

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
JOHN A. WEISSE, M.D.



FROM
Encyclopædia of Contemporary Biography
OF
NEW YORK.
VOL. III.

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ATLANTIC PUBLISHING AND ENGRAVING COMPANY,
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WEISSE, JOHN A., M. D., of New York city, an eminent philologist, and author of the "Origin, Progress, and Destiny of the English Language and Literature," and other works, was born December 3, 1810, at Roppeville, canton of Bitche, Lorraine. The name is of the highest celebrity in the annals of medicine, philosophy, and theology. The family originated in Saxony, whence branches spread to all parts of the German Empire, to Holland, the Tyrol, Lorraine, Austria, and to Italy, where a Weiss was made Cardinal. Bernard Weiss, physician to the Elector of Brandenburg, latinized his name to Albinus (white), and went to Leyden, where he was a distinguished professor of medicine from 1702 to 1721, the period when his colleague Boerhaave gave the impetus to the study of anatomy, which revolutionized the science by rejecting the former chemical explanations and using mechanical illustrations in his physiological and medical works. This necessitated a more accurate study of the human structure. Bernard Siegfried Albinus, the son of Bernard, succeeded his father, and was professor of anatomy for half a century. He was one of the first to feel the impulse communicated by Boerhaave's methods, and produced the most exact anatomical descriptions and prints. His *Index Supellectilis Ravianae, De Ossibus Corporis Humani*, and *Historia Musculorum Hominis*, with his editions of the writings of Harvey, Vesalins, Fabricius ab Aquapendente, Eustachius, and other works have rendered his name illustrious. Beside the above he wrote twelve other books and essays on anatomy, which were published from 1719 to 1768. His "*Annotationes Anatomicae*" number eight volumes. His brother, Christian Bernard Albinus, was professor of the same science in the University at Utrecht, and likewise esteemed as an anatomical writer. Christian Felix Weisse, who lived and died in Saxony, is well known from his "*Kinderfreund*" (children's friend), and may be considered as the originator of the kindergarten method of teaching. Some centuries ago the head of one branch of the family went from Innsbruck, the capital city of the Tyrol, to the court of the Duke of Lorraine, as master of the chase. To that branch belongs Dr. John A. Weisse, whose father, James Weisse, was *Garde Général des Forêts*, and whose intermediate ancestors were also for many generations officers of the royal forests, as shown by the family coat of arms, stamps of which are in Dr. Weisse's possession. The papers left by James Weisse allude to an acquaintance and correspondence kept up between the members of the family in Lorraine and the Tyrol, which probably ceased when Lorraine was permanently restored to France, according to the definitive peace of Vienna,

on the death of Stanislaus of Poland, father-in-law of Louis XV., in 1766. James Weisse, who was born in 1757, was, therefore, substantially a Frenchman; and, though he married a German lady, Catharine Kriegel, he was true to the French Republic. When the French were beaten by the Germans near Pirmasens, in Rhenish Bavaria, in 1793, and were hotly pursued, he assembled the peasantry and caused them to fell trees across the road over which the French had passed. On each side was a marsh, and the Germans were so delayed, that the French troops had time to reach the almost impregnable fortress of Bitche. In revenge the Germans destroyed all of his property which they could lay their hands on. The patriot took refuge with his family in the fortress; but no compensation was ever received for the loss of property. Charles Weiss, also a native of France, became Professor of History at the "Lycée Bonaparte," and wrote the "History of the French Protestant Refugees since the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes." A brother of James Weisse went to St. Petersburg in 1791 with a noble French family, as tutor, where one of his sons is now practicing medicine. James Weisse died in the infancy of his youngest child, John A., leaving seven children, three boys and four girls. His widow, who was an excellent wife and mother, received a pension from the French Government for the services of her husband as a faithful official. John A., was carefully reared by his mother, and improving the opportunities for study, was given every advantage. As he grew older his highest aspirations were for intellectual culture. He studied and graduated in the classics at the college in Bitche, and in the natural sciences, chemistry, and philosophy at the seminary in Metz. In both of these institutions he obtained prizes and marked honors. He lost his mother, who died at the age of 63 years, in 1835, but not until she had seen him fitted for an honorable and useful career; for in that year he was appointed Professor of Mathematics and German in the College of Bitche. After a year he resigned and visited Germany, Austria, Bohemia, Hungary, and the Slavonic provinces along the lower Danube. While residing in Vienna he was appointed Professor of the French Language and Literature in the Imperial School, originally established to educate the daughters of deceased officers, but now also attended by the daughters of the nobility. At the Austrian capital he passed many pleasant hours in the company of a venerable canon of St. Stephen's, whose acquaintance he formed on the accidental discovery of the name (Weisse) as he passed along the aisles of the famous cathedral. The canon's residence overlooked the cathedral square,

