

BROUGHTON'S MONTHLY PLANET READER, AND ASTROLOGICAL JOURNAL.

Vol. 3.

PHILADELPHIA, JANUARY, 1862.

No 1.



THE NATIVITY OF

Gen. George B. McClellan.

Born December 3d, 1826, at 0h, 15m, A.M.

(Continued from page 39, Vol. 2.)

Gen. McClellan has a fortunate Nativity for marriage, as the Moon first applies by good aspect to the benevolent planet Jupiter, and Jupiter is likewise lord of the seventh house (the house of marriage) and he is found in the fortunate sign Libra, which will describe a lady of rather tall stature, of a good figure, but rather slender made, full eyes, light brown hair, and rather fair complexion, will have a very genteel and prepossessing appearance. In disposition, of a mild temper, winning and obliging, fond of innocent recreations, much esteemed and generally fortunate. Gen. McClellan and his wife will live together in a very happy or loving manner. His Nativity is not so fortunate for children. I should say that he will only have a very small family, and I think that it will be very doubtful about him having any children to live to grow to the age of maturity.

Gen. McClellan has not in reality a very fortunate Nativity, on account of the evil planet Saturn, being retrograde near the mid-heaven at the time he was born, and in opposition to the planet Mercury, (his significator). This January, 1862, will be a very exciting time for him, on account of Saturn being retrograde in his ascendant, and Herschel retrograde in his tenth house. I look for the army under his command making some decided movements, but I fear some misfortune will befall them.

In the December No. 1861, under the head "*Signs of the Times*," I stated that:—"The conjunction of these superior orbs Saturn and Jupiter produce very remarkable effects on individuals, when the conjunction happens in important places in those persons Nativities." Then I alluded to the Nativities and lives of James I. and Charles II. of England, and likewise to the Nativity of Napoleon Bonaparte, as proofs for this statement.

This last conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter which took place 21st of October, 1861, happened in the ascendant in Gen. McClellan's Nativity, and on the 1st of November, he was made commander of the American armies.

In March 1862, the evil planet Saturn will be retrograding over the same degree in which the before-mentioned conjunction took place, and I look for it affecting Gen. McClellan very much, he will make some decided movements about that time; but whether they will be good or bad for him, I will not here state. Should Gen. McClellan be commander of the American army in December, 1862, it will be very evil for the Northern States at that time, and his life will more than once be in great danger, but I think that he will be displaced by the commencement of 1863.

In conclusion, I might here state that the great conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter of 1802, it happened in an important place in Napoleon Bonaparte's Nativity, just before his career commenced, likewise Napoleon Bonaparte had the evil planet Saturn in the tenth house (the house of honor) at the time he was born, just the same as Gen. McClellan. Question, will Gen. McClellan have a career similar to Napoleon Bonaparte, and will his career come to a sudden end, like Napoleon Bonaparte's did?

Perhaps I may take up Gen. McClellan's Nativity again, and enter more into details at some future time.

Editorial from the "Boston Sunday Herald" for Dec. 22 '61

ASTROLOGY.

People have singular notions concerning this art. Many even among the intelligent and well educated regard it as a mixture of absurdities and imposture, and place it on the same footing with fortune-telling, card-reading, divination by tea-cups, and other similar devices employed by the crafty to fleece the credulous. Astrology may be an absurdity, but an imposture it certainly is not. It has suffered much in public estimation because many persons have pretended to practice who knew nothing whatever about it, not even the meaning of its name. So has the profession of Law suffered from the pettifogger, and that of Medicines from the advertising quack. Nobody thinks, however, of leaving his doctor or his lawyer on that account.

Astrology pretends to foretell the chief events of a man's life, from an examination of the face of the heavens at the time of his birth. It also professes to foretell what may happen to a man from day to day, from an examination of the heavens at the time of his asking any particular question. The pretensions may be absurd, the profession may be entirely unfounded, but this is what is meant by astrology. And whoever undertakes or professes to foretell the future in any other manner may be a fortune-teller or a card-reader, or a clairvoyant, or a spiritual medium, or a diviner, or even a prophet, but he is not an astrologer.

An astrologer is commonly provided with a set of Almanacs running back for at least a hundred years. The nautical almanac is preferred as far as it goes, on account of the accuracy with which the positions of the planets are laid down for each day. He also has, or should have, a collection of books containing the rules of his business; that is to say, the description of the effects, which from the very earliest period of history, have been observed to follow certain situations of the planets with regard to each other. There are such books composed and firmly credited by some of the greatest minds that ever existed. For instance Kelper published a valuable astrological almanac; and even Sir Isaac Newton indulged himself in astrological calculations. If an inquirer desires to have his nativity calculated and the chief events of his life foretold, or recalled, he gives the astrologer the time and place of his birth. Upon the accuracy of his statement depends entirely the accuracy of the answers he will receive. The astrologer, looking in the almanac of the given year finds an accurate description of the face of the heavens at that time in the given latitude. His tables then tell him what the effects of such positions may have been or will be upon the

health, the prosperity, the business, the connections and the life of the enquirer. Such is the method of astrology. And there is nothing so very mysterious or profound about it. It does not require an extensive knowledge of astronomy or even of mathematics to calculate a nativity or answer a question, any more than it requires a profound acquaintance with calculus to do sums in the rule of three. To furnish the means of answering questions accurately from calculation, has undoubtedly cost the best exertion of the foremost intellects among men. But almost any one who desires it can enjoy the fruits of their labors, just as any man of ordinary common sense can learn to use a machine which required the genius of a Watt and a Stevenson to invent; or just as any tolerably bright boy can work out problems in mathematics by methods which tasked the powers of a Pythagoras or Archimedes to discover.

