all evil significations, and I

do not look for any settlement of the present difficulties under their influence. But rather when the fiery and warlike planet Mars enters the sign Gemini, (which sign rules the U. S.) and forms a square of Saturn, and a conjunction of Herschel, (and likewise an opposition of Saturn's place, and a square of Mercury's place, in the President's Nativity,) which aspects will take place about the middle of April, will have a tendency to influence the President and his Cabinet to use decided measures, and I look for warlike preparations being made about that time, or some decided blow being struck by either the general Government, or the Seceding States. And there will be much danger of the President making some movement about that time that will give general dissatisfaction throughout the country, and will have a tendency to bring him and his administration into disgrace.

Trade and commerce still keep at a stand still; there will be a general complaint and dissatisfaction among all classes of people, and they will differ very much in their opinions, some will be for going to war and others for peace, and for acknowledging the Southern Confederacy.

The above named aspects will afflict President Davis' Nativity equally as bad as the Nativity of Hon. Abram Lincoln. And I am afraid that a collision will take place some time near the middle of April. If so, I should say that the Southern Confederacy will get the best of the bargain.

The affairs in Great Britain and Ireland still keep unfavorable, trade and business of all kinds are dull, and large meetings and riots will take place in the western part of England and in London, and there will be much commotion and angry feeling in the British Parliament.

We look for news of warlike preparations being made on *the continent*.

An Opinion on the Affairs of the Country, for April, 1861.

The Map of the Heavens for the Full Moon, which took place on the 26th of March at 9h 14m A. M., agrees very much with the one for the Spring Quarter, and only helps to confirm what I have already said.

All those persons born near the latter

part of February, May, August, and November, will find it an unfortunate time for them, during these next two months, (April and May,) they may expect to be afflicted with sickness or loss of money; and it would be advisable for them not to make any particular changes or removals, &c., in the above named months.

But all those persons born about the 6th day of February, May, August, and November, will find these next two months, (April and May,) a very fortunate time for them. If they have been sick they may hope to get well, if out of employment or business, may hope to get a situation, or get into business again, if being doing bad in business, may hope to get along much better, &c., &c.

(Continued from page 12, No. 3. Vol. 2.)

THE LOST FACULTY, Or, the Sixth Sense.

DR. DONNE.

Two days after Dr. Donne had arrived in Paris, he was left alone in a room where he had been dining with Sir Robert Drury and a few companions. Sir Robert returned in about an hour afterwards, and found his friend in a state of ecstasy, and so altered in his countenance that he could not look upon him without amazement. The Doctor was not able for some time to answer his questions, what had befallen him. But after a long and perplexing pause, at last he said, "I have seen a dreadful vision, since I saw you. I have seen my dear wife pass twice by me through this room, with her hair hanging about her shoulders, and a dead child in her arms. This I have seen since I saw you." To which Sir Robert answered, "Surely, sir, you have slept since I went out, and this is the result of some melancholy dream, which I desire you to forget, for you are now awake." Donne replied, "I cannot be more certain that I now live, than that I have not slept since I saw you; and am as sure that at her second appearing she stopped, looked me in the face, and vanished." This was in 1612, and on inquiry it was found that at the moment of this apparition Mrs Donne was confined prematurely of a dead child; but the mother lived.

[To be continued.]

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Nos. 5 & 6.

REMARKS

ON THE LATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION;

AND

PREDICTIONS

ON THE

CIVIL WAR!!

Before making any more predictions on the affairs of the NATION; perhaps, it will be advisable to review some of those predictions that I have already made, having a reference to the present state of excitement, in the United States.

The first that I shall notice, is the prediction on the Presidential Election; I predicted that Douglas would be elected, and that Lincoln would be defeated. I made that prediction from seeing, that Lincoln had so many evil aspects, in his Nativity, at the time the election came off: and the aspects in Douglas' Nativity being more fortunate than those in Lincoln's. Indeed I went entirely by the Nativities of the different candidates, believing that that was the safest way, as I had not had any practice in Mundane or State Astrology, previous to beginning publishing the Planet Reader. Perhaps it would be as well to state here, that Astrology is composed of several distinct branches or sciences; yet, they all have their sister Science—ASTRONOMY, for their FOUNDATION; that is, the Astrologer in each of those different branches, makes his predictions from the Positions, and Revolutions, of the Heavenly Bodies. An Astrologer may be very proficient in any one of those branches, of Astrology, and yet, perhaps he may not know any thing about any of the other branches of that science, as he has to observe different rules and laws, in each, of those different branches. Perhaps, I might illustrate this subject by the science of numbers or calculation. For instance a person may be very proficient in Arithmetic and yet have no knowledge of Algebra; or he may understand Algebra; and perhaps not,

know any thing about Trigonometry: as there are different laws and rules, to be observed in each of those different sciences, yet they all have numbers or calculation for their foundation. Let us suppose that a person was called on to make a calculation, that required a knowledge of both Arithmetic and Trigonometry; but that person had only practised Arithmetic previously: would he not be very liable to make some mistake in his calculation? and yet the science itself not be at fault.