and here young Weisse was a welcome guest, while the reverend scholar, who was deeply versed in the Greek and Latin classics, found recreation in following the genealogical lines of the different branches of the family, with which an intimate knowledge of the heraldry of the fatherland had made him familiar. In 1840 Mr. Weisse returned to France, where he spent a few weeks with his brother, and then left for America, landing at New Orleans, and ascending the Mississippi and Ohio as far as Pittsburg. Here he formed an acquaintance, which not only modified his immediate travels, but had a direct bearing on the journey of life. The lady was Jane Lee Hunt, a grand-daughter of George Bethune and Mary Faneuil, whose uncle, Peter Faneuil, donated to the city of Boston the celebrated hall which bears his name, and which became, from the revolutionary meetings held within its walls, "the cradle of American liberty." The ancestor of the Faneuils belonged to that portion of the band of Huguenots who came to the Colony of New York after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and were the settlers of the town of New Rochelle. Mr. Weisse was joined in wedlock to Miss Hunt at her mother's country seat at Watertown, Mass., in June, 1841. From that year until 1848 he lived in Boston and its vicinity, familiarizing himself with the English language and literature, and engaged in various literary labors. His "Key to the French Language," issued at this time, was very favorably received by such scholars as Professor Longfellow and the Rev. Convers Francis, and was adopted by the Boston High School. Mrs. Weisse, a lady of similar tastes, translated "Schiller's Letters prior to his Marriage," and "Selections from the German." The climate of the Massachusetts coast did not agree with Mr. Weisse and his family, and, in 1848, he took them to Paris, where he studied medicine under Velpeau, Andral, Gendrin, Serres, and their compeers, attending lectures at the faculty and clinics at the hospitals. Letters of introduction from eminent American gentlemen, especially from Hon. Charles Robert Winthrop to Ambassador Benjamin Rush, and from Professor Agassiz to the French savant Arago, furnished the opportunity of acquaintance with General Cavaignac, when he was a candidate for the presidency of the French Republic in 1848. Cavaignac promised Mr. Weisse to investigate, after the election, the sacrifices incurred by his father's patriotic deeds in 1793, with a view to restitution; but as the General's opponent, Louis Napoleon, was elected, Republican patriotism was soon at a discount. In 1849 the cholera raged, and Dr. Weisse was attacked, but recovered. Under the advice of the professors to remove his family to a safer spot,

