

BUCHANAN'S

JOURNAL OF MAN.

VOL. III. NO. 5.—NOVEMBER, 1851.

[From Chambers' Edinburgh Journal.]

THE OD FORCE.

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It is nearly a century ago since Mesmer began his remarkable career, and six-and-thirty years have passed since he descended unhonored to the grave. But when ridiculed and defamed by the would-be wise ones of his day, he is said to have retorted by declaring that ere 1852 the world would be convinced of the genuineness of his pretensions. That epoch is now at hand, and lo! the prophecy is coming true. Within the last few months there has been a stirring in men's minds. Not a year ago, mesmerism was still laughed at by the vulgar, and scouted by men of science; and the few who in heart gave heed to it, were careful how they let the quizzing public into their secret. Now all this is changed; since winter commenced, a revolution has been all but accomplished. Poor Mesmer is no longer vilified as a charlatan; he is about to win his long-deferred laurels.

A new truth, it has been well said, has to encounter three normal stages of opposition: In the first, it is denounced as an imposture; in the second—that is, when it is beginning to force itself into notice—it is cursorily examined, and plausibly explained away; in the third, or *cui bono?* stage, it is decried as useless, and hostile to religion. And when at length it is fully admitted, it passes only under a protest that it has been perfectly known for ages! As mesmerism has now reached at all events the third stage of belief, it may prove not uninteresting to glance at its present aspect.

Mesmer declared that he had discovered a cosmical (or world-wide) power, by means of which he could induce sundry startling phenomena in his patients; but his whole system was regarded as a piece of daring charlatanism, until lately a laborious and inquisitive German stumbled upon a something somewhat similar. Von Reich-

enbach, in the course of his researches, became aware of a certain power, undreamed of by modern physiologists, pervading both living beings and inert matter, to which he gave the arbitrary name of *Od*. Whatever this was, it could be both seen and felt, though only persons of a certain (relaxed or irritable) temperament were capable of perceiving it. In the dark, such persons saw dim flames of light issuing and waving from the poles of a magnet; and if a hand were held up, the same luminous appearance was visible at the finger-tips. When Reichenbach, to test the reality of this, had a powerful lens so placed that it should concentrate the light of the flames (if flames there were) upon a point of the wall of the room, the patient at once saw the light upon the wall at the right place; and when the inclination of the lens was shifted, so as to throw the focus successively on different points, the sensitive observer never failed in pointing out the right spot. Reichenbach also found that when slow passes were made with a strong magnet along the surface of the body, his subjects experienced sensations rather unpleasant than otherwise, as of a light draught of air blown upon them in the path of the magnet. When the northward pole of a magnet was employed, the sensation was that of a cool draught; while the southward pole, on the contrary, excited the sensation of a warm one. He soon discovered that the whole body possessed these *Od* qualities, and that the one side of a person was *polar* to the other; that is to say, one's right side bears the same relation to his left as the negative and positive sides of a horse-shoe magnet; so that when two persons take hold of each other's hands *normally* (left to right, and right to left), the *Od* current passes through both persons unobstructedly, but sometimes attended by uneasy sensations. But by changing hands the circle is broken, and the opposite currents meet: so that if the two persons be equal in *odalic* power, no effect is produced, the rival currents mutually repelling each other: but if unequal, a sense of inward conflict ensues, which quickly becomes intolerable. We have ourselves experienced this.

'But what does all this testimony to the reality of the *Od* force amount to?' says the sceptic. 'The subjectivity of your evidence renders it worthless. All that you can say is, that you and a few others see and feel so-and-so, and as we, and the great majority of men, see and feel nothing of the kind, we must just set you down as very fanciful persons, who are the dupes of your own imaginations.' This, in truth, is a very damaging line of argument, and, coupled with the charge of collusion brought against all platform exhibitions of mesmerism, was deemed sufficient to shelve it altogether. The only obvious way of overcoming this argument was by exhibiting so many severely-tested cases as gradually to overwhelm scepticism, by making it more astonishing that so many honest and sensible men should be deceived by

impostors, or duped by their fancy, than that the marvels which they avouched should be true

Fortunately a more speedy and satisfactory remedy for scepticism has at length been found. An objective proof of mesmerism has just been discovered ; and it is so simple in its nature that any one can try it for himself. Dr. Herbert Mayo, well known both in the literary and medical world, has of late been residing as an invalid at Boppard on the Rhine ; and anxious to while away the long tedious nights of winter, he resolved to engage in the study of the higher mathematics, and with this view sent for Herr Caspari, professor of that science in the gymnasium at Boppard. It was on the last night of December last, that the German professor entered the room of his invalid pupil, and after the hour's lesson was over, they entered into desultory conversation. 'I am told you have written something on the divining-rod,' said Herr Caspari, 'and as I have two or three experiments possibly akin to it, I thought it might not be uninteresting for you to see them.' He added that, so far as he knew, they were original, and that, though he had shown them to many, he had never yet received any explanation of them. He then attached a gold ring to a silk thread, wound one end of the thread round the first joint of his fore-finger, and held the ring suspended above a silver spoon. After a few seconds' quiescence, lo and behold ! the ring began to oscillate backward and forward, or to and from Herr Caspari. At the suggestion of the operator, the maid was then summoned, and directed to place her hand in his unengaged one ; and forthwith the oscillations of the ring became *transverse* ! Herr Caspari next took a pea-like bit of something, which he called *schwefel-kies*, and which he said exhibited another motion : when held suspended over either of the fingers, it rotated one way ; when held suspended over the thumb, it rotated in the contrary direction. The professor then took his departure, promising to return on the morrow to assist in any explanatory experiments which his pupil might think fit to make.

Before detailing these, let us explain his terms. Any article of any shape suspended either by silk or cotton thread, the other end of which is wound round the nail joint of the forefinger or thumb, he calls an *odometer*. The thread must be long enough to allow the ring, or whatever it is, to reach to about half an inch from the table, upon which you rest your elbow, to steady your hand. As soon as the ring becomes stationary, place under it on the table what substances you please—these he calls *Od-subjects*. A good arming for the odometer is gold, or a better still, a small cone of shell-lac about an inch long ; the best od-subjects are gold, silver, and one's forefinger. All od-subjects do not act equally well ; with each odometer : for instance, 'an odometer of dry wood remains stationary over gold, while it moves with great vivacity over glass ; and over rock-crystal shell-lac acts very feebly, while a glass odometer oscillates brilliantly. We

may add that, in our own experience, the *transverse* oscillations are never so strong as the longitudinal; doubtless because the former act against the attraction of the body, while the latter act with it. The following are a few of Dr. Mayo's experiments:

1. Odometer (we will suppose armed with a shell-lac,) held over three sovereigns heaped loosely together to form the od-subject; the odometer suspended from the fore-finger of a person of either sex. *Result*---Longitudinal oscillations.

2. Let the experimenter, continuing experiment 1, take with his or her unengaged hand the hand of a person of the opposite sex. *Result*---Transverse oscillations of the odometer.

3. Then the experiment being continued, let a person of the sex of the experimenter take and hold the unengaged hand of the second party. *Result*---Longitudinal oscillations of the odometer.

4. Repeat experiment 1, and the longitudinal oscillations being established, touch the forefinger which is engaged in the odometer with the forefinger of your other hand. *Result*---The oscillations become transverse.

5. Repeat experiment 1, and the longitudinal oscillations being established, bring the thumb of the same hand into contact with the finger implicated in the odometer. *Result*---The oscillations become transverse.

6. Then continuing experiment 5, let a person of the same sex take and hold your unengaged hand. *Result*---The oscillations become again longitudinal.

7. Experiment 1 being repeated, take and hold in your disengaged hand two or three sovereigns. *Result*---The oscillations become transverse.

8. Continuing experiment 7, let a person of the same sex take and hold your hand which holds the sovereigns. *Result*---The oscillations become longitudinal."

The following experiments, with results exactly parallel to the preceding, possess the greatest physiological interest:—

"20. Hold the odometer over the tip of the forefinger of your disengaged hand. *Result*---Rotatory motion in the direction of the hands of a watch.

21. Hold the odometer over the thumb of your disengaged hand. *Result*---Rotatory motion against that of the hands of a watch.

22. Hold up the forefinger and thumb of the disengaged hand, their points being at two and a half inches apart. Hold the odometer in the centre of a line which would join the points of the finger and thumb. *Result*---Oscillations transverse to the line indicated."

The development thus given of the few isolated and long-boarded experiments of Herr Caspari was by no means so simple an affair as it may seem to be. For several days Dr. Mayo was in doubt as to the genuineness of the results, so capricious



and contradictory were they; and it was only when he discovered that approaching the thumb close to the other fingers of the odometer hand had the same effect as bringing it into contact with the odometer finger, that he succeeded in obtaining unvarying results.

