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WHAT IS LIFE?

Speculations upon the nature of life have long occupied the attention of physiologists. In the progress of the present times, abstract speculations of this character have given place to the inductive investigations of positive science, and medical inquirers generally, are content to gather facts and rectify their observations, by carefully repeated experiments and examinations, without being in haste to arrive at the final conclusions which their accumulated facts may ultimately indicate.

In this spirit of inductive research, let us look at the obvious facts concerning life, which are furnished by the present advanced condition of Physiology and Anatomy.

One conspicuous universal fact bears directly upon the question of the nature of life. The development and continuance of life, in both the animal and vegetable kingdoms, is everywhere dependent upon the presence of the atmosphere, but especially upon the presence of oxygen gas, which is the efficient element of atmospheric air. Rob the earth of its atmosphere, and its surface would be but a dreary desert, presenting nothing but water and rocks, with disintegrated surface, produced by heat, cold and moisture. Without the atmosphere, the mineral kingdom alone could exist, with nothing to vary its appearance but the heat and cold produced by the change of seasons.

All animal beings live by means of contact with the atmosphere, and although in some instances, frogs have preserved their vitality in a very

small portion of air, confined in rocks or trees, it was but a dormant vitality with no active operation.

When we cease to breathe we soon cease to live. Life springs from respiration, because this respiration introduces oxygen gas, which imparts its vitalizing influence to the entire constitution as it passes through all parts of the body, by the circulation of the blood. This vitalizing power of oxygen is derived from the fact that it contains a great amount of the imponderable agents, upon which all the changes of matter depend. Solid matter is lifeless, and incapable even of chemical action; hence without the fluid form of matter there could be neither vegetable nor animal life. In passing into the liquid form, matter unites with a greater amount of the imponderable agents, than it previously possessed. A still greater amount of caloric and electricity is taken up, when it passes into the gaseous form. But in the still subtler forms of active substance which cannot be grasped, and which are imponderable, still greater freedom of action obtains, and the imponderable agents are not only active themselves, but impart activity to solid matter, when they combine with it or change its form to the liquid or gaseous. Gases are the most attenuated forms of positive matter with which we are acquainted, and contain a greater amount of the imponderable agents by which their gaseous form is preserved. Hence it is from gases that we derive the supply of imponderable agents which maintain the actions of life. It is from oxygen gas that we continually derive the motive powers of life. The atmosphere around us, is a vast magazine of vital force, and as we inspire the air, the oxygen which penetrates the blood by the laws of diffusion between liquids and gases, circulates with the blood throughout the entire frame, and by combination with the substance of the blood and the tissues, changes its form, and evolves caloric and other imponderable agents necessary to life.

Thus man lives continually by the influx of vital power, from the vast resources of the atmosphere. The machinery of life is kept in motion only so long as the current of vital force from its vast atmospheric reservoirs flows through the apparatus of the body. As a mill moves when propelled by water, so does the vital machinery of man act, when propelled by the imponderable fluids from the atmosphere; ceasing as soon as the moving current ceases—ceasing in each part of the limbs when the oxygen current ceases to supply that part—ceasing in the entire body when the oxygen current is insufficient for its action. Thus when the current of oxygenized blood is shut off from a limb or any circumscribed part of the body by tying or obstructing all the blood vessels which could possibly supply it, the death of that part commences, and soon gangrene is developed—the flesh is disorganized by putrefaction, as though it had been cut out of the body and left to decompose in the atmosphere.

If the current of organized blood is shut off from the brain by ligatures upon the blood vessels of the neck, our entire conscious existence is arrested, and a blank produced in the phenomena of the mind. On the other hand, in proportion as the supply of oxygen by oxygenized blood is increased, or in other words in proportion as the circulation of red arterial blood is more active in every part of the frame, so are the vital powers increased, the mental phenomena being generally proportioned to the intensity of the circulation in the brain, and the powers of the various organs of the body proportioned to their supply of blood.

But here we may observe another important fact, that although the supply of blood determines the phenomena of life, the supply of blood is not sufficient, independent of nervous influence. When the nervous influence is withdrawn from any part, the evolution of heat is diminished and the phenomena of life are materially changed. The temperature of a paralyzed limb, is lower than that of the sound one, and while the withdrawal of nervous influence thus lowers the temperature, an irritative excitement in the nervous system greatly elevates it. Thus every local irritation of the nervous system develops heat; and inflammation, which depends upon irritations of the nervous system, is accompanied by a great exaltation of the temperature.

There may be then, a marked increase or decrease of the heat and nervous force of any part, according to impressions which are made upon its nerves. Thus under the influence of certain sedative and refrigerant medicines, the skin becomes cool, and a chilly sensation is diffused throughout the body.

The influence of the will and of nervous excitement in the different parts of the body, thus continually modifies the calorific process, and the evolution of nervous energy.

We are thus brought to the conclusion that life is a process which depends upon the conjoint action of oxygen through the blood, and of the nervous system upon which it acts, and which in turn reacts, modifying the vital processes and the reception of oxygen.

In proportion to the consumption of oxygen is the extent or amount of the vital phenomena, and in proportion to the development of the nervous system, is the character which life presents—limited and almost vegetative in its character, when the nervous system presents only a few threads—more complicated and intellectual when it is gathered in the form of ganglia—attaining a far higher development in vertebrated animals, which have a brain and spinal cord, and attaining its maximum development in man, with a convoluted brain of complex and intricate structure, which operates under the influence of red blood, animated by extensive respiration.

CHAPMAN'S PRINCIPIA.

A friend in Philadelphia has forwarded a copy of a small monthly sheet entitled the "Monthly Rainbow," or "Chapman's Precalculations for Elementary Changes," which is the singular and title of a very remarkable and unique publication.

The "Monthly Rainbow" is devoted to the publication of certain astronomical calculations by Dr. L. L. Chapman, which are supposed to indicate the conditions of the weather and other electric influences which operate upon the human constitution as well as upon inanimate nature—governing the development of Epidemics, Rains, Winds, Frosts, Storms and Earthquakes. One column of the publication is given to these calculations of atmospheric changes, and the remainder of the sheet is occupied by the stereotyped explanatory matter, which is necessary to the understanding of the table of calculations. These calculations of elementary changes are, according to Dr. Chapman, "based upon the discovery of the physical laws and harmony of electrical action pervading the solar system, as involved in the differing effects of light, modified or polarized by differing angles of reflection on a large scale."

The following is the introductory explanation which Dr. Chapman gives of his discovery:

"The discovery of those laws of nature which regulate the changes of the elements, and their development, to an extent which would admit of the precalculation of those changes for an indefinite period in the future, has been a subject of eager but fruitless research by mankind in all ages; whilst the numerous meteorological observatories throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Northern Asia, at the Cape of Good Hope, in the islands of the South Sea, &c., give evidence of the deep interest at present pervading the scientific world, in reference to their discovery.

"Indeed, what subject of a physical character can be more universally or importantly useful to mankind, than the discovery of those natural laws which regulate the sweeps of desolating pestilence, (the cholera, &c.) of destructive storms on land and sea; of withering blight; or of those less prominent, but constantly occurring changes in the electrical condition of the atmosphere, which by their physical effect on the organization of animal life, control and are so constantly changing the phases of sickness, or the health, feelings, and humors of mankind, the dispositions of the animal creation? &c.

"For every variation in the health, feelings and humors of mankind, and in the minutiae of physical life, depends upon, and fluctuates with, the changes and fluctuations in the quantity and modification of the electricity of the atmosphere, supplied as stated in the theory following.