he proceeded to Brussels, at whose University he continued his medical studies, receiving his diploma in 1850. He and his wife had intended to settle in Europe, but, after two years' residence, Dr. Weisse thought the New World preferable to the Old. Returning to America, he chose New York city for his permanent abode, and built a house at No. 30 West Fifteenth street, in which he has since resided. While practicing his profession, he has prosecuted extensive literary and philological researches. No sooner had he been able to read the language fluently, than he made himself acquainted with the best English authors. With remarkable aptitude for linguistic study, he turned his attention to the sources and history of the language. Philology was a science still in its infancy, and he struck into new paths. The efforts of his contemporaries, and of previous investigators, did not seem to him to lead to correct results. Much was left to conjecture. The erudite George P. Marsh said in his lectures that he had made no attempt to assign words, not of Anglo-Saxon origin, to their respective sources, and admitted that more thorough and extensive research was necessary to arrive at satisfactory conclusions. The difficulty of such research was universally admitted. The great philologist, Max Müller, thought it impossible, in tracing the death of words and meanings, to disentangle the curious skein and find a continuous thread. The historian of the Anglo-Saxons, Sharon Turner, declared it impossible to demonstrate from experience the simple elements from which a language begins. The obstacles Dr. Weisse believed to be surmountable, and determined to overcome them. He was familiar with the ancient classics, and French and German were both as natal tongues. He commenced his investigations with the design of proving the inferiority of the English to these languages. His initial steps convinced him of the errors of philologists in estimating the component parts of the language. The love of Anglo-Saxon words had led to false methods. Sharon Turner, after counting passages in Anglo-Saxon and English writers, had laid down, as a general principle, that one-fifth of the Anglo-Saxon words has ceased to be used. Dean Trench assigned sixty per cent. of English words to Saxon origin, thirty to Latin, five to Greek, and the remainder to other languages. Marsh considered that the five per cent. allowed by Trench to Greek words was too large a proportion, and thought that the conclusions of Turner were based on data too insignificant to be entitled to confidence; but still, in like manner, he included the repetitions of words in his calculations, though other philologists have objected to counting every recurring particle in the

endeavor to ascertain the proportion of home-born words. Bosworth, author of the Anglo-Saxon Dictionary, like many others, says that foreign words are, for the most part, used to express scientific or abstract ideas. In the confusion of opinions Dr. Weisse was gradually led to a Herculean task. This was no less than a critical examination of writings of every century, from the introduction of the alphabet and the publication of Ethelbert's Code, and a numerical analysis of the words in comparative tabular form. The conclusiveness of such a computation would be dependent only upon its thoroughness and extent. Although a foreigner might experience a drawback in exploring so wide a range of literature, yet a cultivated foreigner, and especially a German, enjoys some peculiar advantages. An educated man learns a new language systematically, and becomes familiar with analogies and relations to other languages that sometimes escape the native scholar. A knowledge of the German, as well as of the ancient languages, and of the French, through which most of the Latin has been transmuted into the English tongue, was necessary to trace the two great classes into which English words are divided as to their source—the Gotho-Germanic and the Greco-Latin. The study, though difficult, was fascinating. In its progress Dr. Weisse was encouraged by all who knew of his efforts, and new motives were supplied as light broke upon the subject. Like those sinners who go to church to scoff and return home to pray, he was converted from his unbelief of the excellence of the English tongue. Losing the wish to show its inferiority, and convinced that it contains the cream of other languages, he foresaw the possibility of its use throughout the world. In the period of his studies the English-speaking populations have been rapidly extending their influence and possessions. Nearly the whole of the North American continent, and portions of Asia, Africa, Australia, and the islands of the Pacific, are occupied by an aggressive race, whose inventions and discoveries are preparing the way for further extension, while other races are scarcely holding their own. Nearly or quite a hundred millions of people now speak the language, and it is not improbable that many children of to-day will live until it is spoken by twice or thrice that number. The importance of its proper study, and the hope of improvements that may facilitate its adoption by other peoples, stimulated the mind of Dr. Weisse; and imparted enthusiasm to his studies. When he was nearly ready to publish the result of his labors, he was naturally anxious to know whether a work on such a comprehensive subject would be favorably received from a for-

