



AND WEEKLY ORACLE OF DESTINY.

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THE COLOURED WORLDS.



HE majestic banner of night, unfurled to us when the sun sinks beneath the horizon, spangled with stars innumerable, and waving high above the heads of mortals as the triumphant emblem of the power belonging to the ETERNAL and the INFINITE, is a theme inexhaustible for awe and admiration. Equally attractive to the eye of the child and the sage, winning

alike the spontaneous enthusiasm of the idler of the night and the contemplative philosopher, we behold in the Heavens a number of brilliant points of varying brightness which, while revealing to the Astrologer the remoter mysteries of our nature, enable us also to trace the path of our system through infinite space, and its history through the eternities of the past and future. When Sir John Herschel presented the wondrous catalogue of Piazzi, containing the places of 7646 stars, to the Astronomical Society, he said, with no less sublimity than truth, "Every well-determined star, from the

moment its place is registered, becomes to the astronomer, the geographer, the navigator, and the surveyor, a point of departure which can never deceive or fail him; the same for ever and in all places; of a delicacy so extreme as to be a test for every instrument yet invented by man, yet equally adapted for the most ordinary purposes; as available for regulating a town clock as for conducting a navy to the Indies; as effective for mapping down the intricacies of a petty barony as for adjusting the boundaries of transatlantic empires." When once, therefore, the place it occupies has been accurately ascertained, and carefully recorded, the brazen circle with which that useful work was done may moulder, the marble pillar totter on its base, and the astronomer himself only survive in the gratitude of posterity; but the Record remains, and gives to the most temporary contrivance an exactness which ages cannot alter. By the carefully elaborated calculations, then, of our astronomers, we find these stars posited in space at a distance exceeding by many millions of miles the interval between us and the farthest planet in our system, and yet shining at such a distance with a lustre which far surpasses the feeble glimmering of that planet. This, of course, incontestably proves each star to be a self-luminous body, an independent sun, having worlds around it of its own, and not

depending, like our planets, upon the central luminary of our system for its sources of light and heat. Were other proofs wanting, this fact would be placed beyond dispute by the knowledge that, whilst every reflected light is susceptible of polarization, the light of the stars, like that of the sun, is incapable of being so resolved. And now arises the most curious fact in connection with their history. Many of these stars emit a brilliant-coloured light, and must therefore scatter on some fortunately-placed world, rays fraught with the most intense prismatic hues. A very vivid imagination alone could conceive the variety of illumination two suns—a red and a green one, for example—would afford to a planet circulating about either. What charming contrasts and agreeable vicissitudes would arise and what endless tints would mellow the variegated landscape! In one, a red sun alternating with a green night; in another, a golden amber dawn succeeded by a deep blue twilight—a purple sunbeam casting a violet shadow—a glassy streamlet reflecting a crimson moonlight—a sapphire sky dashed with clouds of pearl—these and a thousand similar changes of light and shade would occur in one of the globes thus influenced, and how beautiful—to the eye of an earth-born mortal at least—such a kaleidoscopic world would be, may be judged from the feelings awakened by even a very faint and inadequate description. In the multiple systems the white stars are found to be more than twice as numerous as the red, whilst the red are again twice as numerous as the blue. Insulated stars, of a red colour as deep as blood, are common in the Heavens, and also white and yellow ones; but it is a remarkable fact that no specimen of an insulated blue, green, or violet-coloured star has yet been found, though these repeatedly occur in the binary and tertiary systems. The stars *Lyra*, *Spica Virginis*, *Bellatrix*, *Altair*, and *Vega*, are white stars; *Procyon* and *Capella* are orange; *Aldebaran*, *Autares*, *Arcturas*, *Pollux*, and *Betelgense*, are of a deep red; whilst *Sirius*, which is now brilliantly white, was formerly a dark red, and is so characterised by *Ptolemy* and *Seneca*. The magnificent conceptions thus engendered defy the power of the human mind to fathom; the infinite variety that pervades creation is here manifested in its most imposing form, and, feeling that in the spell thus evoked there lies a power too deep for words, we can only continue our meditations in silence.

MESMERIC REVELATIONS.—Many of them are, no doubt, mere illusions, which find their ready explanation in the credulity of the ignorant and the chicanery of the initiated. Others are supported by irrefragable testimony, and are yet so unaccountably strange, so mysterious in their operation, and so fearful in their influences, that the mind almost shrinks from their contemplation. It willingly desires to reject all testimony, and to relieve itself by incredulity, rather than recognise, amidst the benevolent workings of Providence, a law so dark and malignant as the secret and irresistible powers of mind over other and independent intelligences. This feeling, his scepticism of sentiment, is unworthy of philosophy. It would be still more unworthy in the annalist who records certain passages of its former dominion. He must be content to acknowledge as certainties all facts which rest on the conclusive evidence of history.

DREAMS AND THEIR REVELATIONS.

ONE who has bestowed much time and attention on the subject of sleep and its accompanying phenomena of dreams, thus attempts to define the mode in which these extraordinary phases of the human mind originate. He says:—

“The primary effect of sleep upon the mental powers seems to be to place them in a state of entire suspense. When sleep, therefore, is perfect, it is attended by a state of total unconsciousness. When, on the contrary, it is imperfect—when we are either, after a sufficiency of rest, verging towards waking, as generally happens in the morning, or our sleep is broken and disturbed by uneasy bodily sensations, or by the effects of an uneasy state of the mind itself—then unconsciousness is not complete. Mental action takes place, though in what must in the main be described as an irregular and imperfect way, and we become conscious of—dreaming. Dreaming, then, may be defined as the result of the imperfect operation of the mind in a state of partial sleep. It is a form of intellectation, very peculiar, and attended by very remarkable phenomena, which have in all ages attracted much attention both from the simple and the learned.”

This is, in a very brief compass, simply all that the most able philosophers and metaphysicians know upon the subject; and yet, in spite of this, the presumptuous editor of “*Chambers' Journal*,” which may be considered as the organ of the “matter-of-fact school of thinking,” dares to allege that the fulfilments which so frequently occur of dreams, and the consequent anticipation in sleep of what really afterwards takes place, must lead to a conviction “inconsistent with our ordinary ideas of nature.” That the “ordinary ideas” of the editor may not be able to comprehend the vast spiritual truths engrafted on this subject, we can readily understand, but on what grounds he makes the assertion it will be a matter of greater difficulty to discover. Conceiving that a specimen of utilitarian dealing with the sublime topics will, to borrow a phrase of our Scotch contemporary, “harmlessly entertain our readers,” we present them with a few of the instances he records.

“An article published in the *Journal* last summer, treating dreams on what we thought philosophical grounds, has brought to our hands a number of communications, detailing instances of what may be called dream revelations, most of them narrated by the individuals to whom they occurred. It is, of course, inconsistent with our ordinary ideas of nature, that any one can acquire a knowledge, while asleep, of events that are afterwards to take place, and it is desirable that our ideas of natural procedure should not be in any degree confounded by a propensity to vulgar marvels. At the same time, no one can be quite sure that such things are out of the range of nature; and even *Dr. Abercrombie* has thought it not improper to introduce several of them into his ‘*Intellectual Philosophy*,’ apparently in the hope that they may yet be explained on some principle connected with recognised laws. For this reason, but chiefly because we think they will harmlessly entertain our readers, we make a selection from the communications in question. The first is from a lady, resident in a remote and insulated region of Britain, whose sprightly talents have already been repeatedly evidenced in these pages. ‘Though happily, both by constitution and education, more free from all superstitious influences than most people, I have been often led to make remarks on the subject of dreams; so often, that I believe, if all were to contribute their stock of personal experience on this point, it would be found that there are not more things in earth and heaven than are dreamt of in our philosophy. I merely here intend to put down, at random almost, a very few of what I remember of my own experiences in the way of dreaming. In most of the instances when my dreams have been almost literally fulfilled, the recollection of them has only occurred to me on their fulfilment, which gene-

rily happens very speedily. On one occasion last winter I imagined I was in church, in the front seat of the side gallery, and while engaged in prayer, I saw some persons carry in a plinthis coffin into the lower aisle. The silence that ensued was breathless; and I was saying to myself, as I supposed each one was doing, "Is this for me?" when the coffin-bearers looked at me, and said solemnly, and in tears, "It is for —," naming me. I awoke immediately. I was then in perfect health; but only the second day thereafter I was most unexpectedly and dangerously taken ill, and for three months was frequently very near death; so that I never before had such a close view of an eternal world. It was not till I had nearly quite recovered that my dream was recalled to my remembrance, by being told that a certain neighbour—none other than the chief coffin-bearer—had wept abundantly while my life was considered in danger.