"The circumstance which led to the discovery of these important laws of nature, are simple in their character. Some nine years ago my attention was drawn to their investigation, from noticing the correspondence between the changes of the atmosphere, and the paroxysms of a chronic nervous ailment with which I was afflicted, and from which I had despaired of obtaining permanent relief. I was urged on by the desire of knowledge which might involve the future enjoyment of my health, and the conviction that electricity, (being analogous to, if not identical with, light,) was not confined to the earth exclusively, but that it was the common property of the solar system, transmissible with the freedom and velocity of light, from one body of that system to another; and that its operation on *that* extended scale, involved the changes of the elements, as well as the movements of the heavenly bodies.

"I have not space here to narrate the progress of my investigations, and the remarkable corroborations which have been constantly transpiring during that interval—sufficient, when known, to astonish mankind. Some are briefly glanced at in the notices of the press on the fourth page but they are given more at length in the first section of my Principia.

"As will at once be seen, the terms of this sheet are not based upon the expenditure of paper and printer's ink, for the tables and notes of precalculation will be the only matter which will be changed each month. The other matter, being indispensable for explanations, &c., will remain. These precalculations have each one to be made out by rules similar to the elements for eclipses. They require long and tedious study, involving the most wearisome mental labor to make out. So much so, that my time left, in connection with limited compensation, &c., has been insufficient to enable me to push the subject, and had I not been conscious of involved responsibility to mankind in bringing a discovery so important to practical utility for their benefit, I should have given up its publicity long since.

"Hoping now to be able to devote my time chiefly to the subject, I have undertaken to give an additional series of calculations on the third page, equally important, in many cases, with that which I have given for several years past, and trust the consequent change in the terms of the RAINBOW, for the purpose of sustaining an increased effort in giving a more broadcast diffusion to knowledge so important, and increase facilities for due attention and further investigation, will meet the approval of my friends and the public.

L. L. CHAPMAN.

"THEORY.—In the Solar Spectrum formed by the prism, we find that rays of light, polarized in some angles, will, when converged, perfectly magnetize unmagnetized wire in less than an hour; whilst rays polarized in other angles, will have no such effect. Here we have the fact experimentally proved, that light, polarized in some angles, like the violet, blue, &c., will supply many times more electricity than when polarized in others, like the red ray, &c.

"Hence the proof by analogy is positive, that currents of rays, polarized by reflection from the different bodies of the solar system, sometimes enveloping the entire earth, must produce the same effects on a more extended scale, and supply more or less electricity to the elements, just as these currents of rays may happen to be polarized (or modified) by reflection in more or less highly electrical angles. Hence the origin of those electrical fluctuations of excess and deficiency—*electrical currents, magnetic storms, &c.*, which have excited the surprise, and eager but fruitless research of the scientific world within a few years past.

"The unchanging mathematical laws of polarization, bring those periods when more or less highly electrical polarized currents will be intercepted, and supply more or less electricity to the elements, within the limits of precalculation like eclipses. And I have found, during eight year's observation, that electrical phenomena, storms, earthquakes, &c., have usually occurred at periods when excessive supplies were indicated. Also, that sickness, cholera, vegetable deflection, or blight, &c., usually prevail, when great and long continued deficiency of electrical supplies to the elements are indicated.

"Thermal, and other changes of atmospheric temperature, I have usually found to correspond, to within the hour, with intercepted currents, as precalculated, according to the analogy of the solar spectrum, four times out of five, in the average of the month."

In carrying out his theory, Dr. Chapman's table records minutely for every day of the month, the various conditions of polarized light which will prevail, which conditions according to his explanations are productive of heat, and cold, winds, clouds, storms and earthquakes.

He also states throughout the month, all the unfavorable periods which are likely to have an injurious influence upon the constitution, developing cholera and other diseases or aggravations of any prevalent affection. Dr. Chapman claims in this respect, a wonderful degree of accuracy, and as it appears he is now publishing the seventh volume of his *Rainbow*, it is a little remarkable that his calculations have not heretofore attracted the attention of scientific men, as their truth or falsehood may be so easily verified by comparison with facts. If his precalculations do coincide with the history of the weather, his discovery must be extremely valuable, and if they do not, the discrepancy must be easily discovered. Dr. Chapman claims to have obtained a remarkable degree of accuracy in his calculations. He says :

"It is impossible that electrical variations, so marked and general, should fail to affect the nervous organization of animal life ; and to complete the proof, we find that changes in the health, feelings, and humors of mankind, and in the dispositions of animals, depend upon these electrical variations, and that even more sensitive vegetable productions, flowers, &c., show their susceptibility to their effects.

"These hourly periods, like the approaching crisis of electrical currents, are, *when unfavorable*, periods when the well are more depressed in spirits, and when less favorable humors prevail, &c. Also, when the shorter paroxysms in sickness are more liable, and when the death struggle is most liable to set in with the enfeebled, especially if neglected.

"These hourly periods are so strongly distinguished, and so accurately limited, that for years past, during those more short and severe paroxysms which have attended sickness in my family, as well as short and severe paroxysms of headache, toothache, &c., I have been able, usually, to ascertain, to within three minutes, when such paroxysms would subside."

As to his success in predicting an earthquake, he remarks as follows :

"An illustration of the excess of electricity, supplied sometimes by combined currents, is given by the instance referred to in the notice by the Pennsylvania Enquirer, an extract of which is given on the fourth page. When the question 'when will there be another earthquake?' was asked in the office of that paper, about the 20th of January, 1855, I glanced at the table of the forthcoming number of the Rainbow, and saw on the 8th of February, the following remarkable display of combined currents :

"8 5 2, 4, 5, 11 o'clock, morn, GO-BO-GB-O."

On the 8th day of the month, the 5th day of the week, (Thursday,) at 2 o'clock, morning, a combined confluent current is intercepted in the angle of the green and orange rays (GO-) of the spectrum. At four o'clock, morning, another combined confluent current is intercepted in the angle of the blue and orange rays (BO-). At 5 o'clock, morning, another combined confluent current is intercepted in the angles of the green and blue rays, (GB-) At 11 o'clock, morning, another single but strong current, in the angle of orange, (O.) Seeing that an excess of electricity would be supplied to the elements by these currents, greater than on any other day during the month, I replied at once that an earthquake would be reported in the papers, as having occurred on that day, soon after. The earthquake occurred early in the morning of that day."

The Pennsylvania Enquirer of February 14th, 1855, contained the following notice :

"REMARKABLE PREMONTION.—Some few weeks since, as Dr. L. L. Chapman was speaking on the course of elementary changes, we asked him when he thought there would be another earthquake? He replied that a more highly electrical condition of the elements would be induced from physical causes, on the 8th of February, (then some weeks in the future) which would predispose more to such phenomena, and that he was certain that we should hear of an earthquake having occurred on that day, or soon after. The earthquake occurring in Maine and Nova Scotia on the

morning of the 8th inst., so severe as to break glass in windows, affords an illustration of the extent and accuracy to which Dr. Chapman has pushed the investigation of his discovery, and adds another striking corroboration to his now numerous list of earthquakes occurring on days long previously precalculated by him, as more predisposing. Chapman's Principia explains the first principles of this important discovery."

Chapman's Principia, which presents the explanation of his discovery, is published every six months. A volume of the Principia, over two hundred pages, is ready for delivery at the price of one dollar. Campbell & Co., 73 south 4th street, Philadelphia, are the publishers. If opportunity and time permit hereafter, these interesting suggestions or discoveries will receive further notice.

THE JAPANESE.

An officer of the Susquehanna of Com., Perry's Squadron gives the following account of the Japanese and their country.