eigner, who only began to learn English at the age of thirty years, and, in 1873, he printed an advance pamphlet entitled, "Abstract of a New Method to Analyze the English Language and Literature." This was sent to English and American statesmen, divines, and scholars for their opinions and suggestions. Over a hundred answers were received highly endorsing his methods, and commending what the pamphlet showed had been accomplished. In January, 1876, he lectured in the rooms of the Geographical Society at Cooper Union, on his chosen subject, "The Origin, Progress, and Destiny of the English Language." He was warmly supported by Peter Cooper; and the newspaper reports of the lecture drew much public attention to the novelty and thoroughness of his studies. The work was finally completed and issued from the press of J. W. Bouton in 1878, under the title, "Origin, Progress, and Destiny of the English Language and Literature." The materials here embodied, and the facts brought to light, would form the groundwork of a score of treatises; but in this publication the materials have been arranged, and the figures marshaled in tabular form with these objects: to lay before the English-speaking populations, in both hemispheres, the real origin and progress of their language; to make the coming generation realize the superiority of their idiom over others, as to the refinement and vigor of its vocabulary, clearness of diction, simplicity in grammar, and directness in construction; to show the inconsistency of so-called English orthography; to suggest a method to write and print English as it is pronounced, and remove the few remaining irregularities from its grammar; and to stimulate the English-speaking millions all over the globe, so to simplify the uttering, writing, and printing of their language as to make it a desideratum for universal adoption. Few works have been received with greater favor by the review, magazine, and newspaper press, religious and secular, of every school and denomination, as well as by philologists, and scholars generally. If all do not share his hope of concerted action and speedy improvements for the purpose of supplanting other languages, there is no exception to the universal acknowledgment of the usefulness of the stupendous labors of Dr. Weisse. In every century of the Anglo-Saxon and English literary history he has shown by analysis and detailed computation the percentages of words from the different sources with mathematical accuracy. From the commencement of the Anglo-Saxon period, A. D. 449, when the language was purely Gotho-Germanic, we are brought through the successive changes, which by the close of that period, in the year 1200, had intro-

duced eight per cent. of Greco-Latin words, and by the close of the Franco-English period, in 1600, had made the proportion forty-eight per cent. to the vocabulary of the English period, embracing all our current literature, in which the volume of Greco-Latin has swelled to an average of sixty-eight per cent. Contrary to the commonly received opinion, two-thirds of the present dialect,—not counting particles, or words without inherent meaning, and their numerous repetitions,—have been drawn directly, or through the intermediate tongues, from the languages of Greece and Rome. Despite the resistance of Anglo-Saxon purists, who are indebted, for more than one-half of the words they individually use in their own writings, to the ancient classics, the tendency has been steadily in this direction, greatly to the improvement of the English, and, according to Dr. Weisse, increasing its adaptability for a universal language. One of his most important suggestions relates to the condensation of the language by restricting the use of particles. In 1879, at the request of Hon. E. C. Benedict, Chancellor of the University of the State of New York, Dr. Weisse read a paper before the University Convocation, at Albany, giving a synopsis of his work, which is included in the printed archives of that year. The favorable reception of this volume by scholars, statesmen, divines, and critics, of every class in America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceania, has induced the author to commence the preparation of a series of abridgments for the use of schools, reserving the volume published in 1879 for colleges and universities. He is also preparing a companion volume for the drawing room, illustrated with the best portraits of departed authors and others who have exerted an influence on the English language and literature. Among these portraits are many very rare prints, which Dr. Weisse has been collecting for years from the best sources in Europe and America. Dr. Weisse has had four children, of whom two are deceased. His son, Faneuil D. Weisse, M. D., is Professor of Anatomy in the faculty of the New York University, and in the College of Dentistry: he married Miss Mary E. Suydam, daughter of Henry Suydam, Esq. His daughter, Eugenia Bethune, married Alexander W. Stein, M. D., Professor of Physiology in the College of Dentistry. Dr. Weisse, now three score and ten years old, delights in six fine grand-children, five boys and a girl. He thinks that any man who raises a family of industrious children is a benefactor to his country; if he lives to see worthy grand-children, he is a benefactor to his race. He has been the President of the American Philological Society, and a member of various learned societies

in Europe and America, but lately has been so occupied with his professional, literary, and family duties that he has been obliged to withdraw from such associations. His accomplished wife, by her poems, essays, and stories, has often enlivened the pages of the periodical press, especially the "Sheltering Arms," which finds its way into the best New York families. An "Ode to Language" is her contribution to the great work of her husband, and finely illustrates its spirit, of which the following is the closing stanza:

"The fairest offspring of linguistic lore,
Now in ascendant, is the English tongue,
Spreading the wide world o'er:
A full clear stream from many fountains fed,
All languages in one that's culled from all—
The living and the dead."