Earlier in life, I once dreamt I was bathing, and was dragged beyond my depth, near to drowning, by a particular friend, and was only rescued by my husband wading in with his clothes on, and seizing me as I was sinking. Within a week I was brought into an affecting dilemma by that same friend, and only relieved by the instrumentality of the same protecting hand.

What led me at first to put down these remarks was, that the night, or rather morning, before last, I had a very distressing dream of one of my little girls, four years old, being killed by the falling of a peat-stalk upon her; and last evening I was sitting alone, reading the article on dreams, when I was startled by the most extraordinary rumbling noise and screams. On running to see what was the matter, I found the little girl alluded to had tumbled down the whole stair, with a straw basket full of peats, which she had succeeded, with the love of enterprise so common in children, in dragging up stairs to take to the nursery fire. The dear child, and the peats together, rumbling down a long wooden stair, were sufficiently alarming; but, happily, she was only frightened. The straw basket had preserved her at the foot uninjured, and I could soon laugh heartily at the incident, which I hope will stand for the fulfilment of my dream.

With respect to presentiment, my experience has not been great; but has any person besides myself ever felt, in particular societies, or circumstances, or scenery, as if the scene were not new to him, but only the exact repetition of circumstances, conversation, and other particulars which he had been present at on some former occasion, though, undoubtedly, he actually never had? Often have I felt this, and it always appears as if I were remembering what had taken place in a dream.

Our fair correspondent may rest assured that she is not singular in the latter class of experiences. They are very general amongst persons of a nervous organisation. One theory about them, more interesting than convincing, is that they are the reminiscences of an earlier state of existence."

[This theory, which our utilitarian annotator gets rid of as being "more interesting than convincing," was, it will be remembered, duly examined and described in the fourth number of this work, and has been since repeatedly urged in these pages.]

He goes on to say—"The following anecdote is from a gentleman residing in the Isle of Man:—"My brother, ———, was in the Bush Hotel, in Bristol, one day in 1833, when the Welsh mail arrived, and a gentleman named J., with whom he was acquainted, walked into the coffee-room. As they sat in conversation, the melancholy news arrived of the loss of the Frolic steamer upon the Naas, will all on board. Hereupon Mr. J. assumed a look of unusual seriousness, and seemed deeply affected. My brother inquiring the reason, he said he felt as if he had been just rescued from a violent death. He had designed two mornings before to leave Haverfordwest by that steamer, but was prevented by the entreaty of his wife, who had awoke during the night from a terrible dream, in which she had seen the loss of a vessel during a heavy gale. Merely to calm her mind, he had put off his journey for a day, and travelled by the mail instead, by which means his life un-

doubtedly had been saved.' It may be remarked that there might be nothing here beyond simple coincidence. The weather might be threatening, and the lady's dream produced by previous waking fears.

The following instances are more curious. They come from a gentleman, engaged in legal business, at a town in the south of Scotland:—

'Most of the writers,' he says, 'on the subject of dreams, deal with those which have reference to past events. To this extent I could readily accede to their reasoning. It is easy to conceive that impressions may and do remain on the mind, and that control being suspended by sleep, these impressions may present themselves in a confused and undefined mass. We frequently find remote events curiously blended with those of recent occurrence. We find places we may have visited strangely associated with those we have read about, or heard described. We meet with relatives long since dead, and have the full conviction that we are engaged with them as in former days; or it may be that we believe them to be dead, and yet we feel no surprise that we are conversing with them. We are sometimes breathlessly ascending a steep, and at other times suffocating in water. We are conscious of fear, joy, pain, &c. All these, and a thousand other vagaries, though sufficiently mysterious, we are ready to account for on the ground that they all have some reference to, or connexion with, what the mind has already been engaged in, and that, composed of these remnant impressions, the most vivid of them present themselves when uncontrolled by the senses. I would even go a little further with this theory. Suppose a person labouring under great anxiety for the recovery of a sick relative, or for the favourable issue of some undertaking in which he is deeply interested, it often happens that, in a dream, the death of the former, and the failure of the latter, take place by anticipation. It would not be held that there was any preternatural communication of these events, because they were actually realised. Anxiety implies a dread of these results, and it is not to be wondered at that that impression should assume the appearance of an occurrence actually realised. This theory is, however, greatly unHINGED and dissipated when we come to deal with cases—unquestionable and well-authenticated cases—where events are distinctly and minutely portrayed, of which it is utterly impossible the mind could have any anticipation, and which, even after awaking from the dream, there is no reasonable ground for supposing likely to be realised. Moreover, when even dates are condescended on, and the realisation comes exactly to correspond with the dates and representation in the dream, then the difficulty, not yet overcome, presents itself. It is not easy, in such cases, to assent to the abandonment of the mind to its own uncontrolled vagaries, as if it were a mere wheel of a vast machine left to go at random, while all the rest is still. Its random effusions are conceivable until we come to this point—events anticipated or foretold, if I may use the expression. It is said that these are the exceptions, not the rule—that striking dreams of future events do happen, and by chance may turn out to be realised, but that there can be no connection between the dream and the event, and that in ninety cases out of a hundred events may be dreamt of which never do take place. I shall not venture to grapple with the question, but shall briefly state what has occurred in my own experience.

'In the autumn of 1835 I dreamt that a near relative of my own, who died two years before, came to my bedside. I felt fully conscious of being in my own bed, and of raising myself on my elbow when my friend approached. I was also fully sensible that he was dead; and, though in his morning gown, his countenance bore the impress of death. He mentioned my name, and presented to me a coffin-plate bearing the name, age, and date of the death of a lady—the latter was 25th December, 1835. I said, "Where have you got that?" Mrs. ——— is still in life; and, besides, the date there has not yet arrived." He answered, "Take it, and keep it for her; she will require it." This lady was no relative of mine; I was only slightly acquainted with her. She was married, and had gone to a distance a considerable time before, and I had never seen nor heard of her since. When at breakfast, I in a casual way mentioned my dream, when some one jocosely remarked

that I must have been thinking of her, and that to dream of deaths was always a marriage, and that my dream must have reference to her marriage. We thought no more of the matter, nor did it particularly attract the attention of any of us, until, in the course of the day, a lady happened to call, and in course of conversation asked if we had heard of the distressing illness of Mrs. ——. We all declared we had not; when the lady stated that she passed through a neighbouring town yesterday on her way to her father's house, from the north, and that she was so ill that she was obliged to remain some time at a friend's house before she could proceed. This was so far an association with the dream that it struck all of us as a remarkable coincidence. The more extraordinary part remains to be told. On December 31st, 1835, I attended her funeral, and the coffin-plate, with age and date as distinctly delineated in the dream, presented themselves to my gaze. It is needless to observe that the impression on my mind was of a very peculiar kind, and equally so on the minds of those who some months before had heard the narrative of the dream.

Another striking though less interesting case occurred of a more recent date. I dreamt that, on going into my office in the morning, I found seated at his usual desk a clerk who had left me a twelvemonth or more previously, and had since been in Edinburgh, where I had little or no communication with him. I said, "Mr. D., how do you happen to be here—where in the world do you come from?" I had the most distinct answer, that he had come to the country for a few days, and, with my leave, would wish for a day to enjoy the reminiscence of his former feelings at that desk. I replied, "Certainly; I am glad to see you. Write that deed, and then take your dinner with me." Such was the dream; and though apparently of no importance, I happened to observe at the breakfast-table that I had dreamt my old clerk D. had returned to my office. After having walked out half an hour I directed my steps to the office, and my surprise was not a little excited when I found Mr. D. seated exactly as had been represented in the dream. It might be supposed that, following out the dream, I put the question which it had suggested: but I am sure it was on the spur of the moment, and without reference to the dream, that I put that question, and my astonishment was doubly aroused when his answer corresponded almost verbatim with what I have stated. I immediately returned and stated the circumstance to my friends, who would only be satisfied of the fact by my calling Mr. D. into their presence.

I shall just notice one further instance, out of many equally striking, in my experience. My wife and I, with our only child—a girl of about a year old—were at a friend's house some miles from home. The child was then in perfect health. I dreamt that, on going to my room, I found my wife walking about with the child in her arms, closely wrapped in a shawl. I had the impression that she was in health. I opened the shawl to take the child in my arms, and what was my horror to see only a withered branch in place of my blooming child. It was but a dream; but so painful was the impression, that I could not help saying to a friend in the morning that I dreaded we were to lose our child, I had had so unpleasant a presentiment from my dream. He ridiculed the idea; but within one short month the darling branch gradually withered, and was consigned to an early tomb. This is one of those cases which is not wrapped in so much mystery, as it may be conceived that a parent's anxiety, even about a healthy child, might present itself in a dream in some distorted form. Still it is an illustration of the mystery attending the mind when the senses are prostrated.