"The interest of these experiments," says Dr. Mayo, "is unquestionably very considerable. They open a new vein of research, and establish a new bond of connection between physical and physiological science, which cannot fail to promote the advancement of both. They contribute a mass of objective and physical evidence to give support and substantiality to the subjective results of Von Reichenbach's experiments. They tend to prove the existence of some universal force, such as that to which he has given theoretical shape and form, under the designation of Od. And such a universal force, what other can we deem it to be than the long-villipended influence of Mesmer, rendered bright, and transparent, and palatable, by passing through the filter of science?"

For his other experiments, especially those with the odometer and magnetic needle, as well as for a list of some other substances suitable for experimenting with, we must refer to the book itself. Our readers will find the odometer treated of in a supplementary chapter (the twelfth) to the new edition, just published, of Dr. Mayo's "Letters on the Truths contained in Popular Superstitions"—a work of the most absorbing interest, in which a number of astonishing material and mental phenomena are systematically treated, and the latest discoveries of science are made to shed light on the old horrible legends of Vampirism, on True Ghosts, on the mysteries of Trance and Somnambulism, and lastly, on Mesmerism, and the higher trance-phenomena of prevision and clairvoyance. It is no secret that Sir William Hamilton and Sir David Brewster (two of our most distinguished men of science) are now converts to the new doctrines, so that there is now no risk of these not obtaining the fullest investigation; and of the few good books at present published on this subject, we know of none so curious, so full, and so dispassionate, as this of Dr. Mayo's. We cannot at present enter on so wide a field of inquiry as his little volume opens up: we must content ourselves with a few further remarks on his latest discovery—the odometer.

In concert with a fellow-dabbler in the black arts, we first repeated Dr. Mayo's experiments, and then began examining for ourselves. Knowing that when a person wishes to consult a clairvoyant at a distance, he supposes he can do so without being brought into personal contact with the clairvoyant, by simply sending a lock of hair, a handkerchief, or anything that has been long worn about the person, it was natural to suspect that these articles might be impregnated with the peculiar Od of the sender.

At anyrate, we found that if we suspended a gold ring by a woman's hair, a transverse motion ensued, as if a female had been actually brought into contact with us. In like manner, if a woman were using the odometer, by making a man's hair part of the suspending cord, a change immediately ensued in the oscillations, as if a man had laid his hand upon hers. All we can as yet say further is, that the odometer oscillated with more than usual vivacity when suspended over the spinal cord of a boy; while over a well-developed female head, a similar action took place—with this difference, that it was the *transverse* oscillations that were most energetic. We propose for ourselves, and particularly recommend to others who are better fitted for such inquiries, a course of experiments with the brain and eye of men and animals. Von Reichenbach thinks he has now identified his Od force with diamagnetism: and the electrometer has already shown that muscular action is produced by a kindred agency.\* The brain, itself, indeed, has been likened to an electric machine, and in part the parallelism is correct; for there is a waste of brain in thinking, and a waste of zinc when electricity is evolved.

The experiments with the hair remarkably corroborate Dr. Mayo's (No. 2), in establishing the *sexual* difference of Od; and we doubt not some more delicate odometer will soon be discovered, by means of which the *individual* varieties of Od will become distinguishable. That such varieties exist is already known. It has often been remarked that people mesmerically entranced are differently, sometimes most disagreeably, affected by the different persons who then approach them. A gentleman had a brother in delicate health, and exquisitely sensitive to Od, whom he used to mesmerize himself; for of several who had been tried, there was but one other person whose hand (in mesmerizing) the brother could bear at all. This was a maid-servant, who was herself highly susceptible; and she said that she perceived, when entranced, the suitableness of her influence, and that of the brother, to the patient—using the singular expression that they were *nearly of the same color*. She said that the patient's od-emanation was of a pink-color, and that of the brother's was a brick-color—a flatter, deeper red; and she endeavored

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\*An anatomical inquirer asserts, that the muscles of the human body are evidently capable of exerting (or rather transmitting) an enormously greater force than we ordinarily see them do: all that is requisite to attain this being a greater evolution of electricity by the brain; or, in other words, a greater intensity of volition. The astonishing influence of the volitive process in producing strength, is evident from the prodigious muscular power occasionally exhibited by persons when inordinately excited by passion—still more remarkably, from the supernatural strength of fever-frenzy or of maniacs. It is worthy of notice, also, that the gigantic strength of Sampson came by *accesses*, or impulses. We may add in connection with this subject, that a person has just patented a new motive power, which acts by passing electricity along a fibrous substance—that is to say, just as our muscular system does.

to find some one else with the same colored Od to suit her master. "In some experiments made at Dr. Leighton's house in Gower street," says Dr. Mayo, "I remember it was distinctly proved that each of the experimenters produced different effects on the same person. The patient was one of the Okeys, of mesmeric celebrity; and the party consisted of Dr. Elliotson, Mr. Wheatstone, Dr. Grant, Mr. Kiernan, and some others. Mr. Wheatstone tabulated the results. Each of us mesmerized a sovereign; and it was found that on each trial the trance-coma, which contact with the thus mesmerised gold induced, had a characteristic duration for each of us." Thus it seems as if every one had a spiritual effluvium peculiar to himself, and more or less affecting those with whom he comes in contact—even as every one has a peculiar bodily effluvium, by which you see a dog track one's footsteps in the grass.

May we not discern in this a clearing up of some of those mysteries which have so long baffled thoughtful inquirers? May we not see in this an explanation of those unaccountable predilections which at times seize us?—of that "love at first sight," so long derided, and yet so true? A child in its nurse's arms will cry instantaneously when some persons approach it—persons whom it has never seen before—and often the instinctive feeling of aversion proves permanent; while to others, equally strangers to it, it will stretch out its little arms delightedly, as if to well-known friends. And which of us cannot recall some case in his lifetime when he has been fascinated on first sight—he knew not how—often without ever exchanging a syllable with his charmer? It is a phenomenon that happens every day, and is not less powerful in its influence than frequent in its occurrence, yet it has never been accounted for. Plato sought to explain this mystery by the notion, that souls were united in a pre-existent state, and that love is the yearning of the spirit to reunite with the spirit with which it formerly made one, and which it discovers on earth. How often has this beautiful idea inspired the poet's strain! The Od force clears up Schiller's "Mystery of Reminiscence" (as he titles his love poem) much more simply and satisfactorily than do the dreams of Plato.

Another thing worth noting is, that the Od force exists in, and is given out by, inorganic bodies, as well as by living bodies. One instance of this will be seen in No. 7 of Dr. Mayo's experiments, where it is evident that the sovereigns give out Od in the same way as if another person had taken hold of the operator's unengaged hand. But this power is by no means confined to gold; silver, lead, zinc, iron, copper, coal, bone, hair, horn, dry wood, charcoal, cinder, glass, soap, wax, shell-lac, sulphur, earthenware, and some other substances, have already been found to exhibit Od qualities when tested by the odometer; and probably all other substances will be found to possess more or less of the

same power; and the few experiments already made (the odometer is not yet six weeks old) seem to show that each substance, as well as each individual, has a quality of Od peculiar to itself.

This strange force, in fact, is cosmical, as Mesmer long ago affirmed his to be. It extends throughout space, and reaches us even from the stars. Von Reichenbach's patients were quite sensible of the influence of the heavenly bodies—the sun and fixed stars being Od-negative, and the moon and planets Od-positive: in other words, the former causing the sensation as of a cool draught of air—the latter of a warm one. May not this exhibit the germ of astrology—of the ancient and almost universal belief in the influence of the heavenly host upon the destiny of man? although, doubtless, much of the basis of that old doctrine still remains lost to us. How does attraction act? May we look for a solving of this mystery, too, in the new powers which the researches of the mesmerists are now beginning to disclose? But there is no limit to conjecture here. An ocean of new and strange things spreads out before us, brooded over as by the clouds of the dawn; and as here and there the faint light of morning penetrates the haze, it reveals a prospect that makes the boldest hold his breath, and the most daring imagination confess its feebleness.

One word more, and we have done. The subjects of the electro-biologists (so self-styled) are made to *mesmerise themselves* by fixing their eyes intently for some time on a piece of bright metal placed in their hand. That the Od force of the metal may assist the result is probable; but even the metal itself is by no means indispensable to the success of the experiment. We have heard of at least one person who could entrance himself by gazing fixedly on the cornice of his room; and we could show how the same thing has been accomplished for three thousand years in India, simply by a steadfast concentration of thought. But in our own day, and on the testimony of numerous travelers, we find the feats of the electro-biologists exactly paralleled on the banks of the Nile. The present magicians of Cairo take a boy (the young, be it recollected, from their delicate susceptibility, are most readily affected by mesmeric influences,) making him stoop down and gaze steadfastly into a little pool of ink in the hollow of his palm; and after continuing thus for a little while, the youth is said to describe to the stranger any absent person or object as he is commanded. Nay, the stranger himself is sometimes subjected to the experiment; and forthwith, on command, beholds armies, processions, &c., in the inky mirror which he holds in his palm. With some travelers the Cairo magicians are unsuccessful; but the electro-biologists are liable to similar failure—the result in both cases depending on the more or less susceptible organization of the persons experimented with.