"On this, our third visit to Japan, the most striking changes were observed by us all, for the exclusive policy and disposition of the officials and people was rapidly passing away, like a wreath of snow before the noon-tide sun. On our two former visits they were suspicious, and opposed to all foreign intercourse, chiefly, too, among the officers of Government and the higher classes, that govern the country in the most arbitrary manner. But we found the most unbounded confidence in our integrity and honor as a nation, and a strong desire manifested, by high and low, to be on the most friendly terms with us. Even the ladies of the country had laid aside their reserve and shyness which before characterized them, excluding us from even a sight of their bewitching charms, many of whom rival, in point of beauty of person, as well as elegance of manners, our own fair country women. Of course I speak not of the flower of the country, whose unobtrusive virtues and accomplishments sweeten and adorn Japanese homes as gracefully and graciously as the matrons and daughters of England or America, who are distinguished the world over for throwing a lustre over domestic life. The country for miles was thrown open to us, without let or hindrance, and the peasantry were always delighted to see us, giving us a warm welcome to their simple homes, and looking upon us as worthy of their friendship and fellowship. Japan's future can never be as her past.

"A number of the officers, went ashore here, to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the harbor, which greets you from every point of the compass, for here nature has indeed arrayed herself in loveliest apparel, to attract the atten-

tion and elicit the admiration of every beholder. You have every variety of scenery in Japan, from the noble lake to the forest-crowned hill, and the beautiful landscape, burning with the vermilion and the gold, to the towering mountain, whose summit is covered with eternal snow, and commanding as a sentinel for hundred of miles, the provinces and the cities of Japan. Yonder stands Mount Fusi, in all his dignified majesty, furnished a magnificent landmark for the mariner, rising above the clouds towards Heaven, and crowned with grandeur as a royal diadem.

Whose head in wintry grandeur towers,
And whitens with eternal sleet;
While summer, in a vale of flowers,
Is smiling rosy at his feet.

“The bay of Jedo itself, with its populous cities and commerce, its peaceful valleys and its glowing landscapes, its giant mountains and its sublime grandeur, as it stands forth robed in loveliness, and beauty, and majesty, is a panorama of magnificence, and glory seldom surpassed, if ever equalled, on earth, and must be flung upon the canvas before it ever can be fully appreciated by one who has not seen it for himself, for whichever way you cast your eye, north or south, east or west, the prospect is—it is, without exaggeration, one of the most beautiful and picturesque bays in the world, and contains good harbors for all the natives of the earth.

“The Japanese, in their physical conformation differ materially from the Chinese, for the appearance of the former is perfectly unique and peculiar. Their countenances are preeminently distinguished for a feminine softness, tinged with a hue of sadness, and as prepossessing as they are graceful in their movements, and everything which becomes the elegant gentleman.—Their easy walk is the very poetry of motion. They are remarkable for their self-possession, as well as their dignified deportment, and seldom are known to manifest the least surprise. The complexion of the higher classes (such as the princes of the blood, and the nobles of the land, which I met on my way to the capital of the country, in the cities of Kanagawa and Kasacca, and saw at the interviews with the Commadore,) is a rich olive, their foreheads high, and their eyes dark, while the complexion of the Chinese has a cadaverous appearance, foreheads low, eyes small, and their expression of countenance, reminds you of a pewter button set in lard. In one word, the Chinese are common clay, while the Japanese are pure porcelain.

“The Japanese temples are most beautifully and eligibly situated on the highest hills and in the most charming groves. You enter them generally through rows of choice trees and wild japonicas, which are as high as our ornamental trees which shade our dwellings. They are not distinguished either for architectural taste or beauty, and have no storied aisles and fretted roofs, but are large primitive structures, with ornamented doorways and exposed rafters, resembling the temples seen all over China. They are

neat and clean, and the floors are covered with mats. They have no chimneys, for, like the houses, they are warmed by brasiers. The most indifferent paintings adorn the walls of these temples, and in front of them you always find large bells for summoning the people, fountains of holy water and numerous huge idols. The highly ornamented altar is the only thing which attracts and retains your attention, for it almost persuades you that you are in a Roman Catholic temple; and were it possible to transfer the idols from the Japanese temple to those in America, I very much doubt whether either class of worshippers would be any the wiser, or even aware of the change. Erect a cross in a Japanese temple and you cannot distinguish the one from the other. The priests shave their heads, count their beads, wear long robes, and the services is attended by the lighting of candles, the burning of incense and the ringing of bells. The striking resemblance between the externals and ceremonials of the two religions is very remarkable, and must have appeared so to all who visited them. The priests who officiate in those temples are under the vows of celibacy and are supported by the voluntary contributions of the people. The temples are principally Buddhist and the worshipers that throng them are idolaters. May the Sun of Righteousness soon rise up on the provinces of Japan, scattering the darkness of many generations and transforming this island-home of idolatry into one beautiful and glorious sanctuary!"

CLAIRVOYANCE AND IMMORTALITY.

Heretofore the uniform testimony of Clairvoyants has been positive and unanimous in reference to the spiritual existence of man. Every clairvoyant so far as I am aware, has recognized the existence of man after his bodily death, and under favorable circumstances has been able to recognize, if not to communicate with, the spirits of the departed.

The accumulated testimony of Clairvoyants, concerning the future life, has given us ample and interesting descriptions of its scenes, and the general coincidence of their statements has given them a strength which it is difficult to resist. Even individuals who previously, entirely distrusted the future existence of man have recognized spirits when their Clairvoyant faculties were developed, notwithstanding, their previous positive disbelief. It is, therefore, a remarkable fact, and worthy of being put on record, that in one instance a Clairvoyant has been unable to recognize the existence of disembodied spirits.

The following statement by A. W. Sprague of the case of Mrs. Lucy A. Cook a Clairvoyant, is copied from the *New England Spiritualist*. Whether the deficiency in her perceptions is owing to constitutional skepticism or

deficiency in the organ of spirituality, or from any other cause the case is interesting to the honest enquirer:—

MRS. LUCY A. COOK, THE CLAIRVOYANT.—A PROBLEM SUBMITTED.

Mrs. Cook, now a resident of Reading, Vt., was formerly of Calais, in the same State, her maiden name being Lucy Ainsworth. Fifteen years ago this autumn, she was first found to possess that wonderful power of Clairvoyance which has since rendered her an object of so much interest in the numerous places where she has become known. She had been for two years an invalid, and it seemed that she must inevitably fall a victim to consumption, as medical power proved of no avail. While in this situation, a brother returned from New York, where he had become somewhat acquainted with the science of Animal Magnetism, then in its infancy, and, in order to test his powers, he tried them upon her. She became easily entranced, and her health beginning to improve under this new treatment, he continued to throw her into the trance state, until she began to exhibit symptoms of that clear-sightedness (and particularly in examining diseases) which she now possesses in so great a degree.

Her physician soon became interested in the evidences of medical skill, which he saw so far transcended his own, and in process of time, as she was restored, he dropped his old manner of treating his patients, and went wholly by prescriptions from her. For three years she resided in his family, in the towns of Calais, Plainfield, and Richmond, Vt., prescribing for the sick, curing many, and astonishing more, by telling them "all the things they ever did," and giving marvellous proofs of a second sight, for which at that time, they could not account.

At the end of this time, she left Dr. Douglass, and married Charles R. Cook, of Morrystown, Vt., who had been her magnetizer for the last two years. They removed to Moriah, N. Y., where they spent a year, another at Fair Haven, and also at Clarendon Springs, Vt., when, on account of Dr. Cook's failing health, to escape from so large a business, they changed their place of residence for Reading, Vt., took the Public House at Hammondville, where they have since lived until the Dr.'s decease, August 18th, of typhoid fever, terminating in quick consumption. Mrs. Cook still resides at the same place, and goes on with her business, having a large practice, not only in town, but by letter from all parts of the country.