I shall just mention one case which was told to me by an advocate. He had arranged to accompany a friend to New-haven to bathe, and they were to set out at six o'clock in the morning. Immediately before getting out of bed, he dreamt that he was struggling in the water to save a young man from drowning. Within little more than hour of the dream, he was in reality engaged in saving the life of a boy. He had just reached the sea-side, when he saw the boy beyond his depth, and without fully undressing, he rushed in and saved him.

I could not have the slightest hesitation in giving you the names of every one to whom I have referred in these observa-

tions, though I should neither like their names nor my own to be made public."

If the editor of the Journal from which we borrow these records of dream revelations, will undertake to explain the principles on which they occur, and state the exact laws of his steam-engine "natural philosophy" by which they are governed, we will undertake to present him gratuitously with the first volume of our work, and believe in "the nothing-out-of-the-common creed" ever after. Until this is done we must be allowed to entertain our own opinion on the matter, and what that is our readers already know.

EXTRAORDINARY INFLUENCES OF MESMERISM.

A highly-gifted and intelligent correspondent, on whose veracity we can rely, and whose skill in the science may be depended upon, has kindly furnished us with some particulars, which, as calculated to materially alleviate the suffering of many, we have much pleasure in communicating to our readers. He observes, and with equal truth and justice—

"Mesmerism is a subject which cannot be too much studied, and too widely circulated. A power which all possess it is important all should become acquainted with. When we consider the prejudice which many people have against a new doctrine that is likely to overturn their darling notions, and the ignorance of many more, we cannot wonder that Mesmerism is so little known. Is it not imperative on those who have the opportunity and talent of inquiring into the claims of a power which they know *does* exist, and which will benefit the human frame when judiciously used, to make that power publicly known as much as possible? As a friend to truth, Sir, you will agree with me that it is.

The more I inquire into Mesmerism, the more I am convinced of its *power* as a curative to many of the diseases incidental to the human body. When we see obstinate complaints, which have baffled the vaunted efficacy of many medicines, quickly give way to the soothing influence of the mysterious agent, Mesmerism, should we, like the priests of old, keep this knowledge to ourselves? Surely not.

We see one person suffering, either from gout, rheumatism, nervous headache, indigestion, toothache, earache, sore throat, deafness, weakness of sight, or some other complaint, none of which are, perhaps, dangerous in themselves, but exceedingly painful and annoying. These we have seen quickly, as it were by magic, vanish when Mesmerism is applied, provided the patient is susceptible to the influence.

It is not always necessary that the sleep be produced, as many suppose, in order to remove those local pains; it is enough to *breathe upon, and at the same time gently pass the fingers, over the affected part*; and then, when the pain is removed, blow on it and make a few transverse passes, as the following cases will show:—

A little girl, who had been suffering for the last twelve hours from earache, a gum-boil, and inflammation of the eye, was in three or four minutes eased, merely by my breathing on the parts and then gently passing my fingers over them.

In the second case I produced the Mesmeric sleep. A lad complained to me that his head ached very much, and that he felt very sick. In three minutes he was in a sound sleep. I let him sleep half an hour, and then awoke him; all pain and sickness were gone.

The next case I consider still more wonderful. It was that of a little boy who was blind of one eye, and who assured me that he never had been able, as well as he could recollect, to see anything but "darkness," as he expressed it. I breathed upon his eyes, and made a few passes, now and then placing my fingers on them. Great was my surprise when, on opening his blind eye, he said, "I see you, but not very well." I continued the treatment a few minutes longer, which greatly improved his vision. He now sees as well with one as the other. A few trials will soon establish the existence of this power, and surely this mode is so simple that any one may reduce it to the satisfactory proof of personal experience."

AUTHENTIC ACCOUNTS OF SUPER-NATURAL VISITATION.

Soft be thy step! Night, the meek mother, lies
 In the deep bosom of the silent wood,
 Around her nestled all the feather'd brood;
 The sainted stars, that sentinel the skies,
 Take watchword from the River Mysteries
 (Whose streamlets skirt this sylvan neighbourhood,
 Tuning their music to their dreamiest mood)
 To shed their influence on her sleeping eyes.
 So some pale abbess, in her shadowed cell—
 While all around her the pure sisters rest—
 Blends in her dreams the organ's distant swell
 And bright-eyed angels hovering o'er her breast.
 Here heavenly peace, and peace on earth combine—
 Night be thy pillow too, their guarded shrine.

It must be confessed by even the most staunch materialists, that the popular belief of departed spirits occasionally holding a communication with the human race, is replete with matter of curious speculation. Some Christian divines, with every just reason, acknowledge no authentic source whence the impression of a future state could ever have been communicated to man, but from the Jewish prophets or from our Saviour himself. Yet it is certain, that a belief in our existence after death has, from time immemorial, prevailed in countries, to which the knowledge of the gospel could never have extended, as among certain tribes of America. Can, then, this notion have been intuitively suggested? Or is it an extravagant supposition, that the belief might often have arisen from those spectral appearances, to which men in every age, must have been subject? And what would have been the natural self-persuasion, if a savage saw before him the apparition of a departed friend or acquaintance, endowed with the semblance of life, with motion, and with signs of mental intelligence, perhaps even holding a converse with him? Assuredly, the conviction would scarcely fail to arise of an existence after death. The pages of history attest the fact that:—

“If ancestry can be in aught believ'd,
 Descending spirits have convers'd with man,
 And told him secrets of the world unknown.”

And it is evident the human mind has invariably clung to such notions, for as Sir Thomas Brown has remarked—“It is the heaviest stone that melancholy can throw at a man, to tell him that he is at the end of his nature; or that there is no future state to come, unto which this seems progressively and otherwise made in vain.” It has remained therefore for the light of revelation alone, to impart to this belief the consistency and conformation of divine truth, and to connect it with a rational system.

From the foregoing remarks, we need not be surprised that a conviction of the occasional appearance of ghosts or departed spirits, should, from the remotest antiquity, have been a popular creed, not confined to any distinct tribe or race of people. In Europe, it was the opinion of the Greeks and Romans, that, after the dissolution of the body, every man was possessed of three different kinds of ghosts, which were distinguished by the names of *Manes*, *Anima*, and *Umbra*. These were disposed of after the following manner:—the *Manes* descended into the infernal regions, the *Anima* ascended to the skies, and the *Umbra* hovered about the tomb, as being unwilling to quit its connexion with the body. Dido, for instance, when about to die, threatens to haunt Æneas with her *umbra*; at the same time, she expects that the tidings of his punishment will rejoin her *manes* below.

An author, styling himself Theophilus Insulanus, who, half a century ago, wrote on the second sight of Scotland, affixes the term *irreligious* to those who should entertain a doubt on the reality of apparitions of departed souls. “Such ghostly visitants,” he affirms, “are not employed on an errand of a frivolous concern to lead us into error, but are employed as so many heralds by the great Creator, for the more ample demonstration of his power, to proclaim tidings for our instruc-

tion; and, as we are prone to despond in religious matter, to confirm our faith of the existence of spirits (the foundation of all religions) and the dignity of human nature.”

On the authority of Aubrey and other historians, who bear testimony to its truth, we give the following, this week, on account of its brevity, having admitted elsewhere a remarkable modern recital which is also too well-authenticated to admit of dispute:—

“Mr. Cassio Burroughs,” says the narrator, “was one of the most beautiful men in England, and very valiant, but very proud and blood-thirsty. There was in London a very beautiful Italian lady” (whom he seduced). “The gentlewoman died; and afterwards, in a tavern in London, he spake of it,” (contrary to his sacred promise) and then going out of doors the ghost of the gentlewoman did appear to him. He was afterwards troubled with the apparition of her, even sometimes in company when he was drinking. Before she did appear, he did find a kind of chiliness upon his spirits. She did appear to him in the morning before he was killed in a duel.” We shall continue these illustrations from time to time at convenient intervals, promising that no account will be given but has truth for its basis and good authority for its recommendation.

LOVE PHILTERS.

A CELEBRATED compound made use of by the old necromancers was a drug, or other preparation, used as a charm to excite love. These are distinguished into true and spurious: the spurious are spells or charms supposed to have an effect beyond the ordinary law of nature, by some inherent magic virtue; such are those said to be possessed formerly by old witches, &c.—The true philters were supposed to operate by some natural and magnetical power. There are many enthusiastic authors, who have encouraged the belief in the reality of these philters; and adduce matter of fact in confirmation of their opinions in all doubtful cases. Among these may be quoted Van Helmont, who says, that by holding a certain herb in his hand, and afterwards taking a little dog by the foot with the same hand, the animal followed him wherever he went, and quite deserted his former master. He also adds, that philters only require a confirmation of *mumia*; and on this principle he accounts for the phenomena of love transported by the touch of an herb; for, says he, the heat communicated to the herb, not coming alone, but animated by the emanations of the natural spirits, determines the herb towards the man, and identifies it to him. Having then received this ferment, it attracts the spirit of the other object magnetically, and gives it an amorous motion.