**AZTEC DWARF (MALE.)**





**AZTEC DWARF (FEMALE.)**







## THE AZTEC CHILDREN.

(From the American Journal of the Medical Sciences.)

*An Account of two remarkable Indian Dwarfs exhibited in Boston under the name of Aztec Children.* By J. MASON WARREN, M D.

[With two plates.]

Two children have appeared in Boston so remarkable for their smallness of stature and the peculiarities of their mental faculties, that they seem to merit some public notice. I propose to state, in the following paper, simple matters of fact, without attempting any speculations in regard to them.

The children are a boy and girl, and from the appearance offered by their dentition, hereafter to be given, the former is from seven to eight years of age, the latter from four to six; allowance being made for a retarded condition of these organs, on account of the otherwise abnormal want of development of the whole body. The boy is thirty-three and three-quarters inches in height, and his weight twenty and three-eighths pounds. The girl is twenty-nine and a half inches high, and her weight seventeen pounds. Their skin is of a dark yellowish cast, lighter than what is generally attributed to the Indian in this part of the country, and somewhat darker than that of the mulatto. The hair at the middle parting rises at an inch distant from the root of the nose, but on each side a fine hair descends quite to the edge of the orbit. In the boy, it is black, coarse, and quite stiff—in the girl, wavy and curled. The eyes are large and lustrous. The nose of the boy is quite prominent, and as seen in profile, somewhat arched, but seen in front it is a little flattened at the apex; the nostrils are expanded, this feature being less marked in the girl than in the boy. The line of the nostril is oblique, instead of being longitudinal as in the Caucasian race. The separation of the cartilages at the apex is not easily distinguished. The supra-orbital ridges are very prominent, the head receding directly behind. There are no superciliary prominences or tubercles. In the boy a ridge, with its convexity towards the median line, extends from the external angular process of the frontal bone along the edge of the parietal bone, and nearly joins the elevated occipital ridge. The occipital bone is much flattened from behind forwards. The continuation of the sagittal suture through the frontal bone to the ossa nasi, corresponding with the fetal division, is also elevated into a ridge in the male, but not in the female. A circumstance of some interest is the situation of the external auditory foramen, which is much more in a line with the orbit than usual, a fact I have observed in some small heads of low intelligence. There are no indications that artificial compression has ever been used.

In both the children, the upper jaw projects considerably beyond the lower, the mouth remaining partly open in the boy from a dropping of the lower jaw, which leaves the teeth exposed.

The combination of these two circumstances, connected with a slight escape of the saliva, which may be partly attributed to the irritation caused by dentition, gives a more unintelligent expression to the face when at rest than it would otherwise have. The upper lip is large, and appears swollen as in strumous subjects. The chin is receding.

The anatomical proportions of the girl seem to be in most respects as perfect as could be desired; with regard to the boy, the following are worthy of notice. The forearm is generally maintained in a slightly bent position, and in a state of semi-pronation, permitting neither entire extension nor perfect supination, forming laterally an external obtuse angle with the arm. The little finger is malformed, being shorter than usual, its tip extending only a little beyond the middle joint of the adjacent one; the last joint is inflexible, and the natural folds on the back of the phalanges, which denote its position, are wanting. A slightly webbed appearance is given to the fingers by an increased development of the interphalangeal folds of skin. The hand itself is quite short, broad, and thick. \* \* \* \*

The position generally assumed by these children is peculiar, and may well be compared to that of some of the Simian tribe. The head, particularly in the boy, is thrown forward, as if placed more in advance on the spine than usual. This is accompanied with a slight stoop of the shoulders, and bending of the knees, the whole attitude being well delineated in the accompanying graphic sketches by Dr. Dalton. (See Plates I. and II.) The motion is unsteady, as in the tribe of animals already referred to, the boy having a swinging gait, not unlike that of a person slightly intoxicated.

The measurements of some parts of the body and skeleton are as follows:

|                                       |   |   |             |                    |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|-------------|--------------------|
| <i>Boy.</i> —Height                   | - | - | 33½ inches. |                    |
| Spine                                 | - | - | 16          | "                  |
| Arm (humerus)                         | - | - | 6½          | "                  |
| Forearm                               | - | - | 5½          | "                  |
| Hand, length                          | - | - | 4           | "                  |
| Femur                                 | - | - | 9           | "                  |
| Tibia                                 | - | - | 7½          | "                  |
| Left lower extremity                  | - | - | 17½         | "                  |
| Circumference of chest                |   |   | 18½         | "                  |
| "          waist                      |   |   | 17          | "                  |
| "          pelvis                     |   |   | 17          | "                  |
| <i>Head.</i> —Circumference over hair |   |   |             |                    |
| and scalp                             | - | - | 13          | "                  |
| Antero-posterior diameter             |   |   | 4½          | "                  |
|                                       |   |   |             | Breadth 2½ inches. |
|                                       |   |   |             | Foot 5 inches.     |

Bi-temporal diam. not quite 4 inches.

From one auditory passage  
to the other, around

the forehead 7½ "

Do. over top of head - 8 "

Do. around the occiput 5½ "

Fronto-occipital curve 8 "

Ear - - 2 "

Facial angle - - 60 "

The measures of the head were taken over the hair, and, of course, include the scalp, so that, if allowance be made for these, the actual measurement of the bone would be at least an inch less in the circumference of the head, and proportionately in the others.

The following is the state of dentition in the boy, being in part anomalous. The first four permanent molars, which appear between six or seven years of age, are present.

*Upper Jaw.*—2 Permanent molars.

3 of the deciduous molars—one on the left, two on the right, having lost one since he has been here.

2 Cuspidati, both probably of first set.

2 Lateral incisors, deciduous.

*Lower Jaw.*—2 Permanent molars.

2 Deciduous molars.

2 Permanent central incisors.

2 Lateral incisors.

On the left side of the lower jaw, in the place of the cuspidatus, is a large worn tooth, similar to a molar of the first set, and which might easily be taken for one; there is no corresponding tooth on the other side, the cuspidatus being wanting, and the first milk molar coming next to the lateral incisor.

The pulse, observed at different times, varied from 80 to 100, irregular in rhythm, much increased on the slightest exertion.

*Girl.*—Pulse regular, from 80 to 90. Resp. 20.

Height - - 29½ inches.

Spine - - 15½ "

Humerus - - 6 "

Ulna - - 5 "

Hand - - 4 "

Lower extremity - 15 " Foot 4½ inches.

Circumference of chest 19 "

" waist 16 "

" pelvis 16 "

Head - - 13 " in circumference.

Antero-posterior diameter 4½ "

Lateral " 3½ "

Over top of head, from one au- "

ditory passage to the other 8 inches.

Ear - - - 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  "

Facial angle - - - 65 "

Teeth, 10 in each jaw, deciduous, normal; all perfectly sound and white.

Third toe short, same length as fourth.

It may not be uninteresting to state that these children were vaccinated, first the boy, and eight days after the girl was vaccinated from her brother. The disease took well, and went through the usual normal stages. About three weeks after the vaccination, both were attacked on the same day with chicken pox, which pursued a perfectly regular course, and was unattended with any strongly-marked constitutional symptoms.

A question naturally arises to an observer first visiting these beings, whether they belong to the human species, and it is only after the eye becomes accustomed to their appearance that the brotherhood is acknowledged.

I will not here enter into a description of their appearance: it is rather agreeable, in a degree intelligent, and with nothing repulsive, as would be expected in the usual abnormal specimens of the human race. They are both quite apt to comprehend what is said to them, particularly if accompanied by appropriate gestures, although any continued conversation evidently could not be understood. They are, in fact, without any language of their own. They seem to acquire words readily, and since their sojourn in Boston, have learned to repeat a number, such as "Papa," "Mamma," "Ellen," "Take care," &c., and evidently are capable of instruction to a limited extent. They are quite imitative, and in this respect nothing escapes them. With regard to any communication by signs or language which they may have with each other, it appears to be at present not much greater than what might be expected from two intelligent individuals of the canine race, although in the expression of their feelings they occasionally make use of an unintelligible jargon of sounds together which, by some, might be interpreted as an attempt at language.

As to their habits, they are those of children of two or three years of age, requiring the care of superiors to feed and clothe them. The propensity to constant feeding may also be considered as remarkable, and although at present under the intelligent management of the person who has them in charge, their diet and regimen have been reduced to a system; yet, if left to their own inclinations, they would undoubtedly keep themselves filled with food. With the exception of a catarrhal affection, which might be expected from their exposure to a cold climate, their health seems good; and their strength, as manifested by an almost incessant movement from morning till night, is not to be complained of.