Commencing, as she did, in the early infancy of the knowledge of Magnetism and Clairvoyance, she has had much to encounter, but owing to the clearness with which she has examined and prescribed for diseases, and to her own straight-forward yet unassuming manner, she has steadily risen above the prejudices of the world, and now stands with an unimpeachable character as a woman, and an excellent reputation as a Clairvoyant Physician. That she has done much good in this capacity, no one can dispute

who has ever enquired at all into her past life. I might call your attention to well attested cases without number, where her healing powers have been exerted to almost a marvellous degree,—but I will not occupy space. She is too well known and has had too many patients in all directions, to need further comment with regard to her healing power or her Clairvoyance.

I have been personally acquainted with this lady for the past year, and have, as yet, vainly endeavored to find the precise position she occupies with regard to Clairvoyant *Mediums*. I have questioned her when clairvoyant about spirits, but she repeatedly says she *knows nothing about them*, can follow them until they leave the body, but no farther. I have, while she was in the trance state, passed under spirit influence and spoken. She would detect the moment I began to *change*, as she called it, and when the influence was passing from me, would repeatedly urge me to to “change back again,” to use her own language; and on being questioned about me would say that my mind became clear and transparent, that ideas and language were apparently spontaneous; she would sometimes almost go into raptures about it while entranced; but still was unable to detect the *cause* of that peculiarly elevated and spiritual condition of the mind which she so distinctly perceived.

It is a mystery which I have vainly tried to solve,—the dividing line, or *connecting link*, between Clairvoyance induced by minds in the body, and Clairvoyance as unfolded by invisible and spirit power. How far human power influences these conditions, where there is *apparently* no spirit agency, I cannot determine. Whether controlled wholly by spirits in the body, or partially by those out, one thing is evident, that the same law operates, whether applied to Animal or Spiritual Magnetism, and that much effect is produced and much good done in both ways. Why there should be such bitter enmity on the side of many of those who believe in Animal Magnetism, towards those who deny nothing of that, but only admit an *added power*, I cannot conceive. It seems to me that the two sciences should go hand in hand, co-workers in the advancement of the race. I am happy to say that Mrs. Cook, though not a believer in spiritual agency, is free from that spirit which persecutes others because they presume to differ in belief; and is willing, nay, wishes, to investigate this matter, holding herself ever ready to receive the *Truth as it is, and acknowledge it* when once thoroughly understood.

A. W. SPRAGUE.

Plymouth, Vt., Oct., 1855.

A NEW STYLE OF LITERATURE.

A book entitled "Leaves of Grass," and announced as a collection of Poems by Mr. W. Whitman, of Brooklyn, New-York, published by Fowlers & Wells, presents a novel style of composition, without the rhyme and rythm of poetry,—occupying a position between the style of Ossian and the terrible-school of rough prose writers. The following extract will give some idea of this unique performance. The quotation is rather a striking illustration of the Phrenological faculty of Destructiveness.

Did you read in the sea-books of the oldfashioned frigate fight?
Did you learn who won by the light of the moon and stars?

Our foe was no skulk in his ship, I tell you,
His was the English pluck, and there is no tougher or truer, and never
was, and never will be;
Along the lowered eve he came, horribly raking us.

We closed with him—the yards entangled—the cannon touched,
My captain lashed fast with his own hands.

We had received some eighteen pound shots under the water,
On our lower gun-deck two large pieces had burst at the first fire, killing
all around and blowing up overhead.

Ten o'clock at night, and the full moon shining and the leaks on the
gain, and five feet of water reported.
The master-at-arms loosing the prisoners confined in the after-hold to
give them a chance for themselves.

The transit to and from the magazine was now stopped by the sentinels,
They saw so many strange faces they did not know whom to trust.

Out frigate was afire—the other asked if we demanded quarters? if our
colors were struck and the fighting done?

I laughed content when I heard the voice of my little captain:
We have not struck, he composedly cried; we have just begun our part
of the fighting.

Only three guns were in use.
One was directed, by the captain himself, against the enemy's mainmast.
Two, well-served with grape and canister, silenced his musketry and
cleared his decks.

The tops alone seconded the fire of this little battery, especially the
maintop.
They all held out bravely during the whole of the action.

Not a moment's cease;
The leaks gained fast on the pumps—the fire eat toward the powder-
magazine;
One of the pumps was shot away—it was generally thought we were
sinking.

Serene stood the little captain;
He was not hurried—his voice was neither high nor low;
His eyes gave more light to us than our battle lanterns.

Toward twelve at night, there, in the beams of the moon, they surrendered to us.

Stretched and still lay the midnight,
 Two great hulls motionless on the breast of the darkness,
 Our vessel riddled and slowly sinking—preparations to pass to the one
 we had conquered,
 The captain on the quarter-deck coldly giving his orders through a coun-
 tenance white as a sheet.
 Near by the corpse of the child that served in the cabin,
 The dead face of an old salt, with long white hair and carefully curled
 whiskers,
 The flames, spite of all that could be done, flickering aloft and below,
 The husky voices of the two or three officers yet fit for duty,
 Formless stacks of bodies and bodies by themselves—dabs of flesh upon
 the masts and spars,
 The cut of cordage and dangle of rigging—the slight shock of the soothe
 of waves,
 Black and impassive guns, and litter of powder parcels, and the strong
 scent,
 Delicate sniffs of the seabreeze—smells of sedgy grass and fields by the
 shore—death-messages given in charge to survivors,
 The hiss of the surgeon's knife and the gnawing teeth of his saw,
 The wheeze, the cluck, the swash of falling blood—the short wild scream,
 the long dull tapering groan,
 These so—these irretrievable.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the Transcendental Philosopher, the lover of startling and mysterious phraseology, is quite enraptured with the "Leaves of Grass" and says:

"CONCORD, Mass., July 21, 1851.

"DEAR SIR: I am not blind to the worth of the wonderful gift of 'Leaves of Grass.' I find it the most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom that America has yet contributed. I am very happy in reading it, as great power makes us happy. It makes the demand I am always making of what seemed the sterile and stingy nature, as if too much handiwork, or too much lymph in the temperament, were making our western wits fat and mean.

"I give you joy of your free and brave thought. I have great joy in it. I find incomparable things said incomparably well, as they must be. I find the courage of treatment which so delights us, and which large perception only can inspire.

"I greet you at the beginning of a great career, which yet must have had a long foreground somewhere for such a start. I rubbed my eyes a little to see if this sunbeam were no illusion; but the solid sense of the book is a sober certainty. It has the best merits, namely, of fortifying and encouraging.

"I did not know until I last night saw the book advertised in a newspaper that I could trust the name as real and available for a Post-office.

I wish to see my benefactor, and have felt much like striking my tasks and visiting New-York, to pay you my respects.

Walt. Whitman.

R. W. EMERSON.

There is a small class who admire the bizarre and mysterious in literature, to whom Emerson, and perhaps Whitman also, are very acceptable, but the greater number of readers will be inclined to regard them both as "children of the mist," and lay them aside as eccentrics.

Literary critics are very severe upon Mr. Whitman.

MEMORY.