By *mumia* is here understood, that which was used by some ancient physicians for some kind of implanted spirit, found chiefly in carcases, when the infused spirit is fled; or kind of sympathetic influence, communicated from one body to another, by which magnetic cures, &c, were said to be performed. Now, however, this is clearly understood to be Mesmeric influence.

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. Hence, there is the less reason to be surprised at our inability to enter fully into the feelings and characters of others. No one who has not a complete knowledge of himself will ever have a true understanding of another.

MAN.—Every man is a republic in miniature, and although very limited in its parts, yet very difficult to govern. Each individual is a little world—the elements; and having life like the brutes, and reason like the angels, it seems as though all were happily united in him. He can traverse the vast universe, comprehend the present, past, and future; in him are the principles of life and darkness; in him, also, are united the most extraordinary elements, and most incompatible qualities.

THE HAUNTED HOUSE IN YORKSHIRE.

BY DUDLEY COSTELLO.

"I have heard (but not believed), the spirits of the dead
May walk again."—*Winter's Tale.*



scarcely any accusation men repel with greater ear-
the suspicion of yielding
ing to a belief in preternatural visit-
ations; and yet there are very few who
do not, at some period of their lives,
tacitly, if not openly, admit the possi-
bility of such occurrences. Negative
proofs abound to demonstrate the exis-
tence of this belief, a familiar in-
stance of which is shown in the eagerness with which stories
of this nature are invariably listened to, less from a love of the
marvellous, or a desire to combat the statements made—though
these, no doubt, combine their influence—than from a secret
and mysterious attraction towards the subject, akin to our
belief in the soul's immortality, which leads us, with a kind of
willing dread, beyond the limits of this world. Who is there
that ever refused to listen to "a good ghost story," or did not
incline to draw nearer, when preparation was being made for
telling one, or would willingly have lost a syllable of the
wondrous tale? There are none within my own recollection,
and not many, I think, in that of others. But proofs of a more
positive kind are to be found in the relations of persons of so
much credit and good sense, that to doubt their veracity, or
ascribe their narratives to the effect of a heated imagination,
are alike unjust and improbable. It is so much easier to
hazard a conjecture, than adduce a sufficing reason against the
non-existence of what we cannot understand; and the casuist's
love of applause is so much greater than his desire for truth,
that ingenious arguments are often suffered to prevail, in spite
of innate conviction. Ocular and oral deceptions, coincidences,
a mind excited or predisposed, low spirits, a bad conscience, or,
what often amounts to the same thing, a bad digestion, are
usually held to be the causes, as they sometimes have been the
concomitants, of tales of sprites and goblins. Yet all these
have been known to fail of application to some of the best
authenticated ghost stories, as, amongst others, all who remem-
ber the apparition witnessed by Sir John Sherbroke, in the
West Indies, will agree; and the most sceptical are often com-
pelled to shroud their conviction in the admission, that such
or such an occurrence is "certainly rather extraordinary, and,

indeed, difficult to be accounted for." I do not know whether
the story which I have to tell belongs to any of the classes
whose solution is easy to be found—for one is apt to judge ill
in one's own case—but to me it has always remained an un-
fathomable mystery.

It is now about fifteen years since a friend of mine, named
Beaumont, was living near the town of H—, in the West
Riding of Yorkshire. He was about thirty years of age, a man
of firm nerves and clear intellect, whose education and man-
sequent intercourse with the world had been such as to render
his mind impervious to superstitious influences. He had been
married early in life to a young and beautiful girl, and but that
they had no family, there was nothing wanting to make his
domestic felicity complete. Beaumont's circumstances were
good, and events occurred which made him even affluent; but
with this augmentation to his fortune came the desire, or,
rather, considering his position in the county, the necessity for
removing to a dwelling of greater pretension than he had
hitherto occupied.

It happened that Ashfield House was at this time to let. It
was a large mansion, standing in a fine position above a beauti-
ful valley, amid scenery of the most picturesque description.
There was everything in its situation to render it an attractive
residence; but in the house itself, there was, in popular esti-
mation, one drawback—it had the reputation, throughout the
country, of being haunted. This opinion was founded upon no
antique tradition, for Ashfield was of recent construction, and
the person who had built it had died only a few years before;
but it was the manner of his death, and that of his sister, a
short time before his own, which had cast a shadow over its
walls. The history of the first occupants was variously narrated;
but the generally received version was, that both had com-
mitted suicide. There could be no doubt that this was the
fact with respect to the brother, for the details of the coroner's
inquest were clear and conclusive, and lived in everybody's
recollection; but this was far from being the case in the
instance of the sister. The precise circumstances of her death
were shrouded in mystery, and it was a most doubtful point
with many, whether she had actually died by her own hands,
as the story was given out to the world, or had fallen by those
of another. Though there was nothing that could directly
criminate him, suspicion pointed at the brother, and whether
it were remorse or grief none could tell, but exactly a twelve-
month from the day on which the lady was found dead in her
bed-room, from the effects of poison, he was discovered a corpse
in the same chamber, having shot himself through the heart.
It would seem that their previous lives had been anything but
happy; both were possessed of wealth—they manifested no
signs of affection towards each other, living much apart, though
under the same roof, and a powerful necessity, rather than a
bond of love, appeared to be the tie that united their fortunes.
The sister was silent and sad, rarely stirring abroad, and, when
she did so, never going beyond the precincts of their dwelling.
The brother was more frequently seen; but his habits were
no less gloomy and reserved. He made no acquaintance, and
his principal occupation—for it scarcely seemed a pleasure—
was that of riding about the country alone, either slowly, lost
in thought, or galloping wildly, as if to drown it in excitement.
A mystery hung over their lives, and the fearful manner of
their deaths tended to increase it. Their own actions, sur-
mised or real, were sufficient to create the impression that
universally prevailed in regard to their dwelling, and, after a
distant relation, residing in London, had administered to their
effects, Ashfield House was shut up, and remained for several
years without a tenant, its sinister reputation increasing as the
memory of the scenes which it had witnessed became fainter.

But however the prevailing rumours might have deterred
others from becoming the inmates of Ashfield, they had no
effect upon Beaumont, when he found himself in want of a
house which appeared to suit him in every respect; and
although the rent was not a material consideration, yet he was
sufficiently a man of the world to like a bargain, and found, in
the low rate at which Ashfield was to be let, an additional
inducement for making it his residence. He accordingly
entered into terms with the agent—a number of workmen
were sent in to repair the slight dilapidations arising from

neglect—the light of day again streamed through its windows, and cheerful fires blazed upon its hearths. An experienced architect examined the building, and found it fit for immediate occupation; Beaumont took possession, and the country people shook their heads.

It was in the spring of the year 183—, that Beaumont went to reside at Ashfield, and for the first few months he experienced nothing that could make him repent his choice; on the contrary, as summer drew on, he found himself in a much better position than the greater part of his neighbours; for, whereas their gardens were pillaged, and woods poached by the thieves and idle characters abounding in the district, nothing was ever touched at Ashfield. He would have been held a bold man, who should have ventured alone, after dusk, across Ashfield Park, and fear operated too powerfully, even with such as pursued their nocturnal depredations in company. The inhabitants of Ashfield were, therefore, exempt from some of the material annoyances of a country life—their property was respected.

But as summer waned, and the shortening days of autumn followed, with longer shadows, apprehension began to creep into the minds of the servants of the establishment. The reports, which had been slighted when the days were bright and the nights brief, assumed, with the change of season, an altered aspect, and the smile of incredulity became less frequent, the language of doubt less loud; there was less loitering abroad, and more concentration at home and two were now more ready to perform the same errand than one; indeed, there were many occupations which it would have been almost impossible to have got them to perform alone. Amongst these, was the necessity of going to the stables by night, for the coachman, grooms, and helpers, all declared that they had seen the figure of a female, on more than one occasion, descending slowly through the air, from the loft into the stable-yard—a statement that appeared sufficiently absurd, but which yet was steadfastly adhered to. Other stories, similar in character, were circulated, and it was not long before every servant in the house became fully persuaded of the truth of the assertion, that Ashfield was haunted.