Dr. Weisse's collection of original letters from scholars, divines, and statesmen from all parts of the world, endorsing and commending his works, is one of which any one might well be proud, and, together with a large number of portraits of the authors, were examined with special interest by the writer of this article. Among these portraits—and a number of them called for exchange—were such honored names as Gladstone, Lord Dufferin, Max Müller, Darwin, Prof. Morse, Zola, Grand Master of the "Grand Orient" at Cairo, Prof. J. W. Draper, Chancellor Benedict, Bishop Cox, General Loring, and many others. In 1881, on the removal of the Egyptian obelisk to the Central Park in New York, he wrote a work entitled "The Obelisk and Freemasonry," in which he set forth the discoveries of Belzoni and Commander Gorringe, and instituted a comparison between Egyptian symbols and those discovered in American mounds. This volume exhibits great learning, is appropriately and beautifully illustrated, and has been universally commended. Dr. Weisse has recently prepared materials for a biography of the philanthropist, Peter Cooper, on which he had been engaged many months prior to Mr. Cooper's death. As worthy of preservation in this biography brief extracts are given from the encouraging letters of eminent scholars, and the eulogistic reviews of the religious and secular press in the five parts of the globe relating to Dr. Weisse's published works:

I trust nothing will deter you from proceeding with your important work. The English language has an immense future, etc. . . . —Charles Sumner.

Your work on the English language appears to be of so much value and interest, etc. . . . I was struck with the comprehensive scheme of your work. Not without some shame, I reflected on the fact that we, the possessors of the English language, should leave so many points of our proper duty to be done by those who have been born as foreigners, and

have had to acquire it after reaching mature age, etc. —*W. E. Gladstone.*

You will feel as Gibbon did when he had passed the "Decline and Fall" through the press: "I have lost a friend—I have nothing more to do." Your book, however, will live long after you are gone, and will be an essential element in English literature, etc. —*John W. Draper.*

He who does not possess this volume will find himself at great disadvantage compared with its fortunate possessor. —*S. Austin Allibone.*

I had seen favorable notices of your book, etc. No language has such a future as what you call "Composite English"—no language is so strong, yet so pliant; so bright, yet so varied by the most delicate shades; so homely, yet so universal. As to the "Science of Language," I quite agree with you, that it will clear up Proto-History—and it will do even more—it will clear up Proto-Philosophy, etc. —*Maz Muller.*

It is a marvelous monument of industry, learning, and acumen, and will serve to enrich the libraries of the world. —*Dufferin.*

A work of unique and curious interest is that upon the "Origin, Progress, and Destiny of the English Language and Literature," by John A. Weisse, M. D., etc. It commands respect by the evidences which it contains of almost microscopic research; it holds the attention by the novelty and interest of the inquiry which it pursues. —*Boston Journal.*

Dr. Weisse summons, side by side, before the impartial bench of addition, division, and subtraction, Ethelbert's Code of A. D. 597, Piers Plowman, Dan Chaucer, Caxton, Tyndale, the translators of James' Bible, Milton, Dryden, Pope, Scott, Byron, Macaulay, Queen Victoria. —*Lippincott's Magazine, Philadelphia.*

Dr. Weisse's account of the origin and progress of the English language is an eminently meritorious work. Probably the most interesting and most useful part is not the philologic, but the historic portion, the sketches and specimens given of English literature from the earliest to the latest period, etc. —*London Saturday Review.*

Dr. Weisse's book is one of high educational value, etc. It embodies a world of curious statistical exhibits of the most representative styles of English composition from the earliest period of Anglo-Saxon literary activity to the present day, etc. No previous laborer in this field has equaled him, etc. —*New York Herald.*