The most remarkable point of interest in these children is the size of the head, and in this respect, considering the amount of intelligence, they are the smallest which have come under my observation. For the sake of comparison, I propose to give the measurements of some very small heads, those belonging to infants, idiotic children, and also the heads of the quadrumana, who most nearly approximate to man; this method, apparently, being the best adapted to place the present specimens in a striking point of view.

It has already been stated that the heads of these children are about thirteen inches in circumference, and if the hair and scalp be allowed for in the measurement, an inch may be deducted, making them twelve. The antero-posterior diameter is four and one fourth, bi-temporal about four.

The head of an infant at birth was as follows:

|                                   |   |   |   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------------|
| Ant.-post. diameter               | - | - | - | 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. |
| Bi-temporal                       | - | r | - | 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ "       |
| Circumference                     | - | . | - | 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ "      |
| Over top of head from ear to ear  | - |   | - | 8 "                     |
| Occipito-frontal                  | - | - | - | 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ "       |
| A girl four and a half years old— |   |   |   |                         |
| Circumference                     | - | - | - | 20 "                    |
| Occipito-frontal                  | - | - | - | 13 "                    |
| Over head from ear to ear         | - | - | - | 13 "                    |

A boy nine years old—

Twenty-two inches in circumference.

Head of an idiot child from Spurzheim's collection—

|                     |   |   |   |                   |
|---------------------|---|---|---|-------------------|
| Circumference       | - | - | - | 14 inches.        |
| Ant.-post. diameter | - | - | - | 5 "               |
| Bi-temporal         | - | - | - | 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " |
| Over top of head    | - | - | - | 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " |

Head of the remarkable dwarf Babet Schreier, of whom a description will be given below, thirteen inches, four lines, measured over the most prominent parts of the forehead and occiput.

Idiot boy, ten years old, with a small head, forty-eight inches high—

Circumference of head, over hair, 15 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Young chimpanzee, twenty-six inches high—

Circumference of head, 13 inches.

Head of an adult chimpanzee—

|                                   |   |   |   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------|
| Ant.-post. diameter               | - | - | - | 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches |
| Over top of head from ear to ear, | - |   | - | 8 "                    |
| Occipito-frontal                  | - | - | - | 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ "      |
| Circumference                     | - | - | - | 13 "                   |

Young orang-outang—

|                  |   |   |   |                   |
|------------------|---|---|---|-------------------|
| Circumference    | - | - | - | 13 inches.        |
| Ant.-post. diam. | - | - | - | 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ " |
| Lateral          | " | - | - | 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " |

|                                        |    |   |
|----------------------------------------|----|---|
| Curve over top of head from ear to ear | 8  | " |
| Occipito-frontal curve                 | 7½ | " |

For the further illustration of this point, we will adduce the instance recorded by Pinel, in his "Treatise on Mental Alienation," as exemplifying "that degree of idiocy which is the extreme limit of human degradation, in which even instinct no longer exists." This sketch is accompanied by "a design of the cranium of the female idiot, who was at the Salpetriere in 1850." She resembled the sheep both in her tastes, her mode of life, and the form of her head. She had an aversion to meat, and ate with avidity both fruit and roots; drinking nothing but water. Her demonstrations of sensibility, of joy and grief, were limited to the words, imperfectly articulated, "Be," "Matate." She would alternately flex and extend the head, and rub it against the breast of her nurse. If she desired to resist or express her dissatisfaction, she sought to strike with the crown of the head inclined. She was extremely choleric, and many times I saw her in the bath, making efforts to get out, and repeating, in an acute tone, "Be, be, be." The back, loins and shoulders were covered with flexible black hair, from one to two inches in length. She could never be induced to sit in a chair or upon a bench, even to take her food. No sooner was she seated, than she slipped down upon the earth, and was accustomed to sleep with her extremities closely gathered about her after the manner of animals. Pinel examined this case, and furnished us with the dimensions of the head of this idiot compared with those of the cranium of a little girl of seven years.

|                   | Idiot of 11 years. | Girl of 7 years. |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Length of cranium | 5.11 in.           | 7.08             |
| Breadth           | 3.53 "             | 5.11             |
| Depth             | 5.11 "             | 6.29             |

The resemblance these children bear to some of the lower order of animals, especially those of the Simian tribe, is quite remarkable; and we are reminded of Lamarck's theory of the gradual development of the human being from the lower created orders, and the transformation of the quadrumana into the bimana. In regard to their relation to the quadrumana, we observed in the boy an approximation to the frontal crest of the orang; the supra-orbital ridges, and the parietal and occipital crests of the adult chimpanzee; the projecting jaws, the elongated forearm and its semi-flexed position; finally, the stoop of the whole body, with the air and appearance, forcibly reminds us of the monkey.

It has been thought that, in connection with the description of these children, it will not be found uninteresting to present brief sketches of two or three of the most celebrated dwarfs of whom history furnishes an authentic account, chiefly with a view to display their intellectual development.

**BABET SCHREIER.**—This dwarf was six inches in length at birth, and at the age of upwards of seven years, measured only twenty-



three. Her weight at birth was a pound and a half; at the age just mentioned, it was eight and a quarter pounds.

"The intellectual functions of this girl are very little developed for one of her age; she has very little more intelligence than a child four years old. Her disposition is good; she is inquisitive, and has considerable power of imitation. If instructed in the principles of education, she would probably learn with ease. She is much more disposed to mirth, and more docile in the afternoon than in the forenoon, and testifies her satisfaction by a more joyful air, and greater pliancy of character.

"Being unaccustomed to fix her attention, or to listen to what is said to her, she comprehends with some difficulty, and her judgment, for want of exercise, is slow and perplexed.

"She did not begin to speak until four years of age; but she understands all that is said to her. She actually endeavors to express her ideas, which seem to flow in rapid succession in a kind of German jargon to which she is accustomed, and accompanies her attempts with many gestures. I am convinced, by careful observation, that this little being enjoys the same natural, moral sensibility as any other individual."

We find, in the "*Histoire des Anomalous*" of Saint Hilaire, an historical account of some remarkable dwarfs, and particularly of the celebrated Jeffrey Hudson, Bebe, and Borwilaski.

JEFFREY HUDSON was born about the time of Charles I., at Oakham, England; at the age of seven or eight, he was presented in a pie to the queen, his height then being eighteen inches. This stature he retained till about thirty, when he suddenly increased to three feet nine inches. In his character as a courtier and a man, he seems to contradict the inferences of writers of the following ages, that dwarfs "are beings more degraded in the moral than in the physical capacity;" for he finally became a captain in the royal army, and after the Restoration, returned to England in 1682, where he died at the age of sixty-three years, accused of treason. Perhaps it may not be uninteresting to medical men, in the present state of medical ethics, to find that about 1637 he was sent to France to procure a midwife for the queen.

BEBE.—A sketch of Bebe will be found far more interesting in a scientific point of view.—Nicholat Ferry, commonly called Bebe, was born in November, 1741, of parents of the ordinary stature; he was born at the seventh month, after a very remarkable pregnancy; at birth, he measured seven or eight inches, and weighed less than a pound, yet the labor lasted forty-eight hours. It is said that he was carried to church on a plate covered with tow, and a wooden shoe was his cradle. His mouth was too small for the nipple of his mother, and, therefore, he sucked a goat; he had the small-pox when six months old; at eighteen months he began to speak, but was more than two years before he could walk. At five years of age, he was carefully examined

by the physician of the Duchess of Lorraine; he then weighed nine pounds seven ounces (French), and his height was about twenty-two inches, being formed like a young man.

His intellect is represented as feeble; the utmost that could be taught him being to dance and beat time. Of reading, or religion, he had no conception, and after a separation of a fortnight he did not know his mother. He was susceptible of passions, such as desire, anger, and jealousy, and his discourse was without connection, and his ideas confined. At the age of fifteen, he was still lively, gay, and *debonnair*; but puberty wrought a serious change, his health declined, his features lost their smile, and, with every appearance of premature old age, he died June 9th, 1764, at the age of twenty-two and a half.

*Skeleton of Bebe.*—Ossification perfect.

Cranium greatly depressed between the two parietal and the occipital projections.

Nose projecting.—Nasal bones very large at their lower extremities.

Great toe much elongated.

The principal dimensions of the skeleton were—

|                             |       |                            |
|-----------------------------|-------|----------------------------|
| Total height                |       | 2 feet, 9 inches, 6 lines. |
| Length of upper extremities |       | 1 foot, 2 " 9 "            |
| " humerus                   | - -   | 7 " 3 "                    |
| Hand                        | - - - | 3 " " "                    |
| Lower extremity             | - - - | 1 " 4 " 6 "                |
| Femur                       | - - - | 9 " " "                    |
| Foot                        | - - - | 4 " " "                    |

BORWILASKI was a Pole, and, like Bebe, of the court. Born at the full time, he was distinguished for his wit and learning. He could read, write, and speak both French and German. The writers of his time call him a perfect but diminutive, and Bebe an imperfect man. When twenty-two years old, Borwilaski was twenty-eight inches high; at this age he was married, and had afterwards several children, well-formed, and of the usual size. The paternity of Borwilaski was not received by all without incredulity, even in his own days, and it sometimes gave rise to pleasantries which were supported with courage and patience.