Of course, the knowledge of this alleged predicament was not confined to the servants' hall. It reached Mr. and Mrs. Beaumont, but neither were disposed to give it a moment's consideration, beyond the effect which it might have upon the conduct of their domestics. Though young, the tone of Mrs. Beaumont's mind was firm, and a large share of common sense distinguished all her actions. Her husband's character has already been glanced at. Beaumont laughed at the idea, saying, that the ghosts had hitherto been his allies, and deserved encouragement; while his wife contented herself, when the subject was adverted to by her maid, by merely calling it nonsense, and desiring that nothing so silly might be named. Matters continued in this state, with ill disguised fear on one side and indifference on the other, until about the middle of the month of October. It chanced then that business of importance required Beaumont's presence in London, and he accordingly set out, leaving Mrs. Beaumont alone. It was the first time they had been separated since their marriage, and she naturally felt the loneliness of her situation; but, beyond the void occasioned by the absence of the one whom it gladdens us to see at every hour, she did not suffer from depressed spirits. There still lingered a few flowers in her garden, which she tended with care, hoping to keep them till his return. The library at Ashfield was well stocked, and she occupied herself with reading; her work, and a letter written—if not sent—every evening, combined to give her full employment; the natural tendency of her disposition was cheerful, and no superstitious feelings mingled with her serious thoughts.

It was on the third day after her husband's departure, when, after sitting up somewhat late, engaged in reading "The Fire-worshippers," Mrs. Beaumont retired to rest. The day had been wild and stormy, but as night approached, the wind sunk, and nothing disturbed the general silence, save the pattering of the rain as it fell upon the leads. The rooms at Ashfield were so distributed, that the *corps du bâtiment* was completely isolated from the part where the servants slept, and this isolation was perfected by a door at the foot of the principal stair-

case, which was always locked inside. The sentinel on this debateable land was a pretty Blenheim spaniel, of the purest breed, which was fastened by a small chain to a staple in the wall, and made his couch upon a thick, soft rug, at the foot of the stairs. He was a vigilant little creature, with a very shrill bark, which he never failed to indulge in whenever any circumstance occurred to awaken his watchfulness. Mrs. Beaumont's bed-room was at the top of the principal staircase, access to which was obtained from a square landing-place, of only a few feet in dimension. There were other doors on this landing-place, but they all opened into bed-chambers, and were every one locked. When, according to her invariable custom, Mrs. Beaumont had seen that everything was secure, she went to her room, her only companion being a little Dutch dog, the smallest of the canine race, which never left her side. Though diminutive almost beyond conception, the little thing had plenty of courage, and seemed proud of being the guardian of his fair mistress. About an hour, or rather more, after entering her room, Mrs. Beaumont went to bed, and being somewhat tired, soon fell asleep; but her slumber had not been of many minutes' duration before she was suddenly awakened by a rumbling noise, that sounded like distant thunder. At first she ascribed it to that cause, but as it gradually grew louder and louder, and seemed to proceed from the interior of the house, she was compelled to abandon that idea, though she had nothing more reasonable to substitute. Much time was not left her for conjecture; the noise rapidly advanced towards her room, as if a heavy truck, or gun carriage, were being dragged down a long passage, though no passage existed in the upper part of the house. On it came, till, with a tremendous shock, it burst against the bed-room door, with a deep, muffled sound, like a blow given to an enormous gong. At the moment his mistress awoke the little Dutch dog, equally disturbed by the noise, leapt off the foot of the bed where he slept, and began to bark furiously, while the spaniel at the bottom of the staircase howled loudly and continuously, and when all else was still, made the house echo with his cries. It would be untrue to say that Mrs. Beaumont did not feel afraid; the loneliness of her situation, the suddenness of the noise, and its terrific nature, added to the knowledge that access to her part of the house was almost impossible, were enough to excite fear in stouter hearts than hers; nevertheless, she did not lie trembling in bed; but, after ringing the bell violently to rouse the servants, went straight to the door, opened it, and looked steadfastly around. Nothing was visible, though by the light that came through the high staircase window, anything unusual might have been discovered. She threw on a dressing-gown, struck a light, lit a taper, and walked round the landing-place, trying the handles of all the doors, but every one was fastened. She then went down stairs; the spaniel had left off barking, and lay stretched on the rug, in a fit, at the extremity of his chain; the door which he guarded was fast, and the key remained in the lock. Hearing the servants approach, Mrs. Beaumont opened the door, and eagerly questioned them as to the noise. They all declared they had heard nothing. It was in vain that she repeated her inquiry; they distinctly averred, that, till the ringing of her bell had roused them, they were unconscious of any disturbance; but it was with no satisfied expression that they said so, and several meaning glances were exchanged, while some spoke together in whispers. Mrs. Beaumont knew not what to think; she was certain that the sounds which she described were not imaginary. The dogs had borne evidence to the noise, and the condition of one of them afforded proof that something extraordinary had taken place. She could not suspect any trick on the part of the servants, for the only means of communication between their offices and the main building was by the door which she had found locked inside, as it was originally left. She felt persuaded that it could not have been the wind—in the first place, because the night was still, and in the next, from the peculiar character of the noise, had even the weather been stormy. Before she again retired to rest, she herself examined all the rooms on the landing-place, but everything in them was the same as usual—the windows were properly fastened, the furniture and chimney-boards in their places, the beds, with their folded curtains, remained untouched, and no sign or token

existed to indicate that any person had recently been there. Still she was unwilling to ascribe the disturbance to any but a natural cause, and resolved, therefore, as she could not explain it, to say no more about it. As a means of protection, in case the noise should be renewed, she desired one of the girls to pass the remainder of the night on a sofa in her room, and then dismissed the rest. Nothing further, however, occurred, and Mrs. Beaumont slept soundly till the morning.

The next day she thought over the matter, and being desirous not to magnify the fears which she knew were already entertained by the household, said nothing on the subject; and although she felt perfectly convinced that her imagination had not deceived her, she was willing to believe that an explanation might eventually be found in some natural cause. She also refrained from mentioning the subject when she wrote to her husband, partly not to cause him annoyance by giving him reason to suppose that she had been disturbed during his absence, and partly lest he should think the affair altogether too absurd for serious consideration. As the business which had taken him to London was likely to detain him some time longer, Mrs. Beaumont contented herself till his return by making her maid sleep in her room, in a small bed which she had placed near her own. Several weeks passed away without anything occurring to give reason for alarm, and the apprehensions she might have entertained were beginning to fade away, when once more her quiet was disturbed by another visitation.

To be concluded in our next.

SONGS OF THE STARS.

A LOVER'S INVITATION.

Listen, dearest, listen!
 Faëry harps are ringing,
 And the bright stars glisten,
 Star to bright star singing!
 Fragrant flowers are blushing
 O'er each vale and mountain;
 Silver streams are gushing
 Softly from each fountain.

Still and calm the even,
 Sweet the leaflets sighing:
 On the azure heavens
 Fleecy clouds are lying.
 'Tis the hour for roving—
 Starlight in its meekness—
 Gentle one and loving,
 Come and prove its sweetness

Dew is on the roses,
 Balm is on the heather,
 Come, while Day reposes,
 Let us forth together!
 Though the stars are shining
 Where the streams are gushing,
 Heart with heart entwining,
 None shall see thee blushing.

In yon glen's recesses,
 Silent, deep and lonely,
 Shall this heart's caresses
 Thine be, and thine only.
 Listen, dearest, listen!
 Faëry harps are ringing,
 And the bright stars glisten,
 Star to bright star singing!

TRUTH.—Truth, like beauty, varies its fashions, and is best recommended by different dresses to different minds; and he that recalls the attention of mankind to any part of learning which time has left behind it, may be truly said to advance the literature of his own age.

DIVINGS IN DEMONOLOGY.

FYTHE THE FOURTH AND LAST.

OF THE ELVES AND SPIRITS OF ANTIQUITY.

But besides fairies, or elves, which formed the subject of many spectral illusions, a domestic spirit deserves to be mentioned, who was once held in no small degree of reverence. In most northern countries of Europe there were few families that were without a shrewd and knavish sprite, who, in return for the attention or neglect which he experienced, was known to

—“sometimes labour in the quern,
 And bootless make the breathless housewife churn;
 And sometimes make the drink to bear no barn.”

