

THE ASTROLOGER.

AND

ORACLE OF DESTINY:

A Repository

OF THE

WONDERFUL IN NATURE AND THE CURIOUS IN ART.

"We hold communion with the hush of night,
Yea, with the spirits of those silent hours,
When all the earth is still'd in deep repose;
The star-lit heavens are as a wondrous book,
Wherein we seek to solve the Dream of Life,
And thread the mazes of Futurity."

VOL. I.

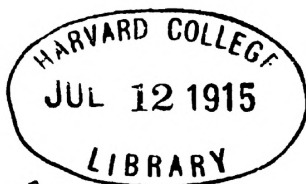
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PREFACE.

IN offering our first volume to the candid scrutiny of the public, we must confess we do so with less trepidation, and consequently with more satisfaction and confidence, than is generally experienced by the Editor of a new periodical. This self-assurance, without doubt, is dueable in the first instance to the gratifying reception our publication has already encountered; and, secondly, to an implicit reliance upon the approbation of every individual who may honour our labours with a perusal. We utter these opinions advisedly; not, however, from any vanity or overweening complacency in the composition of our pages—not from any contemptible pride that might originate in the belief of certain literary abilities: nay, we feel too acutely the inadequacy of any human tongue to cope with the sublime mysteries which have constituted the theme of our lucubrations; we know how incompetent even the most stupendous intellect would be to portray, in language commensurate with the vastness and divine glory of the science, all the marvellous operations of Astrology, all the chameleon aspects of the spiritual kingdom: hence our confidence is centred rather upon the matter than the manner of our inquiries. Sustained by a knowledge of the integrity of our own motives, and fired by the grandeur of our studies, we have been enabled to accomplish more than we could reasonably have anticipated at the outset; and far from being discouraged by the weekly increase of our correspondence, we have derived merely a fresh stimulus to exertion from that circumstance. Our expectations have been surpassed, our toils have been more than repaid by the incessant arrival of acknowledgments from all quarters, expressing gratitude for the advice communicated to the applicants in our Weekly Oracle of Destiny; while the writers have each contributed to the formation of a most satisfactory catalogue of the results—calamities escaped, ruinous speculations avoided, fortunate marriages consummated, and all the varied evils incident to man dissipated by a timely warning through our columns. In addition to these most welcome testimonials of approval, we feel it incumbent upon us thus publicly to acknowledge the receipt of several letters, dictated in the most eulogistic terms, from men whose elevation in society, and deserved reputation for learning, give a peculiar solidity to their expressions of applause, and afford a guarantee of the sincerity of their encomiums.

Apart from the advantages extended to all those who are desirous of examining the dark vistas of futurity, and of accommodating their progress to the indications visible upon their horoscope, THE ASTROLOGER embraces various regions of intellectual thought, which teem with extraordinary loveliness and grandeur, and which have been hitherto neglected by a frigid and utilitarian generation. Avoiding all contact either with the harsh and degenerating infidelity of Materialism, or the mean and grovelling ignorance of Superstition, we have endeavoured to proceed upon a medium course, spreading out before our readers the mystic probabilities of the invisible. We have balanced the arguments of the metaphysicians, we have contemned the obloquy of the matter-of-fact, we have emancipated ourself from the gross trammels of mere mundane matters, and, discarding alike the inflexible rules of the worldling and the fantastic day-dreams of a fanatical poetry, we have endeavoured to carry our readers from this simple work-a-day life into territories fraught with a loftier existence, and towards which the heart of each declares, in its inaudible but impressive voice, that we have an inscrutable affinity. It had been long evident that noxious principles of Deism, and disbelief in everything that was not reduceable to the comprehension of the senses, or that did not come within the deductions of our uncertain reason, were gaining ground among the mass of

society, and that whatever was beyond the sphere of tangibility and analysis was only treated with derision. And it was with a view (among other things) of dissipating these most destructive and equally unstable notions, that *THE ASTROLOGER* was first undertaken. We were indignant at the arrogance of that paltry philosophy which scorned all credence in the mystic truths that baffle our capacity for investigation, and, from their very immensity, defy association with the more common-place data of science; we were disgusted with the insolence with which this pseudo-wisdom spurned the mysteries of a nobler world, while at the same time it stood confounded before the inexplicable germination of an apple-pippin. We assented with enthusiasm to that observation of a profound thinker, that "the very force which sets a clock in motion is the hand of God;" we resolved to raise our voice against this noisy clamour of the rationalists, and to display, as much as such a task lay within the power of an individual, the frivolity and shallow assumption of such icy dogmas. Thus we have gained, as it were, enlargement of mental speculations from the very confinement and compression of the views entertained by these sceptics; we have culled pleasures from this lowliness of spirit in many of our fellow-creatures, in the same manner as Pindar is reported to have received nourishment from a swarm of bees when he was a mere child, and abandoned to starvation upon the mountains of Boeotia. To inculcate these creeds of intellectual freedom, of divine beauty, and of exalted truth, among our readers, and to disseminate them by extension among mankind at large, have formed the plan upon which we have proceeded; to withdraw their minds from such cramped schools of cultivation, and to evolve before their enraptured gaze the splendours of an unseen realm, were the rewards which we pictured to ourself as the consequences of our undertaking. That such endeavours and such anticipations of success have been far from futile or visionary, is testified in numerous letters now in our possession, acknowledging, in the most fervent manner, the efficacy of our theories. We would have our previous accomplishments, however, regarded merely as a preliminary, and would wish the first volume of *THE ASTROLOGER* to be considered simply in the light of a precursor, and as the earnest of more strenuous exertions to scatter a love for the beautiful and good among our fellow-men. Far from these endeavours proving injurious to the cause of substantial erudition—far from their entering a pernicious rivalry with the absolute realities of science—they actually tend to an enlargement of these very sciences themselves, while they elucidate subjects not within the scope of the materialist and the utilitarian. As to any direct exposition of the truth of Astrology, we conceive that the contents of the present volume constitute an ample evidence of its accuracy, as well as of its magnificence; and on that ground any advocacy of its principle would, in this place, be more than superfluous. It is, moreover, needless to remark that a publication which affords gratuitous assistance, in the solution of horary questions, to all who are embarrassed as to the course they should adopt in any complication of their affairs, must be a boon of inestimable value to all classes of the community. Animated with cordial sentiments of obligation for the past and good-will for the future, the Astrologer submits the first portion of his work to the perusal of the public, with a hope that its spirit may fructify in the minds of his readers—to each of whom, individually, he begs leave to utter a grateful farewell, until, by the completion of another volume, he be again summoned from his seclusion.

London, August 6, 1845.

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