Other dwarfs are mentioned; but I will only refer to the betrothed of Bebe, Theresa Souvray, of about his own age, but with whom his marriage was prevented by death. At the age of seventy-three, she was exhibited in Paris, appeared chatty and gay, and danced with her sister, two years older, the height of the latter being only three and a half feet.

How far can these children, judging not only from their general size, but also from the smallness of the head, be supposed idiotic? Esquirol, in his "Treatise on Insanity," Am. ed. p. 466, defines the idiotic character at some length, but in a subsequent page does not consider it to depend upon any particular volume

or form of the head, notwithstanding it is proper to observe that the smallest heads appertain to the most degraded class of idiots. And again, Gall, in the "Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System," has figured two very small crania, and limits intelligence to crania which are only from fourteen to seventeen inches in circumference.


In the report of Dr. Howe, before the Massachusetts State Legislature in 1850, two idiots are compared; the one with the smallest capacity for brain was decidedly more bright, quick, and intelligent than the other. The instance recorded by Pinel has already been given.

From a careful comparison of the observations of different authors with those we have ourselves made and here recorded upon these children, we are disposed to believe that, although of very low mental organization, they cannot be pronounced idiots of the lowest grade. Their senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch, as well as that of tact, seem complete. Their degree of intelligence has, in our opinion, decidedly improved since their arrival in Boston; and this capacity for education appears far greater than in the lowest idiots.

We need hardly advert to the idea that these singular creatures belong to any peculiar tribe of dwarfs; for it is a fact universally allowed by physiological writers, and expressly laid down by Geoffroy St. Hilaire, that dwarfs are impotent with individuals of ordinary height, and even among themselves.

[In order to explain some observations in the preceding paper, which would otherwise appear obscure, it should be remarked that the children who are the subjects of it were exhibited in Boston as belonging to a race of dwarfs, the descendants of priests from an hitherto undiscovered city in Central America. The peculiar form of their heads, so exactly represented in the Travels of Mr. Stevens, as carved on some of the monuments in that region, and those on some of the Egyptian relics, seemed to favor this idea, as it was supported by a most ingenious and romantic story, descriptive of their discovery and transportation to America. It is now pretty well understood that they belong to some of the mixed tribes of Indians inhabiting Central America, and we hope hereafter to procure some exact details as to the peculiarities of their parents.]

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[ The foregoing *extremely meagre*, incorrect and unsatisfactory account of these remarkable children illustrates the extreme poverty of our best educated medical men, in anthropological knowledge. In the next number of the Journal, I propose to give a *phrenological description* of the Aztec children, whose heads presents the most remarkable and interesting illustrations of the truths of phrenology as taught in this journal. I have never seen more interesting or instructive phrenological specimens.—ED. JOURNAL OF MAN.]

## FAMILIAR TABLE TALK.

**POST OFFICE ABSURDITIES.—HOW TO ABOLISH THEM.—**As well might we set an elephant to play on the piano, or a rhinoceros to nurse an infant, as employ the huge and ponderous government of the United States to conduct the delicate little expeditious business of carrying and delivering letters and papers. Of all human contrivances, great governments are the most clumsy, awkward, oppressive, and wasteful, and therefore most especially unfit for the management of any thing that requires promptitude, simplicity and economy. The prevailing spirit of government is authority, backed by physical force. Hence it is well adapted to war, and war only. To cherish the true interests of the people, and promote the arts and welfare of peace, a government is seldom much better fitted than a grenadier is for an infant's nurse. Even in our own country, politicians in general are profoundly ignorant of the science of philanthropy, and destitute both of the necessary knowledge and the necessary inclinations to advance the welfare of society, unless in a few of the simplest and most obvious measures, that have been forced upon their notice by repeated discussion and agitation.

The connection of the United States Government with the business of carrying letters, is a forcible illustration of this remark. The arbitrary instincts of government, were shown in making this business a government monopoly, forbidding all competition, for the very good reason that private individuals would be sure to perform the same business better and cheaper than the government, if allowed, and thus drive it out of a field which it was not fit to occupy. Having thus secured an opportunity of oppressive extortion, the charges were made four times as high as they should have been, and at least five times as high as they would have been had the whole matter been left to private enterprise. Thus the people were oppressed, intelligence discouraged, and nobody gained by the oppression, for the high prices actually diminished the revenue. Animated by the usual instincts of despotism, the government, which would freely spend millions on the army or navy, to be well prepared for blowing out brains, could not endure the idea that the post office, which diffused intelligence and happiness, (but killed nobody,) should receive money from the national treasury. The post office must be made to pay for itself. In the hands of private enterprise, it would have done this, and far more; but in the hands of government, it was difficult to make it remunerative. Instead of effecting this by judicious reduction of the rates, it was sought to be accomplished by arbitrary and vexatious imposts. A word or mark upon a newspaper must pay a heavy penalty, and a letter must pay according to the number of pieces on which it was written. Thus requiring clerks to adopt a dishonorable espionage for a contemptible purpose. The post office seemed to regard itself rather as an engine of taxation, than as an arrangement for the public benefit. The appointment of post masters was not made on account of business capacity, nor by the selection of the people whom they were to serve, but was made by officials at Washington, who could not be well acquainted with the local circumstances, and who would be more apt to regard the whole patronage of the department as the means of building up their political power.

It is no wonder, therefore, that the system has always worked badly; and in our cities the people who have always paid from three to five times as much for their post office service as it was worth, were never decently served, even at that price, but compelled to lose more than the whole postage in wasted time, while waiting their opportunity to be served by offices which had not half the requisite number of clerks, and which, if they had depended upon voluntary patronage, would have been immediately put down as an imposition. But by this ingenious arrangement, the suffering public, which had already paid vastly too much, was compelled to fleece itself still further, and pay a handsome additional sum—oftentimes as much as the whole post office service was

worth—in the shape of box rents, to secure an opportunity of getting their letters without a vexatious and costly delay.

Thus our government, in the whole post office affair, acts like a merchant who secures a monopoly of any necessary article of traffic, such as salt, charges five times as much for his salt as its worth, but manages so badly as to be always behind hand or in debt, and diffuses his own grasping spirit among his retainers, so that every clerk or messenger who delivered his salt, demands an extra fee before he will deliver the article that is paid for, in any satisfactory manner.

Now, would it not be better to abolish all such oppressive monopolies, and leave the carrying of letters, like the carrying of packages or barrels of flour, to private enterprise. Private individuals would be eager to engage in the business, and would do it in a satisfactory manner, knowing that if they did not, their competitors would soon take all the business from them. I have often seriously thought of getting up a petition to *abolish the post office department*.

Private individuals would be all accommodation—they could not practise any insolence or tyranny upon the public. Neither could they refuse, like the (I had almost said dishonest) United States government, to be responsible for the money which they carried, and rob the mails with impunity, without allowing any redress to those robbed.

There need be no fear that we should get into difficulties by abolishing the post office monopoly. Private enterprise stands ready waiting for the removal of that old engine of fraud and oppressive taxation. Mr. Barnabas Bates and a number of responsible capitalists, have offered our government to pay \$400,000 a year for the privilege of serving the public, not at the same rates, but at *two cents a letter, and one half the present rates on newspapers*.

It is outrageous that "we, the people," should be taxed and defrauded, and bedeviled, as we have been in our post office matters—paying, in some cases, ten or fifteen times as much as the service was really worth, and never half served at that. And when, after great clamor and exertion we have obtained a reform in the post office matters, what does it amount to? Why, we have a law so tedious, absurd and clumsy, that nobody can tell what it means. The postmaster general has to publish a whole column of commentaries to determine what the law really does mean; and after all, in the best post offices, you will often get contradictory answers in reference to the postage on printed matter. There are so many absurd rules, restrictions and exceptions, that an Eastern Journal says there are more than one hundred and seventy different rules and specifications of postage. Although, in the main, postage on periodicals is less than heretofore, when the postmaster can find out what it really is, there are many instances in which the post office actually charges a great deal more for delivering a periodical, *than the whole cost of printing and publishing it*.

To repeat all the absurdities of the present laws, would be tedious: but one is especially contemptible. No periodical or paper is allowed to have more than one office of publication. For what reason is this despotic rule enforced? None whatever. It is a mere gratuitous and stupid annoyance, arising from the blundering ignorance of the authors of the law. The whole edition of any publication must be mailed at one post office; for if it should be sent to local agents, who are sometimes the publishers for a particular district, this new construction of the law deprives them entirely of the privileges of the post office, or else compels the local publishers to pay twice as much in advance to send his publication out, as if it had been carried five hundred miles in the mail.