Mr. Douce, in his “Illustrations of Shakspeare,” has shewn that the Samogitæ, a people formerly inhabiting the shores of the Baltic, who remained idolatrous so late as the fifteenth century, had a deity named Putseet, whom they invoked to live with them, by placing in the barn, every night, a table covered with bread, butter, cheese, and ale. If these were taken away, good fortune was to be expected; but if they were left, nothing but bad luck. This spirit is the same as the goblin groom, Puck, or Robin Good-fellow of the English, whose face and hands were either of a russet or green colour, who was attired in a suit of leather, and armed with a flail. For a much lesser fee than was originally given him, he would assist in threshing, churning, grinding malt or mustard, and sweeping the house at midnight.* A similar tall “lubbar fiend,” habited in a brown garb, was known in Scotland. Upon the condition of a little wort being laid by for him, or the occasional sprinkling, upon a sacrificial stone, of a small quantity of milk, he would ensure the success of many domestic operations. According to Olaus Magnus, the northern nations regarded domestic spirits of this description as the souls of men who had given themselves up during life to illicit pleasures, and were doomed, as a punishment, to wander about the earth, for a certain time, in the peculiar shape which they assumed, and to be bound to mortals in a sort of servitude. It is natural, therefore, to expect, that these familiar spirits would be the subjects of many apparitions, of which a few relations are given in Martin's Account of the Second Sight in Scotland. “A spirit,” says this writer, “called Brownie, was frequently seen in all the most considerable families in the isles and the north of Scotland, in the shape of a tall man; but, within these twenty or thirty years, he is seen but rarely.”

It is useless to pursue this subject much farther; in the course of a few centuries, the realms of the spirit-world were increased to almost an immeasurable extent; the consequence was, that the air, the rocks, the seas, the rivers, nay, every lake, pool, brook, or spring, were so filled with spirits, both good and evil, that of each province it might be said, in the words of the Roman satirist, “*Nosiba regio tam plena est numinibus, ut facilius possis deum quam hominem invenire.*” Hence the modification which took place of systems of demonology, so as to admit of the classification of all descriptions of devils, whether Teutonic, Celtic, or Eastern systems of mythology. “Our schoolmen and other divines,” says Burton in his “Anatomy of Melancholy,” “make nine kinds of bad devils, as Dionysius bath of angels. In the first rank, are those false gods of the Gentiles, which were adored heretofore in several idols, and gave oracles at Delphos and elsewhere, whose prince is Belzebub. The second rank is of equivocators, as Apollo, Pythias, and the like. The third are those vessels of anger, inventors of all mischief, as that of Theutus in Plato. Essay calls them vessels of fury; their prince is Belial. The fourth are malicious, revengeful devils, and their prince is Asmodeus. The fifth kind are coseners, such as belong to magicians and

* “He would chafe exceedingly,” says Scot, “if the maid or good wife of the house, having compassion of his nakedness, laid any cloths for him besides his messe of white bread and milke, which was his standing fee. For in that case he saith, what have we here? Hempton bauten, here will I never more tread nor stampe.”

witches; their prince is Satan. The sixth are those aerial devils that corrupt the air, and cause plagues, thunders, fires, &c., spoken of in Apocalypse and Paule; the Ephesians name them the prince of the air; Meresin is their prince. The seventh is a destroyer, captain of the furies, causing wars, tumults, combustions, uproars, mentioned in the Apocalypse, and called Abaddon. The eighth is that accusing or calumniating devil, that drives us to despair. The ninth are those tempters in several kinds, and their prince is Mammon."

But this arrangement was not comprehensive enough; for, as Burton adds, "no place was void, but all full of spirits, devils, or other inhabitants; not so much as an haire breadth was empty in heaven, earth, or waters, above or under the earth; the earth was not so full of flies in summer as it was at all times of invisible devils." Pneumatologists, therefore, made two grand distinctions of demons; there were celestial demons, who inhabited the regions higher than the moon; while those of an inferior rank, as the Manes or Lemures, were either nearer the earth or grovelled on the ground. Psellus, however, "a great observer of the nature of devils," seems to have thought, that such a classification destroyed all distinction between good and evil spirits; he, therefore, denied that the latter ever ascended the regions above the moon, and contending for this principle, founded a system of demonology, which had for its basis the natural history and habitations of all demons. He named his first class fiery devils. They wandered in the region near the moon, but were restrained from entering into that luminary; they displayed their power in blazing stars, in fire-drakes, in counterfeit suns and moons, and in the *corpo santo*, or meteoric lights, which, in vessels at sea, flit from mast to mast, and forebode foul weather. It was supposed that these demons occasionally resided in the furnaces of Hecla, Etna, or Vesuvius. The second class consisted of aerial devils. They inhabited the atmosphere, causing tempests, thunder, and lightning; rending asunder oaks, firing steeples and houses, smiting men and beasts, showering down from the skies, stones,* wool, and even frogs; counterfeiting in the clouds the battles of armies, raising whirlwinds, fires, and corrupting the air, so as to induce plagues. The third class was terrestrial devils, such as lares, genii, fawns, satyrs, wood nymphs, foliots, Robin Good-fellows, or trulli. The fourth class were aqueous devils; as the various description of water-nymph, or mermen, or of merwomen. The fifth were subterranean devils, better known by the name *daemones italicæ*, metal-men, Gétuli or Kobolds. They preserved treasure in the earth, and prevented it from being suddenly revealed; they were also the cause of horrible earthquakes. Psellus's sixth class of devils were named *lucifugi*; they delighted in darkness; they entered into the bowels of men, and tormented those whom they possessed, with phrenzy and the falling sickness. By this power they were distinguished from earthly and aerial devils; they could only enter into the human mind, which they either deceived or provoked with unlawful affections.

Not were speculations wanting with regard to the common nature of these demons. Psellus conceived that their bodies did not consist merely of one element, although he was far from denying that this might have been the case before the fall of Lucifer. It was his opinion that devils possessed corporeal frames capable of sensation; that they could both feel and be felt; they could injure and be hurt; that they lamented when they were beaten, and that if struck into the fire, they even left behind them ashes—a fact which was demonstrated in a very satisfactory experiment made by some philosophers upon the borders of Italy; that they were nourished with food peculiar to themselves, not receiving the aliment through the gullet, but absorbing it from the exterior surface of their bodies, after the manner of a sponge; that they did not hurt cattle from malevolence, but from mere love of the natural and temperate heat and moisture of these animals; that they

* Bellus speaks with contempt of this petty instance of malevolence to the human race; "Stones are thrown down from the air," he remarks, "which do no harm, the devils having little strength, and being mere scarecrows." So much for the origin of meteoric stones.

disliked the heat of the sun, because it dried too fast; and, lastly, that they attained a great age. Thus, Cardan had a fiend bound to him twenty-eight years, who was forty-two years old, and yet considered very young. He was informed, from this very authentic source of intelligence, that devils lived from two to three hundred years, and that their souls died with their bodies. The very philosophical statement was, nevertheless, combated by other observers. "Manie," says Scot, "affirmed that spirits were of aire, because they had been cut in sunder and closed presentlie againe, and also because they vanished away so suddenlie."

THE ASTROLOGER'S STUDY;

Being Predictions of the Chief Events from Week to Week.



JUPITER enters *Taurus*, Ireland's ruling sign, on the 2nd day of the month, and at noon Saturn and Mars are found in conjunction in *Aquarius*. This will tend to produce a violent tempest abroad, and lead to much quarrelling and turbulence in Ireland. Electrical disturbances of the earth's surface are also indicated about the district of Asia Minor and Persia. At the lunation on the 5th, the twenty-eighth degree of *Pisces* is on the line of the eastern horizon, with the planet *Herschel* in *Aries* ascending in the first house, aspected by the evil Saturn and Mars in the twelfth. This leads the Seer to conclude much mischief will arise to our maritime interests by accidents with vessels and otherwise. Russia, too, will be found a dangerous and crafty antagonist. A civic magistrate will be disgraced, and some inquiry will be instituted into a gambling transaction, in which a nobleman is curiously implicated. Accidents by explosions will occur, and horned cattle will be seriously affected, causing much distress, and heavy losses to farmers. An affair of gallantry is also indicated towards the close of the week, which promises to afford lucrative employment to gentlemen of the long robe. The next arrival of the Overland Mail will convey intelligence of the deepest interest.

THE ASTROLOGER'S CALENDAR.

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

WEDNESDAY, June 4th.—Rainy, dull weather. Prosperous for money matters. Ask favours.

THURSDAY, June 5th.—Fair at intervals. Travel, and seek new acquaintances.

FRIDAY, June 6th.—Fair and mild. Speculate, particularly in railways and iron.

SATURDAY, June 7th.—Fair, but cooler. Troublesome for collecting accounts and pecuniary business.

SUNDAY, June 8th.—Windy and fair. Woo and marry. Visit thy relations.

MONDAY, June 9th.—Fair and warm. Good for most things, but beware of speculation.

TUESDAY, June 10th.—Fair. Begin no new matter of importance, for it would fail.

FRAGMENTS FOR THE FANCIFUL.