The faculty of Memory is one of the most important that belong to the human mind. Heretofore it has been cultivated with remarkable zeal by our systems of education, to the great neglect of the development of Reasoning faculties, and it is not improbable that a reaction may arise, leading to the cultivation of the understanding to the comparative disregard of Memory. But the importance of this faculty as the foundation of a strong mind is so great that we should commit a serious error in neglecting its cultivation. Without Memory all that we acquire passes away, and all our intellectual labor is fruitless of permanent results.

With a large endowment of Memory, we soon acquire an ample fund of knowledge, and hold it at our command for practical use, and for mental development. This fund gives us at once reputation and superiority in society, and at the same time becomes the basis of a fuller development of reason and philosophy.

He whose mind comprehends at once an extensive range of facts is enabled to draw from his abundant knowledge philosophic conclusions, and to arrive at general principles which could have been reached only by means of the facilities afforded by a comprehensive Memory.

The faculty of Memory not only increases greatly our success in business and in scientific and philosophic research, but exerts an important influence upon the moral character in promoting stability of purpose and fidelity to engagements. The man of extensive and accurate Memory is enabled to fulfill his engagements and to demand of others the fulfillment of theirs—thus maintaining the stability and integrity of society. He is able to compare past and present opinions, or conduct, and thus to preserve a strict consistency in himself or to notice its absence in others.

Memory is therefore tributary to Firmness and Integrity. It is equally active in maintaining friendship by the recollection of the pleasures of personal intercourse, and sustaining the action of Adhesiveness by maintaining our interest in those with whom we are enabled to remember

many pleasant scenes. Firmness, Integrity, and Adhesiveness with which Memory thus co-operates, are calculated to make a positive and reliable character—one, however, which may run into bigotry and stubborn fixedness of purpose. This is the case, when Memory greatly overrules the reflective organs, and thus co-operating with Adhesiveness keeps the mind fixed upon the facts, opinions, and traditions from the past, to the neglect of higher principles and truths, perceived by the reasoning faculties.

There is, therefore, a natural antagonism between those whose leading faculty is Memory, and those who are governed by their reasoning faculties, but deficient in Memory. The former delight in history, the literature of the past, and science as it stands established. The latter are comparatively indifferent to ancient literature and feel far less interest in the established sciences than in the higher development of truth beyond the limits of existing science. Thus Memory and the knowing organs of the brow have a decided tendency to conservatism, and have but little conception of progress, while the reasoning faculties which make us more independent of forms and special facts, which look to the essential nature and capabilities of all things, are continually prompting to progress and guiding the progressive development of Truth.

CARL FRIEDERICH GAUSS.

Messrs. Editors: The following notice of the life and death of the great Gauss, believed to have been written by Dr. Gould, the American Astronomer, is taken from the Boston Advertiser. Does it not deserve being reprinted? Dr. Gould studied science for several years under the guidance of Professor Gauss, at the University of Gottingen. Gauss was the son of a poor butcher, and he furnishes us with another illustration of the historic truth, that the world has been ruled, and our race is impelled, by poor men, or those that rise out of poverty by their own work to competency or affluence.—*Columbia Banner*.

CARL FRIEDERICH GAUSS.—The last steamer brought the tidings of the death, at Gottingen, of this great man. The great lights, whose brilliancy gave Germany her scientific glory, have in the past few years been setting one by one, and of the bright constellation which thirty years ago shed its radiance from the once despised land of the Goths and Vandals, eclipsing the lesser glories of older nations, all but one have passed away. Humboldt alone remains—the last.

The sphere of Gauss's studies and labors was too far exalted above that of ordinary students to permit many to appreciate the wonderful activity, energy and depth of his intellect. And the language which the

tongue or pen of those who knew him best would naturally utter, must be greatly modified and restrained, if they would avoid the appearance of exaggeration. It is a rule almost without exception in the history of science, that the most profound and gifted intellects are far less appreciated and very far less known to the public than those whose inferior attainments or abilities are more within the limit of popular apprehension—not merely because the former do not make use of those arts by which popular applause is in a great measure stimulated, but still more because the tastes and the intellectual spheres of the two classes are so remote that no point of contact exists between them. And as the names of Arago and Herschel fall more familiarly upon the ear than those of Laplace, Hamilton, or Jacobi, so are those of Laplace, Newton, Bessel, and the like less seldom heard than the yet greater ones of Archimedes, Leibnitz and Gauss. And while in all probability nine-tenths of those who may read these lines have neither seen nor heard before the name of the great master, whose death the scientific world now deploras, little would be risked in the assertion that nine-tenths of those whom they would regard as the highest scientific authority would point with reverence and awe to the great intellect of Gauss, as beyond all question the most profound of all known in modern times.

Carl Friederich Gauss was born April 30, 1777, in Brunswick, in which city his father was a dealer in meats, and of very humble position. From his earliest youth he gave indications of most extraordinary mathematical abilities, and when but three years old astonished his father by correcting a mistake in the calculations of a mechanic, whom he overheard reckoning up the amount of wages due him. At school, when only six years old, he was severely chastised by his instructor, for pretending to have solved in his head a question of algebra which had puzzled one of the advanced scholars, and had been brought to the teacher for explanation. Gauss persisted in his assertion, and the schoolmaster persisted in his determination to cure him of his supposed untruthfulness and conceit; and was only convinced of his error when the six year old boy volunteered to solve in his head any question in the book. This and some similar incidents naturally attracted considerable attention in the town, and the interest of the Duke (Carl Wilhelm Ferdinand) being enlisted, this excellent ruler assumed the entire cost and supervision of Gauss's education, and continued to defray all his expenses until his appointment as Professor in Gottingen and Director of the Observatory, 1807, July 9. Gauss retained this post until the time of his death, a period of nearly forty-nine years.

On graduating, in 1799, (at the now extinct university of Helmstadt,) he published as his academic dissertation a new demonstration of one of the fundamental theorems of algebra [that of the resolvability of every rational integral algebraic fraction into real factors of the first and sec-

ond degree.] In this dissertation, he showed the incompleteness and insufficiency of all the previous attempts at demonstration, and gave for the first time a thorough, rigorous proof.

In 1801, at the age of twenty-four, he published the "*Disquisitiones Arithmeticae*," the most of which had been written during his student years, and which have never been surpassed, either by himself or any other mathematical author. The most profound, searching investigation, the clearest analytical discrimination, and a multitude of new and important theorems, rendered the publication of this work one of the most brilliant scientific occurrences on record. The book instantly became, is now, and will long remain, the standard, classic work upon the theory of numbers. There are few living men who can master the difficulty and intricacy of the problems with which it successfully grapples.

About this time the planet Ceres, the first known of the asteroid-group, was discovered by Piazzi at Palermo. For the computation of its orbit and apparent path, new methods became necessary. The great geometers of France, Italy and Germany, applied themselves to the task in vain; and when, at last, the planet became lost in the twilight, and their hope of its re-discovery when the time of re-appearance should arrive, was almost abandoned, the youthful Gauss took up the problem; and what Laplace and Legendre had declared to be impossible, he accomplished. After ten months of invisibility, Ceres was detected again by means of Gauss's ephemeris, and almost precisely in the place which he had predicted.

The methods devised for these investigations were extended so as to cover still other cases, and after expansion to full theoretical generality, were published in 1809, under the title of "*Theoria Motus Corporum Cælesticum*." It is this work which, even now, affords the formulas for computing the orbit and apparent path of each newly-discovered member of our system. And we may say of this book as of that upon the Theory of Numbers, already referred to, that it not only has been and is, but will continue to be, the standard work upon the subject for all. It is a curious circumstance that Gauss's preface to the *Theoria Motus* was dated on the 28th of March, 1809, just 200 years after Kepler, on the 28th of March, 1609, had written the preface to his immortal book, "*De Stella Martis*."