Its author has analyzed the philosophy of language by a new method, so thorough, that the deepest scholar cannot cut a flaw in it; so clear, that a school-boy of fifteen can comprehend it, etc. —*The Press, Philadelphia.*

We have a volume of value, and of real interest to every scholar. Its title describes it well, but an examination is needful to show with what patience, industry, and skill the author has spent his strength and time, etc. —*New York Observer.*

The student has only to follow the author's account from century to century, and conviction will inevitably follow the effort, etc. —*National Republican, Washington.*

Dr. Weisse has made a valuable contribution to English literature as well as to philology, and has written a book which will interest not only scholars, but all cultivated persons, etc.—*Chicago Tribune.*

A remarkable monument of wide linguistic knowledge comes to us in "Origin, Progress, and Destiny of the English Language and Literature," by Dr. Weisse, etc. of the author's originality, both in conception and execution, there can be no doubt, etc. —*Edinburgh Scotchman.*

Dr. Weisse has a very distinct individuality, it would appear from this work, etc. It brings together and collates a vast number of facts, which have to be sought in many rare and inaccessible volumes, etc. —*New York Times.*

A book of more interest than this to the teacher, the philologist, and the general student, has not been published in a long time.—*Cincinnati Commercial.*

Dr. Weisse has treated his subject, in an ample and comprehensive manner, etc. Mrs. Jane Lee Weisse, herself a poetess, whose part in her husband's work is the happy undertone of a well composed and very musical "Ode on Language," etc. —*National Quarterly Review, New York.*

In the volume before us the student will find ample scope for research, the scholar the widest field for the application of his highest attainments, whilst as a book for institutions of learning and use in common schools, it will be found of incalculable value both to teachers and pupils. Of all the valuable contributions to the English language that have been written and published in modern times, we regard Dr. Weisse's book incomparably the *ne plus ultra* of them all. No man who desires to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the origin of the English language, its literature, and ultimate destiny, should be without a copy of Dr. Weisse's book. —*Hawaiian Gazette, Honolulu, Sandwich Islands.*

No library can be completed without a copy of it, and we know of no other work so interesting and instructive, and which will so well repay the time consumed in its perusal, etc. —*Hebrew Leader, New York.*

A work which will certainly command attention is that by John A. Weisse, M. D. The scope of the author's undertaking is almost encyclopedic, for it contemplates nothing less than a minute and exhaustive analysis of our English speech and its literary monuments, etc. —*New York Sun.*

It deserves a place on every library shelf, etc.—*The Continent and Swiss Times, Geneva, Switzerland.*

It is written with so much enthusiasm that the reader can hardly fail to be touched by its enkindling influence, etc. —*Home Journal, New York.*

The book is full of the most elaborate analytical tables, and not least interesting are those towards the end, in which are analyzed the words used in nine styles of writing, etc. —*The Clergyman's Magazine, London.*

The analytic and historic portion of Dr. Weisse's work is of a character to merit the grave and respectful consideration of scholars, etc. —*Harper's Monthly Magazine, New York.*

The work is one of great interest, its conclusions are extremely interesting, and the processes by

which they are reached are very suggestive, etc.
—*New York Evening Post*.

Dr. Weisse's method is to mark the changes in our language from century to century; and accordingly we have characteristic specimens of it from the fifth century to the present hour.

—*Northern Whig, Belfast, Ireland*.

Dr. Weisse has done his work very thoroughly, and all English-speaking people owe him a debt of gratitude.

—*Catholic Review, New York*.

Dr. Weisse's new work is a book of books, full of profound research and erudition.

—*Indian Spectator, Bombay, India*.

From century to century the author follows the development of the English language, pointing out the accretions to it from foreign sources.

—*North American Review*.

The claims of women are not neglected; their achievements in literature, science, romance, and the characteristics of feminine diction find appropriate place on the record of progressive development.

—*Providence Journal, Rhode Island*.

He has produced a most valuable and interesting work, which it is both pleasant and profitable to read, etc.

—*Montreal Gazette, Canada*.