ASTROLOGY, the oldest of the sciences, is invested with a double authority, namely, the traditions on which man relied before the invention of hieroglyphical or written language, and the confirmations that have accrued from his own observations. But to set aside antiquity, and adopting the mode of investigation sanctioned by MODERN PHILOSOPHY in the schools and lecture-rooms of the nineteenth century, a train of reasoning occurs founded upon the phenomena of the universe, and the circumstances under which we "live and move, and have our being," which, by rational analogy, goes far to prove the dominion of the stars.

THE EVIL EYE.—I was strolling before the house when I suddenly came upon the most lovely child I had ever beheld. He was about five years old, with large black eagle eyes. Having called him to me, I was proceeding to caress him, when his mother, who was by, ran up shrieking and, seizing the child, carried him off, filling the air with lamentations. It appeared she was afraid of my having the evil eye, which superstition prevails to even a greater extent in Circassia than in Italy. The inhabitants, too, of the former country, like those of the latter, constantly wear amulets about their persons.—*Colburn's Magazine*.

THE ADVANTAGES OF FORE-KNOWLEDGE.—If the laws of nature, on the one hand, are invincible opponents, on the other they are irresistible auxiliaries; and it will not be amiss if we regard them in each of these characters, and consider the great importance of them to mankind. 1. In showing us how to avoid attempting impossibilities. 2. In securing us from important mistakes in attempting what is in itself possible, by means either inadequate, or actually opposed to the ends in view. 3. In enabling us to accomplish our ends in the easiest, shortest, most economical, and most effectual manner. 4. In inducing us to attempt, and enabling us to accomplish objects, which, but for such knowledge, we should never have thought of undertaking.—*Herschel*.

IMAGINATION—They who call themselves practised philosophers, and talk with contempt of the pleasures of imagination, are strangely ignorant of our nature. The precious portion of our enjoyments, the past and the future, are but dreams. Even the present is rife with doubt, mystery, and delusion, and the few dull objects that remain uncoloured with the hues of imagination are scarcely worthy of a thought. All men complain of the shortness of life; but a cold and dry philosophy would make it shorter still. It would confine its limits to the passing moment, that dies even in its birth. For it is only in such a pitiful span that the little which is really literal in life can at all exist. That moment's predecessor is dead, its successor is unborn, and all that is actual or material in its own existence is as a drop in the ocean, or as a grain of sand on the sea shore.

NOMENCLATURE OF THE WEEK—The planets, doubtless, attracted the notice of men while they were becoming acquainted with the fixed stars. Venus, owing to her brightness, and her accompanying the sun at no great distance, and so appearing as the morning and evening star, was conspicuous; Pythagoras is said to have been the first who maintained that the evening and morning star are the same body. Jupiter and Mars, sometimes brighter than Venus, were also very observable; Saturn and Mercury, less so, would, in a clear climate, still be detected, with their motions, by persons who studied the aspect of the heavens. To reduce to rules the movements of these luminaries, must have taken time and thought; a remarkable evidence of their antiquity is to be found in the structure of one of our most familiar objects of time, the week, which comes down to us, according to Jewish scriptures, from the commencement of the existence of mankind on earth. The same usage is found all over the East; it existed among the Assyrians, Egyptians, and Arabians. The week is found in India among the Brahmins; it has there also its day marked by those of the heavenly bodies. The idea which led to the usual designations of the days of the week is not easily discovered; the order in which the names are assigned, beginning

with Saturday, is Saturn the Sun, the Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, and Venus. Various accounts are given of the manner in which the above order was derived from a previous one; all the methods proceeded on arithmetical processes connected with astrological views. Laplace considers the week as the most ancient monument of astronomical knowledge. This period has gone on without interruption from the earliest recorded times to our own days, surviving the extent of ages and the revolutions of empires.

METEORS OF THE 10TH OF AUGUST, 1844.—Night clear. I watched the meteors to-night till near daybreak; they began to be visible at half-past 8 o'clock, and continued without intermission all night, though most plentiful between 10 and 12 o'clock. Their number was most prodigious, amounting to an average of ninety-six per hour, of which I determined about seventy per hour to have a decided point of convergence somewhere about *Antares* and *Scorpio*, a circumstance which I think almost as puzzling as their periodic appearance. They were of various colours, and generally left long white trains behind them in their track, but not such large and lasting trains as those left by the meteors of the 10th of August, 1811.—*Phil. Mag., No. 116*.

THE STARS.—A very remarkable discovery has been made by M. Bessel, of Königsberg, which opens out new views of the constitution of the Sidereal Universe. By a long and laborious examination of the places of Sirius and Procyon, as deduced from the observations of different astronomers since the year 1755 (the epoch of Bradley's observations), including his own, carried on at the Königsberg Observatory, he has come to the conclusion that the proper motions of these two stars are not uniform, but deviate from that law—the former in right ascension, and the latter in declination, in a very sensible degree. Astronomers will at once perceive the importance of this conclusion, which proves that the stars describe orbits in space, under the influence of dynamical laws and central forces. Reasoning on the observed character of the deviations which he has established, M. Bessel comes to the singular and surprising conclusion, that the apparent motions of these two stars are such as might be caused by their revolutions about attractive, but non-luminous central bodies, not very remote from them respectively; that, in short, they form systems analogous to those of the lunar double stars, but with this peculiarity—that they have dark, instead of bright partners, to which they, of course, perform the friendly office of revolving suns!—*Athenæum*.



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

TO OUR QUERISTS.—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.

INQUISITO.—The effect of the opposition of \mathcal{M} will soon show itself in official losses, though the speedy reparation will obviate serious results. The planet Herschel was only discovered in 1781, and was consequently unknown to the ancients. His influences are of a strange and extraordinary kind, causing persons born under him to be romantic and unsettled in their dispositions, but being only a small orb, and at an immense distance from the earth, his evil effects are neither so powerful as those of Mars nor so protracted as those of Saturn. In horary astrology we have found him indicate surprises and sudden changes. The asteroids have but an inconsiderable influence.

E. SPOONER.—There is a society of the kind existing; but no members are admitted under forty years of age, and then only under peculiar circumstances, which, bound by the oaths of secrecy, we are not permitted to divulge. The questions asked cannot be answered, from the want of the true time of birth. The Communists we respect and admire for the tendency of their doctrines.

BACHHOFFNER.—It is now clearly understood that all bodies traversed by electricity are magnets, and that the natural loadstone or magnet—so-called from Magnesia, where it is found—has such currents of electricity circulating in it. Here, then, is the first proof of the real existence of a Mesmeric or magnetic influence pervading all nature, for electricity is everywhere, and we thus see the philosophical basis of truth on which astrology rests. The planets generate electricity of various kinds; this influences man, and so the whole cycle of the universe has one unseen, but still connecting link.

FAUSTUS.—We have carefully looked over the nativity enclosed, and find from the positions of the Moon in Capricorn, and Mercury in Sagittary, that the native is of an ingenious turn of mind and calculated to succeed in the mechanical and mathematical sciences. He will prosper well after the twentieth year.

T. TRUMPER.—You will succeed if you avoid the machinations of those evilly-disposed persons who are now interested in your downfall.

X. Y. Z.—We perceive unequivocal indications of coming prosperity to our querist, which he will know likewise before the month of June is over. A mercantile situation is likely to be offered to his notice soon after.

C. H. W.—The direction will fall about your 27th year, when a tall and rather dark woman, of little mental capacity, and of very indifferent temper, will become your future partner.

G. H.—Success will depend upon the industry and perseverance which you show in its pursuit. There is nothing otherwise to interfere with your advancement.

AROUS.—The interview you had on the 6th instant was what we before alluded to; and, had it not been for the evil effects of the transit of Mercury, would have resulted in the certainty of employment. There is another fortunate hour for you not likely to be so unpropitious in its influences, viz., 12 at noon on June the 15th, when an opportunity will occur to your advantage if you slight it not, and by the 24th of the same month you should, according to our calculations, be comfortably installed.

EDITHA BLENHEIM.—It will be advisable for you to seek south of the Thames.

JOHN WEAVER.—It is unlikely that the property alluded to will ever be yours, some indications leading us to conclude that it has been unfairly dealt with. The suspicion you entertain with reference to it is, however, totally unfounded.

J. B.—Some time will elapse before your lover's hopes are realised; but he should write himself.

ANXIOUS.—The elder female is the one indicated, as was mentioned in a former number; we can add nothing to that answer.

ALONZO.—The planet Mars. A mingled course of lucky and unlucky events will attend thee through life. Marriage will take place in the 22nd year.

W. GRUNWELL.—We thank our correspondent for the extract forwarded, though we consider it beneath our notice. The configuration alluded to would have a slightly beneficial aspect.

Mrs. M. D.—It is likely you will ever see the party alluded to in the letter, as many impediments will arise.