When I made the prediction about the prize fight between Heenan and Sayers, I came very near the mark. As it only required a knowledge of the Science of Nativities, (a branch that I had given special attention to,) to make that prediction. But when I made the prediction on the Presidential election, (a prediction that required experience in both the Science of Nativities and Mundane Astrology,) I made a mistake, in stating that Douglas would be elected, and that Lincoln would be defeated. But in reality, I did not make a mistake; except, in not examining the subject far enough. I saw that the aspects, in Lincoln's Nativity, were uncommon evil; therefore I came to the conclusion that he would be defeated. But had I noticed the effects, on the affairs of this Country, of the planet Herschel in passing through the Sign Gemini, (which Sign rules the U. S.,) in its former revolutions round the heavens. I should have known, that the unfortunate aspects in Lincoln's Nativity indicated, what would take place after the election, and not before it. And perhaps, there is not any person now, (whether they believe in Astrology or not,) but what will admit, that it would have been much better for the United States, if Douglas could have been elected.

I have been more particular, in explaining how I made the mistake, in the prediction on the Presidential election; on account of a number of people, laughing at those persons who place any confidence, in predictions made by the rules of Astrology: and the only argument that those skeptics can bring a-

against that Science is that BROUGHTON Predicted that Douglas would be Elected. But whatever harm the above prediction may have done to Astrology, at least it has done me a great deal of good; as it caused me to investigate Astrology more than I had ever done before; to try to find out whether it was the Science that was at fault, or myself, in not understanding it properly.

I am aware, that whatever science or profession any person may practise, either for amusement or for a living, that person can never become so perfect in his profession or science, but what he may be liable to make same mistakes.

[To be continued.]

Fate of the Nation, for May & June, 1861.

The aspects in the Map of the Heavens, for the Full Moon for May, were not very remarkable; and as the Month is far advanced I shall not attempt to make any predictions from them, but pass on to June.

The Full Moon from which we make our predictions for June, will take place on the 24th. of May, at 1 h. 5 m. a. m.; when 9° of Pisces will ascend, and 19° of Sagittary will culminate. The Moon is near the cusp of the tenth house in opposition to the Sun, Mercury, Venus, and Herschel; and the evil planet Saturn is on the cusp of the seventh house in square aspect to all the above named planets. Jupiter is lord of the scheme and is in the sixth house.

These are all evil aspects, and under their influence I look for preparations of War going on, both by the general Government and the seceding States.

The above aspects afflict Lincoln's Nativity very much, and I am afraid that his life will be in great danger, either from poison or assassination, near the commencement of the month. The planet Mercury coming to a conjunction of Herschel, indicates that the enemies of the general Government will endeavor to make some desperate move, near the beginning of the month. Saturn afflicting their ascendant will cause them to fail in accomplishing their ends. I should say that there will be several slight engagements between the soldiers of the slaveholding and free States. In the forepart of the month, in which the seceding States will get the worst of the bargain.

I do not look for any General Engagement between the two Armies until September or October next, (when the evil planets

Saturn and Herschel forms a square aspect: then there will be an Engagement; and such a one, as was never witnessed in this Country before, and perhaps, will never be again when thousands will be laid dead and dying on the Battle Field! And I am afraid the some Epidemic will break out, this summer in the Northern Army, that will destroy more than the Sword.

Trade and commerce still keep at a stand and I expect heavy failures among merchant and business people during this month; and I look for much suffering, sickness and war among the lower classes.

New York feels the evil effects of Mars in Cancer, its ruling Sign, that City will be afflicted with many large fires, heavy failures and startling murders,

Affairs in England are of a very unsettled nature, I look for news arriving, of large meetings and riots afflicting that Nation much angry discussion will prevail in London, on American affairs, and I am afraid that there is much danger of War being declared between this Country and England.

Jupiter in Leo will preserve peace in Italy and France, for some months to come.

NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

With our "Planet" being behind its time in its Monthly Revolution; a number of persons have called to inquire, if it had wandered off to some unknown space, or whatever had come of it. Whether the skeptic has been able to prevent 'The Stars from fighting their Courses against Sisera,' Or the Legislature at Harrisburg has succeeded in Enacting a Law to 'BIND THE SWEET INFLUENCE OF THE PLEIADES.' I am glad in being able to inform the reader, that neither has been able to put out the light of our little "Planet" intercept it in its "Monthly" Revolutions.

As I have received so many letters asking if I had stopped publishing the Planet Reader, I take this method of answering them at once; and of informing the reader, that I have not, nor do I intend to stop publishing it. To make sure that the Planet Reader, continue to make its Monthly appearance have bought a Press and Type of my own that if I cannot publish it in this State, I in some other. The reason the Planet Reader did not make its appearance on the first of the month, was that I deemed it advisable not to make any predictions, in the threatened state of the times.