It would consume too much space for the columns of a newspaper were we to continue the catalogue of his many brilliant labors—any one of which would have rendered its author immortal in the annals of science. We will but allude to their chief characteristics—which was fitly exemplified in the device selected by Gauss for his seal. No blazonry had been transmitted to him from illustrious ancestry—it was left to him to find alike escutcheon and legend. He chose a tree, bending beneath the weight of a few large fruit, and the motto "*Pauca sed ma-*

tura"—few but mature. Such were his works; and it might be said with perfect truth that each of his books founded a science. The "Theory of Numbers," "Calculating Astronomy," the "Method of Least Squares," "Higher Geodesy," "Terrestrial Magnetism," are but a very small portion of his contributions to the attainments of his race—and the various physical and astronomical instruments which he devised—the heliotrope, now indispensable for every extended survey, and the electro-magnetic telegraph, (which still stands in Gottingen, as erected in 1833 and 1834, three or four years before anything was done by any of the litigating claimants,) are but incidental collateral off-shoots from his magnificent scientific investigations. The greater part of his works are unpublished, because not brought to his standard of completeness; and numerous incidents and anecdotes attest the correctness of the opinion that few discoveries or successful investigations have been made for many years in the higher mathematics which were not already lying written out in Gauss's desk.

It was the privilege of the writer of this to know the private virtues, the tenderness, the depth of feeling, the affection, which, though not frequently made manifest, were prominent elements in the character of the illustrious deceased. These are not the most appropriate subjects for public comment—while the brief sketch of his public life may not be without its interest to those who only know that the most profound thinker and successful investigator in modern times has just passed away from earth. As we write, there floats before us the memory of a cloudless summer evening, years ago. No moon dimmed the splendor of the starlight, and the bright sentinels came and went, while the old man sitting with uncovered head beneath them, told the story of his childhood, youth, and age. The incarnate dignity, the full consciousness of his intellectual stature, mellowed by an almost feminine gentleness and tenderness, the venerable form, the bleached and flowing locks, and the measured utterance—none of them can be forgotten. He told of his boyhood, of his parents, his teachers, his early friendships, his adoption by his sovereign before he was eight years old, his student life, his early love, and the heavy afflictions, the trials and experiences of his manhood. He spoke of America, the adoptive country of two of his sons, his affectionate interest in the welfare of the great republic, the claims which the old world had upon the new, and of his hopes that she might yet boast an intellectual and moral glory commensurate with that material preponderance to which we are looking forward in the near future. And when the discourse turned upon higher and nobler things, he spoke of the great problem of life and the mystery of death, and the regions on the other side of the portal. And he gave fatherly counsel and comfort, and offered the helping hand.

For the last year Gauss's health has been failing. A letter received

some three weeks since gave the last information of him before the tidings of his death. "First of all," says the writer, one of his colleagues, "you will want news of our great master Gauss. It will possibly be the last I shall ever write you of him. For the last year, as you know, his health has been seriously failing, and I grieve to say that he is at present in a condition which leads us to fear that the hour of his departure may not be far distant. A disease of the heart has been gradually developing itself—accompanied by dropsy. Amid all his bodily sufferings he remains intellectually the same as ever—and he will remain so until his great spirit is set free from the bonds which fetter it to the world of matter. I passed an evening with him a day or two since, and shall be with him again this evening or to-morrow, if it is possible. He lives on in his old accustomed way—but, in spite of the exciting political events, can not go out to read the papers at the Museum as of old. I told him of your letter and gave the messages. He was pleased, and replied: "Give him my love, but tell him I am very sadly ill," (*befinde mich recht hertzlich schlecht.*)"

Another friend, writing from Leipsic, mentions a visit to Gottingen toward the close of the last year. The infirmities of age were making themselves manifest. Difficulty in hearing and breathing had begun to afflict him, but the clearness of his intellect was unimpaired. "He would not talk of Astronomy or of Mathematics," says the Leipsic professor, "but he spoke of the personality of the Deity, of Hegel, of the romances of Lewald, of Newton and his portrait, of the new railroad."

Four years ago the Royal Academy of Sciences of Berlin celebrated with peculiar honor the fiftieth anniversary of Gauss's election as a member. The most eminent scientists of Germany came from all quarters as deputies to salute him. A public address was adopted by the Academy and sent to him from Berlin by the hands of Jacobi and Dirichlet. It was a festal day in Gottingen; the university with all its faculties joined in the tribute, and the long procession of wise, great and honored of all the various nations of Germany, wound through the narrow streets of the university town, beneath waving banners and emblems, amid huzzas of students, professors and academicians, to the Aula, where solemn ceremonies were held in his honor. The king wrote an autograph letter to congratulate him. The townsmen, too, and peasants joined in the applause and jubilation; for though they could not know the almost superhuman grasp of his intellect, the unfathomable depth of his mind, or the eminent services he had rendered to his race, they knew how to love and respect the venerable old man whose benignant face and stately form they had known from early childhood.

Four years ago he was in the vigor of hale and hearty health and strength. The wise, good, great, and powerful, vied with one another to do him homage. Now, he is in his grave. He died on the 23d of February, aged 77 years. There is none to fill his place.

NERVAURIC TREATMENT OF HORSES.

BY WM. REYNOLDSON.

Canute sits upon the sand with many small shells near his feet glittering and glistening as the summer sun's rays fall upon each white cliff of a Kentish coast, towering immovable behind him, and an ocean's breeze fanned the brow of the warrior victor.

He may not sit still much longer, unless in very truth, the German Ocean's advancing billows obey his voice and retire.

There be many Canutes who sit some moments on the sand—mistaking sparkling but valueless shells strewed around them, for pearls of great price—hills of chalk that confine the land-views within a few yards of barren sand, for the everlasting hills and the solid rock of immutable truth. Alas! still more infatuated they strive to speak back the advancing billows of awakened intelligence, and would say "Peace be still!" to immortal minds bursting from the weak trammels of ignorance and superstition. Men professing to be followers of the meek and lowly Jesus seem totally to overlook the spirit, yea, and very lesson of his teachings and example, in regard to those healing powers which he continually exerted and taught, until the very fact that harmonious man possesses healing power is broadly denied by men and women who still dare to call themselves christians.

The Divine command to "go heal the sick," applies the adaptation of man's physical condition when not grossly impaired (far below the normal state) to accomplish this desideratum.

At Macon, Ga., my mind was awakened to perceive some gleam of this mighty truth from the testimony of Mr. L. N. Fowler, of N. Y., who relieved a lady of a severe headache in my presence. Experience soon taught me that these pains generally yield to a few transverse passes across the brow. Fever paralysis was next attacked. Valuable suggestions from the pen of Dr. Buchanan, were travelling, silent messengers in periodicals of that day, and gave directions to my early efforts in this work.

An opportunity presented to purchase a horse for \$10, which was supposed to be totally blind of one eye, and incurably strained. He was very lame indeed. The first day I walked by his side, half the distance we travelled together—about two miles. In less than a week I rode him thirty miles, without causing him any distress. In a fortnight, no limp was obvious in his walk—the white film was dispersed from his eye, demonstrating that the nervaura is transmissible to and from the brute, and remedial to an animal. Being *en route* for England at the time, I could not carry this experiment farther.

Henry Stafford Thompson, of Fairfield, near York, England, reported a case to the Zoist, of lock jaw in a valuable colt, which was effectually

cured by what we may surely call *NERVAURA*. His first step was to kill a sheep, and wrap the colt's head and neck in the sheep skin warm from the animal. This was followed by hand rubbing of two grooms to complete recovery.