T. H. X.—We are glad and ready to render assistance to the unfortunate, and most to those who require it most. If you avail yourself of an opportunity that will offer itself in a few days, you will not regret the application. Be diligent and vigilant.

MARY JANE.—The necessary groundwork for a nativity could alone decide.

H. S. A.—No, you will not, but you will reap a material benefit from the change.

VENI, VIDI, VICI.—Our publication will be out before a final decision is made; but from the indications visible in the figure before us, we augur in the affirmative.

AMPHIMEDON.—The marriage, if it takes place at all, will be long postponed.

TAURUS.—We are glad to find that even the hitherto incredulous are becoming converts to the doctrines of truth, and the instance he refers to is but one amongst many. In our sixth number, for March 22, we gave a scheme of the heavens for the vernal quarter, erected for the time when Sol entered Aries. We there stated, according to a rule laid down by Claudius Ptolemy, that, from the position of the volatile planet, Mercury, a *cold wet spring* would ensue. What has been the result? Let the two months' experience of our readers show. The connexion of cause and effect is here fully established.

S. WALL.—The native will be best adapted for a life of travel and enterprise, and in that will best succeed. His prospects are exceedingly good, and there is a direction in his 25th year which promises very favourable for his advancement.

JOHN [Dublin].—You have a fair prospect of shortly increasing your resources, and, notwithstanding the troubles and gloom of the past, may look with a hopeful glance to the coming sunshine of the future.

C. W.—We much regret that our able correspondent's excellent treatise on the mystical and allegorical nature of words and ideas should be too long for our columns, but we must see what can be achieved by condensation.

EMMA BEATRICE.—You have had a great number of evil influences to contend with; but that strength of mind with which you are endowed, and which has enabled you to overcome the perils of the past, will still befriend you and irradiate the future. There is a speedy change indicated, which, though at first seeming injurious, will tend to hasten and establish your ultimate advancement in life. Suffer no opportunity to escape of making friends—a task not difficult for you—and consider your 27th year as one in which a train of beneficial directions fall. For the rest consult our "ORACLE" from time to time. The back numbers are left at our office to be called for.

T. W.—Continue your present employment with zeal and discretion, and in the autumn you will have reason to rejoice at your determination. The second person will come to London in a year, and permanently settle, and it is not improbable that a similar train of circumstances will affect you. The third we will consider.

LEO (Mancheste).—An arrangement will be entered into, but such will be only a matter of temporary convenience, for the business will be disposed of before next summer. You have nothing to fear from the conjunction, though it may affect your friends prejudicially. The other query has been destroyed.

A SUBSCRIBER.—It will be better this year than the last.

J. S. GRANT.—There is no evil direction now which should prevent your success, though you have suffered materially from bad advice. To retrieve your losses it will be necessary to seize the first opportunity you see of benefiting yourself, and vigorously determine to make it tend to your advantage. This you will have an opportunity of doing in the close of next month.

HENRY GLYNN.—We do not consider you will wed the party that you now expect will be your bride, for there is an indication in the figure of another attachment—the revival of one apparently which has been felt before. You ought to know this without seeking our aid.

T. WILSON.—You have seen so many vicissitudes yourself, and have beheld so many changes of fortune occur to others, that it is with no feeling of surprise we behold you wavering in the course next to be adopted. However, you may enter this speculation safely, for by so doing you would not only add to your own comforts, but to those of others also. Discretion must govern your actions; but the society into which this mode of life will throw you will be the source whence your future emoluments will flow.

GEMINI K.—N.—Your business will be improved, but your health will suffer slightly in the autumn. We cannot spare time for the other calculation.

MEDICUS.—According to the horary figure the suit will not terminate in your favour.

ASTRAL.—We hail the accession of such a correspondent to our columns with pleasure, and shall be happy to receive the proposed communication. "The existence of sympathies between individuals, whose faces are unknown to each other, and whose tones have never sounded in the hearing of either," is one of the most true and sublime creeds ever promulgated. It is a key to our dearest and holiest mysteries, and the instance he gives us is one which cannot—must not—be slighted. The queries, which will take some time to solve, shall be answered if the hour and day of birth is forwarded to assist us in arriving at a just conclusion.

VIATOR.—Pure spring water is, unquestionably, sufficient for the sustenance of man in the prime of youth and vigour. It is the blood of the earth—the source of all our vital currents—the element which enters and sustains the whole vegetable world. By it the ancient philosophers and astrologers waxed old and skilful, and it was the *agua tetrachymagoga* of the Rosicrucians or purifier of the system. Hydropathy is but a revival, not a novelty.

RECEIVED.—**LAURA** (You will marry early in life, and be prosperous).—**F. M. B.** (The absent party is still faithful, we can say no more).—**S. G. H. J.** (You have forgotten the year).—**M. J. HEALE** (You will remain).—**JANE KATE** (You will return to your native place, and there marry).—**JOSEPH DANIEL** (Your relations are still living).—**HANNAH MATILDA** (You must ask a specific question).—**M. J.** (You will not be connected with him again).—**M. HALL** (You will have a surprise soon).—**H. S. H.** (You will not).—**SACHIEL** (Such an undertaking would be prosperous if conducted with zeal).—**JOVE** (In a few days).—**H. WOODCOCK** (The party desired will form another alliance).—**THOMAS WOODS** (With our present pressure of correspondence, you entail too great a task upon us).—**EMILY H.** (The hour of birth is necessary).—

24 WITH ♀ (There is no change promised. We will endeavour to comply with your request).—**MATILDA C.** (Let him advertise for one in his own business).—**E. E. BAKER** (Your friend is not married yet, but soon will be).—**H. ELLIOTT** (The one that is distant).—**ANNIE HAYWOOD** (You are not destined to travel, but a letter you will soon receive will make some change in your circumstances. For the rest await your twenty-fourth year).—**G. B. Y.** (In December next).—**H. B.** (The husband will not return until the spring of next year).—**T. T. T.** (Your wife is likely to recover in a month, provided she visits a relation in another part of the country. There is a good prospect for you in August).—**LAURA** (No, you will not).—**E. S. G.** (The property will not be found).—**P. W.** (You are quite right; it was intended for you, but a typographical error was the cause).—**AN UNFORTUNATE WOMAN** (We are afraid you will fail in both cases).—**E. DE B.** (A male friend, who will speedily extricate you).—**P. C.** (You will find your wedding postponed from time to time, but November will bring a change, and in the following spring all will be settled).—**THOMAS** (Yes, if you unite prudence with perseverance).—**PASSAMGAM** (The question was answered in an early number).—**FLORA HALL** (The love is not unreturned, but a few weeks will reveal all).—**SON OF LEO** (The affair will not be permanently prosperous, and that union will not be solemnized).—**E. H.** (Fear not; the bird will return, and seek his mistress with more fondness than before. He has but plumed his feathers for a longer flight—into the realms of conjugal bliss).—**T. E. G.** (It will be nearly two years before a matrimonial engagement takes place, and then it will be with a dark girl, with bright flashing eyes, of a good and amiable disposition. Does the present party answer to this description?)—**SARAH THE PERSECUTED** (She will find the twenty-fourth year fix her position in life, and in the future ones more prosperity may be expected than befel her mother at that time).—**H. S. B.** (If you will send the hour of birth we can decide better, but the horary indications are in your favour, and seem to point out such a connection as advantageous).—**J. B.** (Your success at Leeds will be moderate).—**H. W. C.** (It will be both happy and prosperous, and it will not take place in September, nevertheless).—**E. K. E.** (He will be in service).—**M. B. R.** (The same).—**C. H.** (A gardener).—**S. H.** (You will meet with a friend in a few weeks, who will be of great service to you).—**ALICE HAMILTON** (In intensity of feeling you have the advantage, but he still loves you truly and sincerely. The consent is likely to be attained in the autumn, but it will be attended with great difficulty).—**BERTHA** (By advertisement; see Calendar).—**O. N. E.** (She loves you, and you will marry her).—**ALBERT** (Who cast your nativity?)—**ALEX. MALCOLM** (You will never attain to any great eminence in the pursuit, but if followed it will lead to your advancement. The lady is likely to form another attachment).—**E. H.** (Hour of birth wanted).—**L. L. L.** (No, to both questions).—**SUSANNAH B.** (You have been answered before).—**M. A. T.** (Next year will decide in the affirmative).—**M. T.** (No).—**W. R. J.** (You will have a change in your circumstances, but not by marriage).—Other anxious querists must consult our next Oracle, and they will receive their answers. All subscribers should now give their orders for the back numbers, which are all in print, and may be obtained of any newsvendor.

Parts I., II., and III. of "The Astrologer" are now ready, in a handsomely embellished Wrapper, with numerous Illustrations, price Sixpence; and may be obtained through every Bookseller in town and country.

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