It is hardly necessary for this Journal to go further into the details of this matter; but every editor and publisher in the country has experienced the evils of our present laws, and would rejoice to have Mr. Bates' really cheap postage introduced. Let us go to work, then, not to reform the old

patched up impositions, but to ABOLISH THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. Individual officers, like our Cincinnati postmaster, may endeavor to accommodate the public, but the whole system is wrong, and ought to be abolished.

The following letter from Edward Search to the editor of the *Boston Liberator*, (dated London, Sept. 19,) gives a clear view of the necessity and practicality of a reform in post-office abuses :

"When Rowland Hill commenced his agitation for an Inland Penny Postage, there were sent out of London every night, by mails, 80,000 letters. The average price of postage per letter was a fraction below 7d. The public had been so much misled on the subject of the Post office, and its management, that that which was supposed to be one of the best conducted offices in the kingdom was, from the fact of its being a monopoly, and from its being most unwisely made the subject of revenue—made to be one of the most inefficient agencies in the kingdom.

The increase of letters since that time has been nearly quintupled—i. e. five letters are now sent where only one used to be sent.

We can hardly conceive the mischief which had been for years imposed upon society in suppressing four out of every five of the communications from being to being—which had been, for so many years, submitted to, because of the ignorance of society as to the evil, and the modes in which its business was done. Notwithstanding the reduction to a penny, and the unwillingness of the post office to increase its business, it now, at one penny, pays all its expenses, and gives nearly half a million a year surplus.

The post office is not, at this time, productive of half the convenience to the public, of which it is capable. Carriage, so to speak, costs nothing in so small a country and so dense a population. A retailer in London can sell Manchester goods made there just as cheap as a retailer there, who buys of the manufacturer in the next street. The cost of a ton weight, when divided upon a single yard, becomes almost inappreciable.

When the agitation for the reduction to a penny was first started, the party who had to get up the evidence as to the probable increase in the number of letters, if the reduction to a penny was granted, found it a matter of great difficulty to induce merchants and traders to go before the Committee to state their opinions as to the probable increase and advantage, if the postage were reduced to one penny. They were met with difficulty, founded upon the entire ignorance of the cost of transit. One gentleman, who gave important testimony, met the party who waited upon him to get him to go before the Committee, with this remark : "The increase would be very great, no doubt, but I shall not go before the Committee to be examined on so absurd a proposition as that it costs less than a penny to carry a letter from any spot in Great Britain and Ireland to any other spot." And it was only upon his being assured that he would not be called upon to speak to that proposition, for that had already been established before the Committee, by returns which the Committee had obtained from the post office, showing its receipts and disbursements, that he could be induced to go before the Committee to state his opinion as to the probable results in his own trade, if the reduction were made.

We ought now to have a half-penny postage inland, and a slightly increased charge for increased weights ; and we ought to begin with a half-penny for a quarter of an ounce, a penny for two ounces, and so increasing the pecuniary amount very slightly, but increasing the weight carried very largely up to the pound weight, or to twenty-four ounces.

Elihu Burritt has most commendably commenced an agitation for an Ocean Penny Postage. He has issued a well-considered statistical article upon the subject, which I send you herewith, and which I hope you may find room for, for it is important to all countries on this globe, and especially to yours ; for, in proportion to the energy and activity of the people, is it important to give facility to the expression of their feelings, which necessarily lead on to an active commerce."



**CURIOUS REVELATIONS.**—A correspondent in Pennsylvania sends the following curious narrative in a letter just received, which I give the reader with the exception of names :

"While writing, I must tell you a little about some very interesting spiritual developments which have recently been occurring in the family of—of—, about twenty miles north of this. He is a man of integrity and influence, possessing a philosophic and energetic mind, which has long been free from the shackles of sectarianism, and the prevailing theology. His daughter is the medium. But very few spirits have communicated—and the one who seems to be most prominent in thus imparting knowledge and instruction on various subjects, manifests a high order of intelligence and positiveness of character—insisting that the circle for receiving these communications be confined to the Judges own family, for reasons which he promises to give more fully in future.

"A letter received from the Judge under date October 15, says :

"The spirit of Dr. F. has insisted on his injunctions being attended to, with a pertinacity quite astonishing. The result has been that we have had scarcely any company ; and very few spirits have visited us, except our particular friends, and those over whom Dr F. seems to have control. \* \* \* He (Dr. F.) tells us his mission is mainly in the planet Venus, where he says he converses with the inhabitants "face to face, they being more refined and perfect" than the inhabitants of our earth. He tells us many curious things about the people of Venus, and the last time he said anything to us was after an absence of four or five days, during which time we were quite unhappy, fearing that we had in some way offended or repelled him. On our enquiring the cause of his long delay, he spelled out : "There has been a wonderful flood in Venus, and my presence was necessary to advise and assist in some difficult emergencies." He remained with us but twenty or thirty minutes upon that occasion, and answered a number of questions as to the effects of the flood, &c. &c., and then returned, stating that the rain and flood were still unabated. We have heard nothing from him since. Our astronomers tell us many singular things about this planet Venus—and amongst others, that it is very broken and mountainous—that some of the mountains are much higher than ours. This being the case, it would not be surprising that they should be subject to floods." \* \*

"In a letter which I received previous to this, the Judge remarks :

"Upon one occasion, I had a communication purporting to come from Socrates, the Grecian philosopher, and it was entirely worthy of that great man. It was as follows :—"He who has the principle of love, is kind, considerate, charitable, patient and long suffering ; for love endureth much, and is meek. Now, hear my voice, and attend unto it. Theorize less—talk less—write less—*practice more.* Activity is the life of man—inactivity his moral death."

\* \* \* Dr. Forbes is, no doubt, a spirit of great wisdom, and possesses, besides, uncommon benevolence and goodness. He prescribes for the sick, and gives directions as to diet, &c. In his lifetime in this world, he was old school, as to medicine. He is now Homœopathic, and makes his prescriptions to us Homœopathically. I have one side foolscap of his instructions, prescriptions, &c. This seems wonderful, that our family physician should be a spirit." \*

\* \* \*

"This direct and certain communion with the spirit-world is very comforting and consoling to us. It has, of course, removed all doubts as to the separate existence of the soul, and it gives me the spirit's opinion of a God. My father says, in concluding a communication, "God forever bless you"—My mother says, "God bless you"—and, by the way, this is all I have had from her. I thought this strange ; but Dr. F. says, in explanation of this, that "there is a point in the spirit world, to which spirits having attained, are so wrapped up in the perfect and glorious fruition of heaven, that they care not to communicate with earth, and are very slightly attracted to their friends ; but as they progress, their minds become expanded, and they sometimes communicate their thoughts to men."



"I spent a night with the Judge last week, and he gave me a very interesting detail of the manifestations at his house. What seems wonderful, he has written several letters to Dr. F. on various subjects, enclosing and sealing them in an envelope, and letting no one on earth see or know of their contents, and has received very interesting and pertinent replies. I can only give you, at present, the answers to one or two questions propounded in the letters. It has reference to the Deity.

\* \* "There is a God—a Supreme Being, and the great absorbing element of his being is love. But if you would be wise, think no more of him as an abstract Deity, but associate him with your daily walk and conversation. Think not he dwells above the skies, in the heaven of the Theologian, or in the infinity of space. But if you would serve him—if you would be truly good, govern your passions, forget self, and let the aim of your existence be to happily your fellow man; for in the practice of this virtue, man finds the greatest felicity which earth can bestow."

"One more communication from this spirit, and I must conclude :

\* \* "I want to talk about my favorite star, Venus. Venus has a truly republican form of government. On this beautiful planet, tyranny and oppression are unknown—here the sexes are on an equal footing. Women go to the polls and vote, and can also hold offices in government. The consequence is, that they are more strong minded and intelligent than the females of your sphere."

"He has answered very many questions relating to the spirit-world—its laws, conditions, &c. He says that spirits occupying the sphere that he does, travel at the rate of thirty-three thousand miles per second, and those of the highest sphere, "about as fast as light." It would require them at the former rate, about 8 hours to travel from this planet to the sun. At a future time, I will endeavor to give you further details concerning these new and interesting matters. Your reply to Miss Bremer touching these sounds, is philosophical and beautiful."

I give the foregoing curious statements to my readers without comment, except to remark that nine years ago, in the city of Albany, N. Y., an intelligent young lady in the clairvoyant state, visited at my request, the sun, the moon, and the various planets of our solar system, and narrated her observations. Her description of the planet Venus coincided remarkably with the account given above. The people, she said, were greatly advanced beyond the inhabitants of earth in intelligence and virtue. She visited their cities and public buildings, and once entered a sick room, and described their mode of medical practice. Such statements, incapable of being tested, except by comparison with the statements of other clairvoyants, become quite interesting when we are enabled to compare a number of distinct reports originating without concert in different parts of the country.