Whether any event in man's life can be foretold by means of Astrology, is a matter of experiment entirely. The man who, without having made any experiment, undertakes to decide that it can or that it cannot be foretold, may not be a fool, but he assuredly does not reason well. A sensible man, who does not wish to occupy his mind with the matter at all, will not presume to have an opinion either way; and a sensible man who has curiosity about the act and the means of satisfying it, will do by that as he does by everything else; that is to say, he will make some experiment or find out some fact before he builds his theory.

Astrology, or the method of foretelling future events from the position of the stars and planets, is wholly dependent upon observation and experiment. To have accurate results, the observation must be accurate and the experiment faithfully tried. If such observations can be made upon the life of a single eminent person, the events of his life as far as known will furnish a continuous verification or refutation of the astrological prediction. And if a vast body of such observations could be collected it would require no miraculous sagacity to tell whether or not there was any general fact running through the whole of them from which a rule might be drawn. Such observations have been made. They exist in great abundance. A learned Italian scholar, Placidus de Tins, collected a number of nativities of illustrious men, with an account of their several lives; and from him and from many others like him, some of earlier, others of later date, astralogers think they have derived many useful rules. But astrology having as it were gone out of fashion during the last century, the number of observers has diminished, and the art has not kept pace with Astronomy, but has been distanced by its

mer handmaid. Enough, however, has been done to rescue the art from entire uncertainty and from all unjust suspicion.

The cardinal doctrine of Astrology is that every part of created nature is in harmony with every other part—in sympathy, would perhaps be a better phrase for this age. Every star and every planet has a nature of its own, and an influence on every other star corresponding to its nature. The influence of some is so great and so plain that every human being understands it without being told. For example, the sun has unquestionably an immense power over everything in the world, and that power is as visible as the planet itself. So has the moon a great and very evident power over certain departments of nature, though not so overwhelmingly evident as is the power of the sun. Now Venus and Jupiter and Saturn are planets as much as the sun is, and there is nothing unreasonable in supposing each of them to have some influence upon the mass of created nature, although we may not be able to tell exactly what. In fact, the modern discoveries of electricity, and the connection long suspected and gradually being disclosed between magnetism and heat and light, and magnetism, are beginning to lead back the human mind to the religious feeling of the days when God said to his servant, "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season, or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? Knowest thou the ordinances of the Heavens? Canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?"

Attention being secured, all that remains is to show that the influence of each planet is considerable enough to be worth watching. Why it has such influence, we may never know, any more than we can know why fire burns instead of drowning us, or why the sun does not lay out darkness instead of light. But let it be once suspected that each planet has an influence—and sneering at Astrology will come to a sudden end. The claim of Astrology is that such is the case, and the interest of every man of sense, whether he is a scientific man or not, is to verify or disprove that claim if he can. Astrology, however, does not teach that the influence of any planet is not to be resisted by the human will. For instance, common sense as well as Astrology, tells us that in July, in this latitude, the influence of the Sun makes the weather very hot. This great fact, however, does not prevent the proprietor of a large ice-house from freezing himself to death in it on the fourth of July if he is so disposed. And if it was ascertained with equal certainty that the approach of the planet Mars to this part of the globe had the same effect upon their temperature, that fact would not prevent any man who expected it, from keeping his temper as cool as the other gentleman keeps

his body. An irresistible influence over the human will is not claimed for any planet. When Astrology is understood—or rather when its objects are ascertained, it becomes interesting to every one. And why not? If you can really approximate to a knowledge of yourself and your probable destiny, and gather that knowledge from the face of the heavens as you would gather the time from the face of a clock, what business could interest you more? You may, it is true, be deceived by the advertisement of a woman who calls herself an Astrologer, and who entertains you with a pack of greasy cards—or by that of a man who calls himself a natural astrologer, and whom you find to be a natural fool. But in that, as in every other matter, you must take your risk, being satisfied that Astrology has no more to do with people who profess it without knowing it, than arithmetic has to do with the blunders of insolvent shop-keepers.

The present remarkable contest in this country affords an excellent chance to a real astrologer. This is an age of newspapers, and everything can have its commencement pretty accurately known. If any man of judgment and learning in that art examines the Heavens, he must find something whereon to found a prediction. And if his predictions turn out to be correct, he will re-establish the credit of Astrology in the minds of a most skeptical people.