Thompson owns hereditary landed estates, of rental, about equal to the official income of our President, and horses of the very first class. He had already come in antagonistic contact with some Allopathic physicians of York. They were allowing a poor boy to perish from what they called hydrophobia. Mr. Thompson, (probably the best amateur mesmerist of England) promptly cured him by nervauric manipulations, when these wise M. D.'s, tried to prove that his complaint was not what they had previously called it. (See Zoist.) Somewhat galled by this, Mr. Thompson met the farrier—who was preparing to bleed his colt—with a few questions.

“Have you ever had a case of this kind?”

“Oh, yes! several.”

“Whose horses were they?”

The owners were named.

“Did they recover?”

“They all died.”

“Then I will KILL my colt my own way.”

Unfortunately for the Canutes, seated on sands of error, who vainly strive to jabber back the advancing wave of knowledge, the colt recovered and Mr. Thompson records the fact. (See Zoist.)

When the devoted cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth rejected my testimony, as to the healing powers of nervauric treatment, I once more thought it right to expend some priceless *nervaura* upon a lower animal. This receipt was taken:

“Received of Dr. Reynoldson, twenty-five cents in full, for one half of bay horse, which said horse is sick—this day, 24th of January, 1855.

WILLIAMS & NEAL.”

The poor beast once changed hands at \$350. For twelve months he had been valueless. The right fore limb being dragged in such a way that it required care to lead him from his stall to the pump. Under my nervauric action he coughed violently. The hair came off all along the course of the contracted muscle and in five weeks, riding him from the stable with great care, he carried me 700 miles through Virginia and North Carolina, to this point, where I disposed of him to Mr. D. Campbell, in August, 1855.

My present steed, late the property of Col. Forney, has been deemed blind of one eye for two years, and I am now trying to verify my experience of 1843 upon his eye, which shows the dark ground much more plainly than it did a week ago.

Washington, D. C. October 20, 1855.

DELETERIOUS EXHIBITIONS.

The principal public resorts in Cincinnati during the past two weeks, have been the black minstrels, and the anti-spiritual mesmeric entertainments which certainly have no tendency to elevate the popular taste, morals and manners, and both of which tend very decidedly to cultivate the animal nature, at the expense of the refined sentiments.

In the negro minstrelsy there is a great deal of good music, which serves to elevate its character ; but the main body of the entertainment consists of vulgar buffoonery, addressed to low tastes, and calculated to develop the manners and sentiments which characterize the rabble, rather than to cultivate anything of a refined and generous nature. But for the good music which accompanies such entertainments, they would be entitled to unmitigated condemnation.

In the the mesmeric (absurdly called *biological*) exhibitions, although free from the gross vulgarity of negro minstrelsy, the moral tendency was little, if any better. The object of this exhibition was to show that persons in the passive mesmeric state were susceptible of all delusions, and might easily be made to believe that they are witnessing spiritual wonders, when they are simply gulled by their operator. This is a proposition which any one acquainted with the phenomena of animal magnetism would not for a moment doubt or deny ; and the attempt to prove such a fact by an amusing exhibition of subjects, was entirely superfluous. Nor is the moral tendency of exhibitions at all admirable. The practice of reducing intelligent beings to that passive condition in which they will believe any falsehood imposed upon them by the operator, is degrading in its tendency, both to the subject who is thus deceived, to the operator who deceives him, and to the audience who laugh at the exhibition.

It is well to know the infirmities of human nature, and the gullibility of the weak, but to bring out these infirmities in public, and play upon the credulity of the passive subject as an amusement for a popular audience, is anything but beneficial in its tendency. In such exhibitions the operators amuse themselves by playing upon the weakness of their subjects, and the audience are amused by the success of the trick. Thus they not only learn to laugh at the weakness of humanity, and look with contempt upon human intelligence, but learn that the art of deception is a very successful art, when they find an easy dupe. Hence they begin to suspect all mankind of being easily duped, and lose confidence in human testimony. Faith, one of the noblest of our virtues, withers away under such an influence, and when our faith in human honesty, and our respect for human intelligence are sufficiently lowered, we may suppose that we have grown wiser, when in fact, we are merely demoralized by the loss of some of our finest sentiments, having achieved the

same degradation of our own sentiments, which is accomplished by being familiarized with vice and crime, until our confidence in human veracity is gone. Exhibitions which have such a tendency, are but little better in their moral bearing, than the bull-fights, dog-fights and pugilistic displays, which the good sense of the community has banished from most civilized countries. They are justly prohibited, because they cultivate the animal, at the expense of the moral nature of man; and all public exhibitions of human weakness, or of low vulgarity have the same demoralizing tendency. It is certainly true that such exhibitions prove, that mesmeric subjects, are not, in their controlled state, competent witnesses as to any fact. But the attempt to show that all the marvellous and spiritual phenomena of modern times, are unworthy of reliance, because some of the witnesses might possibly have been thus duped, is simply ridiculous. Such an argument, to discredit human testimony in a court, would be treated with contempt. The bare possibility that such mesmeric subjects might give testimony, is scarcely worthy of consideration, when we know that reliable testimony from individuals who cannot be mesmerized, and whose character is above suspicion, is amply abundant.

The class of persons who are influenced by such exhibitions, consists of resolute skeptics, who grasp at anything which fortifies their skepticism, and the credulous class, who are governed by the last impression on their minds, who after witnessing the display of mesmerized subjects, are so fully possessed of the idea of hallucination as to lose confidence in all human testimony. In a moral view, therefore, I cannot but condemn as deleterious, all such exhibitions, as evil in their influence upon the audience, the operator, and the subject, proving nothing but what is already well known, and overthrowing nothing but the finer elements of human nature.

ALLIED LOSSES IN THE WAR.

An American gentleman, resident in Paris, makes the following estimate of the expenditure of men in the Crimea:

“It was recently stated in the House of Commons, that, since the commencement of the war, Great Britain has transported to, and landed in the Crimea, 246,200 English, Italians and Turks. Not included in this statement were the Turks from the Danube, Greeks, &c., Egyptians, Tunisians, Arabs and other Moslems to nearly an equal extent, and to are to be added 225,000 French—making an aggregate of nearly or quite 700,000 men, of which at this moment, probably not more than 250,000, certainly not more than 300,000, *sick and well*, now survive. The allied army before Sebastopol certainly does not exceed 200,000, and to say, besides them, there are 100,000 sick, wounded, and convalescent, remain-

ing in the hospitals, or who have returned home, would be a very large estimate. The Russians, too, have suffered dreadfully, but neither to the same extent, nor in the same ratio as the Allies; for the former were always within walls, well housed, fed and clothed; not so much exposed, nor subject to such privations and hard duty as their enemies. The British press greatly exaggerate the Russian loss when they put it down at 300,000; one-half that number would be nearer the truth. On both sides, however, there is but little doubt that 500,000 lives have already been sacrificed in this un-called for, and unnecessary war, the dreadful responsibility of which must be divided among all parties engaged in it. It is really horrible to contemplate it, and the end no one can predict. I state on what I consider most reliable authority, that the present waste of life from all causes in the French and English troops in the Crimea is 20,000 per month, besides the loss of the various divisions of the Moslem troops, which die by thousands, like dogs, without any one appearing to note or regard them.

“During the past week 16,000 men have actually embarked and sailed from Marseilles and Toulon, and an equal number will follow the present week. These two large bodies of fine troops will only suffice to satisfy the insatiable maw of war for about six weeks.