This work is deeply interesting, while it is thoroughly scientific in its discussion of all that bears on the origin, history, and progress of that tongue which is destined to become the language of the world, etc.

—*Zion's Herald, Boston*.

The names of Voss, Hegel, Max Müller, and others are as familiar to the student as household words, etc., while the States have scholarly writers, such as the author (Dr. J. A. Weisse, of New York), who, with a full measure of Teutonic patience and learning, has just published an interesting and exhaustive work on the English language and literature, etc.

—*Port Elizabeth Telegraph, Cape of Good Hope*.

His survey of the growth of our language and literature from 1600 to 1878 is a comprehensive and masterly one, and his analysis of the former at different periods is very interesting and valuable, etc.

—*Melbourne Argus, Australia*.

For minute and thorough work Dr. Weisse deserves credit, etc. His conclusions will be surprising to those who have always held to the dominating power of the Anglo-Saxon in our vernacular, etc.

—*Boston Advertiser*.

Dr. Weisse's style is concise, and its meaning always plain, etc. The interested reader will inevitably find himself tracing out lines of comparison for his own satisfaction, and reasoning to unforeseen conclusions from the data afforded him by Dr. Weisse.

—*Christian Union, New York*.

The reader is led through a vista of fourteen centuries of linguistic, literary, and biographic progress, only to regret that there are not three thousand years of it.

—*The Nation, New York*.

Dr. Weisse, author of "Origin, Progress, and Destiny of the English Language and Literature," is not a stranger to us; and we are glad to see him come out again with an added laurel to his wreath.

—*Masonic Herald, Calcutta, India*.

The "added Laurel" is "The Obelisk and Freemasonry," which elicited testimonials from eminent

Masons, the Masonic, religious, and secular press, brief extracts from some of which are here given:

You have thrown a flood of light upon the records of that ancient people, etc. No one advanced in the fraternity can read your book without being startled by your explanation of the signs, grips, symbols, taken from the "Hall of Beauties," etc. W. W. Loring, of St. John's Lodge, Florida, 33 Deg. Grand Orient, 95 Deg. Memphis Rite. If you issue another edition of your important work on the Obelisk, I shall perhaps be able to send you some other particulars, etc.—S. A. Zola, 33 Deg. S. G. Com., 96 Deg. Grand Oriente d'Egitto. Dr. Weisse has made four great points in his work which will interest the Masonic Brotherhood wherever it becomes known: 1. The emblems and inscriptions on the New York Obelisk; 2. The high antiquity of Masonry; 3. Its existence through the ages to our day; 4. Its having ever been the guardian of civilization and progress, etc.

—*New York Dispatch*.

The attempts hitherto made to penetrate the obscurity that surrounds the origin of Freemasonry have, it is well known, resulted in complete failure. To those entertaining skeptical opinions on the point, the book written by John A. Weisse, M. D., of New York, may be confidently recommended.

—*London Sunday Times*.

The vast amount of learning here displayed will not surprise those who are acquainted with Dr. Weisse's previous volume on the "Origin, Progress, and Destiny of the English Language and Literature," etc. At page 34 is a noticeable poem upon the Obelisk of Thothmes, which is anonymous, but may probably be credited to the accomplished lady of the author.

—*New York Herald*.

Dr. Weisse discusses the question at length, and with a collation of facts and a depth of Masonic learning which may well be thought to exhaust the subject, etc.

—*New York Churchman*.

"The Obelisk and Freemasonry" contains exceedingly valuable information. It is finely illustrated, and a work that every Freemason should possess, etc.

—*Voice of Masonry, Chicago*.

We recommend Bro. Weisse's book as an interesting compilation from various sources, and an admirably illustrated contribution to Masonic history and archaeology, etc.

—*London Freemason*.

This timely volume will be found to contain, etc. an uninterrupted line of English Grand Masters, including kings, bishops, nobles, architects, and merchants, from A. D. 287 to 1880. Moreover, they will find when, where, and why the word "Free" was affixed to Mason, etc.

—*Buffalo Courier*.