THE NEW PHRENOLOGY.—A subscriber in Michigan says:

"I am very well pleased with your Journal, I have been a reader of Combe and Fowler, on phrenology. You differ so much from them, that it almost confounds me, and yet I think you are partly right, I cannot conceive how the afore-mentioned individuals, could describe characters as correctly as they were sometimes said to do when their system was so false." Similar ideas have probably occurred to other readers of the Journal. I would therefore remark that the new system of Phrenology shows the substantial correctness of the greater portion of the old system, and that is as much as can be said of Phrenological examinations under that system. The greater portion of them were substantially correct. But a large number of errors may be recognized in the opinions of the best phrenologists, on the old system when they attempted to describe the actual character of individuals. I have been sufficiently long in the field of practical phrenology, to speak positively upon this subject from personal knowledge.

A subscriber in Georgia says: "The fabrication of busts, in some compound of lime, comprising your discoveries in physiology as well as psychology, would be profitable to yourself and useful to mankind." I beg leave to suggest that it would neither be profitable to myself nor very "useful to mankind." The circulation or sale of busts is very limited as they are not very portable and but a small number are sufficiently engaged in the study, to need a bust. I have prepared a bust several years since, based upon the cast of Mr. Clay, a little larger than life, of which I have none for sale at present. A bust was prepared two or three years since, by one of my pupils, the late Dr. Parker, based upon the cast of Mr. Webster, and a little above life size, the head being about nine inches in length, of this I have a few copies on hand, which have been furnished like the others at \$3.50 each. I do not expect to sell enough to repay the trouble and expense of getting it up. I have been desirous of getting up a small portable bust which could be afforded for a dollar, but as it would require a week or ten days of exclusive labor, I have been unable to attend to it. A phrenological map will be given in the next number.

**DEMONIAC POSSESSION.**—A curious instance of possession by an evil spirit was lately brought under my notice. A gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. S., called at my residence in Louisville, in accordance, as he said, with the direction of the spirit that operated upon him, who instructed him to call upon Dr. Buchanan, and have the phenomena witnessed by him, and reported upon by men of science.

According to the statement of Mr. S., he tried the experiment a few months since of putting forth his arm in a passive condition, and leaving it to be operated upon by spiritual influences. To his surprise, his arm was moved by an 'n-visible spiritual agent, and after undergoing considerable muscular discipline, was moved so as to write the messages of the spirit. The spirit from that time carried on a great deal of intercourse with him, partly by writing and partly by mental impressions, appearing to be conscious of his thoughts, and capable of operating powerfully upon his feelings. This new excitement at first pleased Mr. S., and he yielded to it freely, supposing it to be of a religious and beneficial character. Gradually, however, his views began to change, and he lost all confidence in his attendant spirit. The communications were so absurd and inconsistent, that he lost all respect for their source. The spirit assumed various names—at one time claiming to be Napoleon, and offering to lead him to buried treasures of a large amount, if he would go to France and take a certain part in politics in reference to Louis Napoleon—at another time claiming to be the Angel Gabriel, or Christ, and promulgating a new system of theology. Mr. S. showed me several pages that he had written under this spiritual influence.

At my request he took pencil and paper, and proceeded to write, while I addressed several questions to his spirit, and received answers by writing. As the operation and its results were not very luminous or satisfactory, I expressed no very favorable opinion, and the spirit refused to write any more, but employed his hand in idle scribbling upon the paper. Being asked why no more answers could be obtained, the reply was written, "because the man don't believe."

Mr. S. was a man of robust frame and vigorous constitution, and it was rather a striking spectacle to see his arm at the time of writing carried through the various jerks, contortions and gyrations which it displayed in addition to writing. I placed an impossible subject in contact with his forehead, who recognized the peculiar excitement of his nervous system while thus in action, but did not gain any definite idea of any extraneous influence.

What are we to think of such a case? Was there a real spiritual influence of a low and disorderly character, operating upon Mr. S., or was the whole the mere action of his own imagination? As to his own opinions, it would be impossible to convince him that there was not a real powerful and spiritual agency at work upon him—the testimony of his own consciousness was decisive.—But to others the case appears differently. There is no impossibility in the

supposition that it was all imaginary. In a dream we have strangers, apparently speaking to us, performing various acts, and manifesting an independent will, as if they were living realities. So in the Mesmeric experiments, which are now exhibited through our country, the subjects upon the stand are made to hold intercourse with imaginary beings, as though they were realities. Hence, no matter how real such perceptions may appear to the subject, it is possible that the whole may be a mere dream, or play of the imagination.

It is true that a large number of intelligent persons, at the present time, believe themselves operated upon by spiritual powers, and their statements are exceedingly interesting and consistent; but it is difficult from the very nature of the case to prove that any such phenomena have a substantial reality beyond their own minds.

**MESMERISM IN NEW ORLEANS.**—The following advertisement in the New Orleans newspapers conveys gratifying information. It is much to be desired that intelligent and philanthropic individuals in other large cities, should embrace the profession in a similar manner. We have some operators at present in Cincinnati, who deal largely in spiritual influences, and are said to be doing wonders. I have not yet had time to examine their operations, I would refer those interested in such matters to Mr. Augustus Wattles, Cincinnati,—a candid and intelligent gentleman, who is said to be doing much good in this way.

"The object of the magnetizers of New Orleans, when they first formed themselves into a Society, upwards of five years ago was to spread the knowledge so widely, that the use of this beneficial agent might become general; they caused public lectures to be given, in order that their proceedings might be better understood, and the discovery of practitioners was made known and appreciated, in the hope that mesmerism would thus be used in families, and would become a work of philanthropy, encouraged always by the concurrence of those approving Physicians who might have watched over the practice of the science. Besides, several of the members have long practised gratuitously, expecting to find imitators; but the human mind is apt to follow in the beaten track, and progresses but slowly. Moreover, the practice of mesmerism is irksome, laborious, and even difficult: it demands at least, some preparatory study, acquired experience and undivided attention, and the greater part of mankind are too indifferent and careless to apply themselves to the study of the science before entering upon a requisite practice, in the circle of their relations or friends. Finally, there are people who hesitate to ask gratuitous advice, but who would eagerly seek those very magnetizers, if they were permitted to offer them remuneration, while others who value an article only by its cost, disdain to use what is offered to them for nothing. To hasten, therefore, the application of this extraordinary and beneficial agent, and in order to satisfy the public mind, it is essential that some parties should make magnetism their public profession. Anxious to advocate such a cause, and to further such views, the undersigned, Members of the Magnetic Society of New Orleans, offer their services to the public.

Application can be made to the Office of the Society, Exchange Passage, No. 26; or to either of the undersigned.

Jos. Barthet, Conti-street, No. 109;

James Gardette, Burgundy Street, No. 114;

N. Durel, Bourbon-Street, No. 368;

F. Jastram, Frenchmen Street, No. 31;

A. Thiennette, Bayou-road, No. 224.

or, at Mr. Lelievre's, corner Royal and Orleans-Streets."

**MAGNETISM AND THE AURORA BOREALIS.**—During the splendid aurora borealis of Monday evening, very singular phenomena were witnessed on the telegraph wires, causing brief interruptions; but on Monday evening there was evidently another element at work. Strong magnetic currents seemed to pass

from the ground into the wires, at times so powerful as to overcome the batteries on the line, and reverse the magnetic poles, making queer work, and causing some perplexity among the operators. The magnetic currents of the earth were evidently joining in the merry dance of their brilliant partners in the sky. So powerful was this disturbing influence on the wires that neither of the three telegraphic lines between Boston and New York were able to operate through during that evening.—*Springfield (Mass.) Rep.*

**MANUAL LABOR AND CHARITY SCHOOL AT MASSILLON.**—"Our school is conducted on the manual labor system; there are twenty boys, and an equal number of girls, all of which are employed in the various departments necessary to carry on the institution. One-half attend school in the forenoon, while the other half maintain the work; at noon we change, and those who have been engaged at labor take their places in the school room, to search into the mysteries which science explains."

There are about one hundred acres of tillable land, which, when the school commenced seven years ago, was half of it wild land, the other part in an extremely poor condition. Now we do not feel afraid to say that there is not another farm of the same size which produces more annually than this; not that we wish to brag, but merely to show what boys can do when rightly managed, as we flatter ourselves we are, under the superintendence of Mr. DAWLEY.—*A Charity School Boy.*

**REMARKS.**—The school spoken of above is one of those unostentatious benefactions which dispense their blessings in silence. A casual knowledge of the institution, founded by the legacy of a true Philanthropist, and a better acquaintance with Mr. D., the worthy Superintendent, are among our pleasant memories of educational labor.—*Ohio Cultivator.*

**SCHOOL OF DESIGN FOR WOMEN.**—A meeting for the formation and organization of a Society with this title, was held at the Tremont Temple, lower hall, a few evenings since.