For a great number of years I have been in the habit of reading every thing that I came across, that had a reference to Astrology; no matter whether it was for or against that science, or how ridiculous or nonsensical the arguments might be that was used against it, as I wished to discover the truth, and if I was in error, to find out where that error lay. But I have always found one remarkable coincidence connected with those writers that have ever taken up their pen against Astrology, and that is, that they all have been without any exception altogether ignorant of the Science they wished to condemn, and none of them appeared to be acquainted with the rudiments, or A, B, C, of Astrology. With such blind leaders of the blind, no wonder that both the ignorant and learned should have fallen into the ditch, and that "people in general should have formed such singular notions of this art," and Astrology as it were gone out of fashion."

Those readers who yet think that "Astrology may be an absurdity," will perhaps allow me to call their attention to that science in connection with the present excitable state of the times in this country, for in

stance, the planet Herschel, which is the farthest planet from our earth but one, that has yet been discovered, therefore its influence will not be any thing like so great as the influence of the Sun, Moon, Jupiter, and Mars, &c. Now it takes the planet Herschel 84 years to travel through the twelve Signs of the Zodiac, and according to the rules of Astrology, the sign Gemini governs the United States. The last time Herschel entered Gemini before this.

The American Revolution broke out, which lasted until Herschel got out of that Sign, and then there was peace. The 84 years previous when Herschel entered Gemini, The Salem witchcraft affair broke out, and war with the Indians, &c., which lasted until Herschel left that Sign. This time that planet has entered Gemini, there is *Civil War* raging in this country, which will last until Herschel leaves Gemini again. Now if the influence of one planet when it transits through a Sign governing any particular country like the United States, is so great as to overturn the entire government, and to cause all its people to be half *crazy*, and that planet the farthest but one that has yet been discovered, what must be the effects of the planetary influence, when they are all taken into account, and most of those planets are much nearer to our earth, and much larger than the planet Herschel. the influence must be immense indeed, and so palpable and self-evident that it cannot any longer be denied, any more than the influence of the Sun in causing summer and winter can be denied, or the Moon in causing the ebbing and flowing of the tide. Well might the above writer say:—"Let it once be suspected that each planet has an influence—and sneering at Astrology will come to a sudden end." And the writers against that science will meet with the disgrace and contempt they so richly merit.

(From The Philadelphia Press, for Nov., 8, 1861.)

A Singular Prophecy.

We clip from the New Orleans *True Delta*, of the 20th of October, 1861, the subjoined prediction and republication.

A SINGULAR PROPHECY.—We find the following account of a most singular prophecy in a late issue of the *Mobile Tribune*.

Michael Nostradamus was a physician of Provence, France, known as an astrologer, in the time of Catherine de Medici. He composed "Seven Centuries of Prophecies" in enigmati-

cal rhymes, some of which are admitted to have been most exactly fulfilled; Among others, 1 prophecy (one hundred years before its occurrence) of the execution of Charles I., of England; and, still more surprising, of the exact date of the French Republic, in 1792. He d. A. D. 1566. (Cyclop. of Biography.)

The following is a translation from the *Courier des États Unis* of the 29th ult.

"Although many of the predictions made Nostradamus (especially those concerning the deaths of Henry IV. and Louis XVI, of France) have been completely verified, they are generally discredited in our times. But in the *Prophecies et Vaticinations* of that great man; Vol. 2, edition of 1609, we find the following; which would seem to deserve attention.

"About that time (1861) a great quarrel or contest will arise in a country beyond the sea (America) Many poor devils will be hung, a many poor wretches killed by a punishment rather than a cord. Upon my faith you may believe me. The war will not cease for four years at which none should be astonished or surprised for there will be no want of hatred and obstinacy in it. At the end of that time, prostrate and almost ruined, the people will embrace each other in great joy and love."

THE FATE OF THE NATION

For the Winter Quarter of 1862.

The great Luminary reaches his most Southern declination on the 21st of December, 1861 at 2h. 34m. p. m. The planet Venus is lady of the scheme, and is in the tenth house in opposition to the Moon in the fourth, and in square to Mars in the seventh, the aspects are generally conflicting. The Moon in square to Mars will cause the war fever to run very high, I look for several particular engagements between the Northern and Southern forces during this quarter, in which I am afraid that the South will gain some advantages. The planets Saturn and Jupiter in good aspect to Mars, the signifier of the Southern confederacy, would indicate that they will acquire some new friends in foreign parts, this quarter, although it may be publicly known before next winter. Trade and business continues rather dull, and news from abroad still keeps of an exciting nature.

FATE of the NATION for January, 1862.

At the New Moon of the 31st of December from which we make our predictions for January 1862, the Sun suffered an eclipse. The planet Saturn is lord of the figure, and is stationary in the house of death. Venus is in ascendant in square to Mars in the tenth, Venus forms another square of Mars again the 25th day. What does these omens portend?

I look for several particular movements of arms this month. The people will be dissatisfied with the Government, on account of not showing more spirit and energy. Trade and business still keeps dull. News from abroad still tends towards a war, but it will be avoided for the present.