“In a recent letter, I mentioned that the British force did not exceed 30,000 men, but this was intended to include all the non-combatants, including workmen, (navies,) other followers and hangers-on, supernumeraries. The actual fighting strength is less than 20,000.

PRESENTIMENTS.

Sherman, Texas, August 31st, 1855.

DR. J. R. BUCHANAN :

DEAR SIR :—I find in your Journal of Man, for July, now before me, several singular presentiments, and having a singular one yesterday, and being fresh in my mind, I now send you the particulars. During Wednesday night I thought I was eating a piece of some white substance resembling white soap, when I was seized with a violent attack of vomiting, and that I was unable to get away from the place. On waking I named the same to my wife, when it was passed by only as a dream. Having risen rather early and breakfast not being ready, I took a walk into my garden, when I found a beautiful mushroom, as I thought, and after eating a portion of it, being particularly fond of them, I found it was not very palatable, so threw the remainder away. I was then called into breakfast, which I ate freely of, when I was taken with a sickening feeling; my system becoming perfectly relaxed, I commenced vom-

iting, a profuse perspiration breaking out over my body, with a cold, chilly sensation. I had an active emetic immediately given me and by warm applications and some stimulants, recovered slowly, but all the unpleasant feelings have not yet left me.

I remain yours, very respectfully,

JOHN BROOKE.

“At the coal mine explosion near Richmond, Mr. Samuel Goulden, one of the overseers, was killed. The Dispatch says he had a dream on Sunday night, which weighed heavily on his mind. Before starting to work on Monday morning, he conversed freely with his wife, and instructed her how to do if he should meet with any accident that day. After starting to his work; he returned three times to kiss his little children and bid them good-bye. The poor fellow never saw them again!”

EDUCATION, IGNORANCE AND CRIME.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXTRACTS.

EDUCATION CHEAPER THAN CRIME.

The London Athenæum, in an article commending the public school system of the State of New York, after giving a few statistics, derived from the last report of the Board of Education, and the number of scholars taught, and the cost of each, remarks:

“The 207 schools in the New York district, with their 107,363 scholars, involve a yearly outlay of 274,794 dollars. The year at school includes a period of 240 days attendance—so that the average expense of a really good system of instruction for each child amounts to 6 dollars and 86 cents a year, or less than three cents—not quite three halfpence, a day. It does not seem to us that this outlay is very extravagant under any point of view. No system of police that we are acquainted with is so cheap. If it prevents only a tithe of what would otherwise go to the erection of prisons and the salaries of police magistrates, it is a good bargain for the community to have made. It costs our own metropolis about 40s a week to support every thief, pickpocket, and burglar who infests our streets. Five years public education of the New York urchin may cost the American public about six or seven pounds; but at the end of that term the pupil is able to take his place in society and repay it many fold by his educated industry. In London the average cost of each criminal from first to last is probably not less than £400. So that, if early and careful training when young would save even a small portion of those outcasts who now fall by a necessary inheritance into a life of crime, at the same expense as we find

incurred in the great American city—the public would gain largely in the mere money account. Education is by many degrees the cheapest of all discipline.”

IGNORANCE AND CRIME.

It has sometimes been disputed, that crime finds its chief ally in ignorance, and that moral and mental debasement generally accompany each other. There was a royal governor once in Virginia, who thanked God there were no public schools in that province; and we hear of men in our own day who look with distrust upon the increasing liberality of our public expenditures in the cause of education. A few facts will show how far these views are wisely founded. In the several cities of the State of New York, the whole number of convictions, in the several courts of record and of special sessions from the year 1840 to 1848, as returned by the sheriffs of the several counties to the Office of Secretary of State in accordance with the requisitions of law, was 29,949. Of the persons so convicted, 1182 are returned as having received a ‘common education;’ 444 as ‘tolerably well educated,’ and 128 only, or one in about two hundred, as ‘well educated.’ Of the remaining 26,225, about half could barely read and write; the residue were wholly destitute of literary instruction. Of 1122 persons convicted in 1847, twenty-two only had a ‘common education;’ and ten only a ‘tolerably good education;’ and six only, or one in one hundred and eighty-seven, were ‘well educated.’ Of 134 persons convicted in 1848, twenty-three only had a ‘common education;’ thirteen a ‘tolerably good education;’ and ten only were returned as ‘well educated.’—*Boston Transcript*.

THE COST OF CRIME IN OHIO.

The following statistics are from the report of the Attorney General of Ohio for last year; Number convicted of murder in the second degree, 7; manslaughter, 20; rape, 9; bigamy, 1; arson, 5; burglary, 34; assault with intent to murder, 10; to ravish, 2; to rob, 2; grand larceny (17 from Hamilton Co.) 43; counterfeiting, 17; horse-stealing, 17; robbery, forgery and other crimes, 25; total, 192. Of these criminals, seven were sentenced for life, the others for limited periods; and the cost of trial, conviction, etc., so far as reported, was \$14,999.83, or more than \$73 each! But as several counties did not report the costs, it is fair to suppose that the expense was not less than \$80 each.

Now the school tax levied under our present system, amounts to \$1.50 for each youth between five and twenty-one; and as three-fourths of these youth, or 600,000 attend school during some part of the year, the sum expended for the tuition of each is only \$2.00. So that the cost of convicting these criminals would have instructed them in common schools for forty years; or it would have paid for their tuition and that of the next three generations of their successors (making 800 in all), for a period of nearly ten years each.—*Ohio Jour. of Education*.

VICE IN ENGLAND.

A series of lectures is given in London on the subject of "The Prodigality of Vice in England." At a recent meeting at Concert Hall the Rev. H. S. Brown made the following remarks:

"It was calculated that £20,000,000, annually was drawn from the weak, foolish, and vicious to support those dens of infamy, brothels where the body and soul of human beings were disposed of as if they were so many cattle. Of the large sum for the whole country, £10,000,000 is allotted to London, and £500,000 to Liverpool. Talk of the expense of emancipating the slaves, and of the dreadful war expenditure, with these facts before us? Why the thing is monstrous to think of, and reflects strangely upon us as a nation, that, while our charitable and religious societies are languishing for support, we should thus be recklessly throwing away annually such incredible sums of money in vicious indulgence. We find that, out of the amount spent in London, £2,000,000 goes to the wretched women, while the remaining £8,000,000 is swallowed up by the brothel keepers. Here is an astounding fact. The poor creatures who barter their bodies and souls for lucre, are cheated out of their earnings, and held in a state of thralldom such as we, in free and happy England, and actually living among them, can form no conception of. Five years is the maximum of their vicious career, and if we take 2000 as the number known to the police in Liverpool, we find that in five years a generation of immortal beings are sacrificed to the lustful passions, or one victim immolated daily."

COLLEGIATE EDUCATION.

"The true policy is, since the mountain will not come to Mahomet, for Mahomet to go to the mountain. In plain words, since the mass of the people cannot go to college, if they would, and would not go to college, if they could, education, in all its fulness, and with all the common advantages, and enduring blessings that cluster around it, should be brought to the people. We have faith in this plan—an abundance of it. We believe in schools—"common schools," if the reader pleases—institutions of learning in every district, supported at the public expense, and invitingly open to all. And, instead of establishing colleges, for the benefit of now and then one, with old fogy Professors, whose faces are nailed to the Past, and whose minds are tied up to some old creed which the world has long since repudiated, we would have whatever is useful in learning brought home to all the boys and girls in creation.

Talk about Chemistry, Botany, Mineralogy, Geology, and all sorts of such things—there is not one of these branches that cannot be thoroughly taught in every school-house in Ohio, as well as in any college in America. Why not have it done?—(*Plain Dealer.*)