Hon. George S. Hillard presided, and on taking the chair, briefly stated the object of the meeting, which was, to establish a school whereby females, whose occupations, hitherto very limited, have of late, by the invention of machinery, been greatly diminished, might find new fields of labor, suitable to their tastes and talents, such as wood engraving, designs of calicoes, muslins, and other printed fabrics, etc. Remarks were also made by Drs. Walter Channing, J. V. C. Smith, J. F. Flagg, and J. T. Sargent, and F. O. Watts, Esqs., which were listened to with great interest. A Constitution was subsequently adopted, and the following Board of Directors chosen:

Samuel Lawrence, R M Mason, J H Walcott, Charles H Mills, J J Dinwell, J F Flagg, J T Sargent, O Clapp, Edward Cabot, Hammat Billings, E Austin, Samuel G Ward.

Mrs G S Hillard, Mrs S G Howe, Mrs Sophia Hawthorne, Mrs P W Davis, Miss Sarah A Clarke, Miss Abby W May, Miss Anna Q T Parsons, Miss Edna D Littlehale, Miss Harriet K Hunt, Miss Matilda Goddard.

The attendance was not large on account of the inclemency of the weather, but the gathering was very animated, and the audience composed of highly respectable and influential persons.—*Liberator.*

**Kossuth.**—Littell, the able editor of *Littell's Age* says of Kossuth's Address to our people: "Let no reader pass over this Address from the greatest man in Europe, without careful perusal. The extracts which the newspapers have made are good in themselves, but it is necessary to read the whole paper, in order to have a history of the late war in Hungary. And this history and that war are not yet completed. There will be a 'Future'—and in this future will draw all Europe into the strife—a strife between despotism and constitutional liberty. In this battle all the Continental powers may for a while be banded against England; and, if so, the time will have arrived 'when the bread which

she has cast upon the waters will return to her ;"—when our swift steamers and ships shall land cargo after cargo of Americans at the head of the Adriatic, to strike tyranny in the heart ; to lead the *World's battle*, and to unfurl the flag which will draw the people of all nations after it."

The following will be read with interest by those who are inquiring in reference to this curious subject of "interior sight." It is a communication addressed to the *Paris Siecle*, of the 23d ult., by E. Prevost, a highly respectable "*Commissionnaire au Mont de Piete, rue du Mouton, 9.*"

DEAR SIR :—"Better late than never," is the old saw ; though I much regret having delayed so long the publication of a very singular case of somnambulism, which has come under my observation. In the month of August, 1849, one of my clerks disappeared from my office, carrying with him a very important amount of money. The most energetic researches on the part of the police had been unavailing, when one of my friends, M. Linstant, to whom, as a legal adviser, I had confided my loss, went, without consulting me, to Marcillet, the magnetiser, to confer with Alexis, his clairvoyant subject. The magnetic connection having been established, the following colloquy took place :

"Can you tell me, Alexis, what motive has brought me to you ?"

"Yes ; you come, sir, to get information concerning a robbery of money committed upon a friend of yours, by one of his *employees*."

"Right."

"The sum taken," continued Alexis, "is quite considerable ; it approaches 20,000*fr.*"

"That is also correct."

After reflecting a moment, Alexis proceeded. "The faithless servant is named Dubois ; I see him at Brussels, at the *Hotel des Princes*, where he is staying. Set out instantly," he added, "and you will find him at that place."

Mr. Linstant started for Brussels, but unfortunately not until the evening of the following day. He there learned that Dubois had actually put up at the hotel indicated, but had left the city some hours before. At a loss by which way to follow, M. Linstant returned to Paris, and then for the first time apprised me of the curious phenomena I have stated. Prompted by interest and curiosity, I visited M. Marcillet, communicated with his subject, and learned that Dubois was at Spa ; that he had lost a large amount of money at play ; and then was completely 'cleaned out.' I followed him ; but from defect in my process and preparations, was obliged to return without accomplishing the arrest. Alexis then told that Dubois had gone to Aix-la-Chapelle ; that he had continued his gambling habits, and had lost other large sums. He then reported his return to Spa, where the last of the stolen money was sacrificed at the gaming table. I then sent a dispatch to Belgium ; found the statements of Alexis were correct, throughout ; and Dubois was arrested at Spa."

PRESENTIMENT OF DEATH.—A singular circumstance occurred at Norfolk, Va. on Saturday, the 16th inst. A Mr. C. H. Gherkin, well known at that place as a professor of music, went to an undertaker, during the forenoon, and, though apparently in good health, ordered his coffin, stating that he felt an unmistakable presentiment that he would die in the afternoon. The undertaker, regarding it as a jest, took no further notice of the matter, and in a short time forgot all about the affair. Mr. Gherkin, after leaving the establishment, went home, was shortly afterward taken sick, and at an early hour in the evening, was a corpse. The matter is altogether inexplicable, as Mr. G. appeared in excellent health, and was not subject to aberrations of intellect.

THE FIRE ANNIHILATOR was tried a few days since upon a fire in a small wooden structure of ten by fifteen feet, at the Pyro Garden, in Cincinnati. The result was not favorable to its reputation, as it did not seriously check the flames, without assistance by closing the windows to shut off the atmospheric air.

SECRETS OF VITAL ORGANIZATION.—An essay by Dr. Wm. Beneke, in the London Lancet, (July 1851) advances and very plausibly sustains the theory that the organization of cells, which is the first and most essential process of life, in vegetable and animal physiology depends in each upon the presence and influence of the *phosphate of lime*. As all animals and plants depend for their existence upon the original formation and continual production of cells which form their tissues, and which also, are the agents of all their chemico-vital transformation, the importance of this discovery is very obvious. Dr. B. applies his theory to practice by administering the phosphate of lime, in various cases of defective cell-formation, as suppuration, caries, rickets, fractures, &c., and declares the effects to have been favorable. In cases of fracture the formation of callus became very energetic under the administration of the phosphate and even ran to excess in some cases. The beneficial effects of phosphate of lime or bone manure upon plants have long been known.

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### TRIUMPH TO LABOR.

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BY B. HATHAWAY, OF MICHIGAN, [For the Journal of Man.]

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Too long the Poet's taste has been,  
Through all the stormy past,  
To sound Oppression's battle din,  
And wake War's trumpet-blast ;  
To tell the greatness of each name  
That peace from earth has reft,  
And gild the pageant of a fame,  
Better to oblivion left.

But now to loftier themes he turns—  
His notes swell high and strong,  
While raptured many a bosom burns,  
At the glad promise song.  
For sings he of a nobler life—  
Of triumph, of release ;  
Not triumph in the ranks of strife,  
But in the homes of Peace.

Triumph to labor ! though it bring-  
Browned hand and swarthy brow.  
Awake, each poet-harp, and sing,  
'Tis labor's triumph now.  
Though on her bloodless battle-ground  
The march be just begun,  
We have a noble ally found,  
And many a laurel won.

A triumph to the worker-band,  
Long bound with triple chain ;  
For Science, with an iron hand,  
Has parted it in twain,  
While many a want her strength supplies,  
The mine, the mill, the soil,  
To labor well her hand she plies,  
Lightening our weary toil.

Deep in the cumbering earth she knows  
 Where the rich metal lies ;  
 Down in the dark abyss she goes,  
 Gath'ring the glittering prize.  
 Her arm grows stronger day by day,  
 Her sinews never tire ;  
 She wields the sledge with pondrous swing,  
 And blows the furnace fire.

Along the vale, full many a tone  
 Comes up at early dawn,  
 Where ceaseless pounds her pestle stone,  
 Grinding our needful corn.  
 And still I hear, the live-long day,  
 Her thousand spindles sing,  
 While answering to their treadles' play,  
 A thousand shuttles spring.

Triumph to labor, plenty-crowned,  
 Enough for every need ;  
 So mellow well the fallow ground,  
 Cast in the fruitful seed ;  
 Then trustful wait the sun and rain,  
 Nor fear the harvest day ;  
 For over all the billowy plain,  
 Shall the swift reaper play.

Triumph to labor ! Lo ! I see\*  
 A giant in the van.  
 But yet no cause of fear have we ;  
 He works by the will of man.  
 Oh ! come and look along his trail,  
 When the bright cereal grows ;  
 He binds his sickle to his flail,  
 And winnows as he goes !

Triumph to Labor ? Boundless seas  
 Do own her mighty reign ;  
 And many a swelling mountain breeze  
 Rings with the sounding strain :  
 While far across the dreary waste,  
 She links her iron span ;  
 And then with lightning speed makes haste,  
 On her mission of love to man.

Triumph to Labor ! There shall be  
 A victory sublime,  
 O'er ignorance, and poverty,  
 And suffering and crime,  
 And all the curses that have been  
 From olden time till now ;  
 Oh ! well may these a glory win,—  
 The Anvil, Loom, and Plow !

**LITTLE PRAIRIE RONDI, Sept., 1851.**

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\* On Big Prairie Rondi, Kalamazoo Co., Mich., are several large Harvesters, that cut and thrash from 20 to 25 acres of wheat per day, leaving the grain in bags, ready for the mill.