This delightful volume can be read and studied with profit by any member of the craft who would know its origin and wonderful history, etc.

—*Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester, N. Y.*

The Obelisk and Freemasonry, etc. Hardly any country is richer in its monumental or architectural remains than Egypt; and, as our readers are aware, to Egypt is assigned a conspicuous place in the old Masonic legends, and also in our lodge work, etc. The information collected in these pages is mostly interesting, etc.

—*London Freemason's Chronicle*.

Masons should not only read this work, but should

have it on their shelves for references, etc. . . .
—*New York Hebrew Leader*.

Prof. J. A. Weisse's book is replete with curious information about everything pertaining to Masonry, etc.—*New York Daily Graphic*.

The volume is undoubtedly one of the most attractive and important books published in our time.—*New York Guardian*.

It is astonishing how Dr. Weisse elucidates and amplifies the scriptural account of some of the early settlers on this planet. Starting with Seth, 3874 B. C., as the earliest champion of esoteric Masonry, etc. Abraham, Ishmael, Job, and Joseph were all high functionaries in their time, as, of course, were Solomon, Hiram of Tyre, and that cunning workman, Hiram Abif.—*Chicago Christian Cynosure*.

A curious volume has just been brought out, which will rouse the curiosity and excite the interest of every brother of the mystic tie. It is from the pen of John A. Weisse, M. D., a well known scholar and author, etc.—*Boston Transcript*.

To the Masonic Fraternity this epitome must prove an astonishing revelation, demonstrating clearly, as it does, the existence of the craft in remote antiquity, never dreamed of by the highest authorities and most writers on the subject of Freemasonry.—*Calcutta Masonic Herald, India*.

The feature of greatest interest to Masons is the astounding revelations this book gives as to the character of the primitive Masonry of the world, the old Symbolic Mysteries, from which modern Freemasonry is doubtless derived, etc. Altogether, it is a volume which no intelligent Mason can afford to be without, etc.—*Cincinnati Masonic Review*.

Scores of other extracts might be given, but these will suffice to show how scholars and the press received the books of Dr. Weisse, who deems it a pleasing duty to transmit these testimonials to posterity, because they will show his gratitude, and perpetuate the candor of his correspondents and critics. Encouraged and cheered by such an appreciation of his past work, Dr. Weisse is now engaged in another literary effort, vast in its comprehensiveness and not less vast in the amount of patient, scholarly labor

involved. This work he calls "Medicine: Past, Present, and Future," and dedicates it "To the Profession, whose duty it is to cure the sick, if possible; if not, to comfort them." He ardently desires to complete this work "before," to use his own language, and, at the same time, enunciate his theology, "his departure to higher spheres and vaster fields of usefulness, where only our intellectual and moral treasures accompany us through eternity." His sanguine, cheerful disposition gives him roseate hopes of the progress of the human race, and he believes that "the study of science, art, and mechanics will teach man more and more how to harness Nature's forces: heat, light, air, electricity, magnetism, etc., to do his labor and drudgery, so as to give him more time to attend to intellectual, social, and moral pursuits, which will ultimately change Earth into an Eden without serpents." In this medical epitome, covering about 4,000 years, the 85,000 American and many thousands of English physicians will find quota from ancient, mediæval, and modern Medicine. Eber's Egyptian papyri, and Wells's anesthesia will have appropriate mention, which neither Hamilton's English Medical History of 1780, Sprengel's of 1792, Renouard's of 1846, nor Morvitz's of 1848 could furnish; hence his colleagues may doubtless look forward to a work that will be to medicine what "Origin, Progress, and Destiny of the English Language and Literature" is to language. Should death intervene to stop his labors, he purposes leaving the completion and publication of the work as a heritage to his son. Dr. Weisse has also collected materials for a volume entitled "The European Races and their Languages," based mainly on archeologic discoveries and the cognate languages. If he does not live to complete that undertaking, the task, he hopes, will devolve on his grandsons, who already incline to intellectual progress and scholarship, to the infinite gratification of their septuagenarian grandfather.