

THE
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A WEEKLY MISCELLANY

Of Astrology, Astronomy, Phrenology, Meteorology, &c.

No. II. }
PART VI. }

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MODERN OPINIONS OF ASTROLOGY EXAMINED.

WE purpose offering to our readers a full and calm discussion of the ground on which modern opinions of Astrology are founded; and, as we wish its adversaries to have perfectly fair play, and as we know that our pages will exist for ages after those from which we quote are destroyed and forgotten, we shall print in full the ablest attack that has appeared for some years past on the part of our adversaries. We shall give our readers time to digest their statements; and afterwards we shall show up the falsehoods and absurdities of the arguments contained in an article in "Chambers's Edinburgh Journal," September 24th, 1836:—

"EXPLODED FOLLIES.

"ASTROLOGY—WILLIAM LILLY.

1. "The term Astrology, though originally employed to signify all investigations whatever into the phenomena of the heavens, was, in process of time, restricted to that branch of celestial science which professed to discover, in the motions and relative positions of the heavenly bodies, in meteoric appearances and other atmospheric changes, certain signs indicative of events on earth, and exerting a powerful influence over human affairs. Hence every chimerical speculation on the heavens came to be included justly under the term Astrology, while the *sober deductions* of reason and truth were ranged under the noble science of Astronomy. But it must not be supposed that this distinction of the real from the fanciful was a conclusion early, or easily, arrived at; on the contrary, Astrology kept a close hold of its more rational brother, from the times of the Chaldean magi down to those of Tycho Brahe, and Kepler, both of these eminent astronomers being believers, to a certain extent, in the influence of signs and conjunctions on terrestrial affairs. In the days when such men as these, and we may add Lord Bacon to the number, conceived that the destinies of nations and individuals were indicated by, and dependent upon, celestial phenomena, can we wonder that the majority of mankind clung to a similar belief with avidity, seeing that a desire to know the future has at all times been a strong principle in the human breast.

2. "It would be a waste of time to attempt to enter into the minutiae of astrological science, especially as it is a point of extreme doubt whether any definite and universal rules ever existed on the subject. Astrology never was an inductive science, and, indeed, was beginning to decline before the inductive reasoning, or the method of drawing general conclusions only from an array of singly-established facts, was introduced into any science. Not even any distinct theoretical rules ever existed to guide astrological speculations, for we find that every one man, famed for his skill in such studies, had his own particular ways of reading the meaning of the stars.

3. "Before Astrology became, as it latterly did become, a tool merely in the hands of impostors, the science was divided *into two pretty distinct kinds*, namely, *natural* and *judicial*. Changes of weather were the objects of natural Astrology, and its followers would have been simply weatherwise men, had not they, as well as the rest of the world, conceived the destinies of mankind to depend on hurricanes and thunder. Judicial Astrology went a great deal further; for, without any visible changes on the face of heaven or earth, it professed an ability at all times to read and predict the fate of individuals and empires. The astrologers of later times made, as we have said, no such distinctions of their science as the above. They pretended to foretell every thing, and in every way, and the whole being an imposture, one thing, no doubt, was just as easy to them as another. They professed, indeed, to the last, to keep up a kind of common jargon among themselves, and to go by rule in their operations; but without such mystery their tricks would have been unproductive. For example, if some poor dupe wished his fortune told, they inquired into the hour of his birth, and as the movements of the heavens are fixed, they pretended to examine what sign the sun was then in, and the conjunctions or relative positions of the planets. From this they drew, as they said, certain conclusions, *at favourable hours*, and then they told the poor fool what he *wished* to know. This was casting his horoscope. Unquestionably, many men addicted to these studies were sincere believers in their own powers; but, in later times, as knowledge advanced, true men deserted Astrology, and left it in the hands of thorough impostors. We believe our readers will be amused with an account of one of the most noted of the later astrologers, especially as his history illustrates curiously the times in which he lived.

4. "William Lilly was, as his autobiographical memoirs style him, a professor of Astrology, and, ridiculous as his pretensions would now seem, the universal belief in his powers which then pervaded all ranks in the English nation made Lilly no mean actor in the stormy period of the civil wars, when Puritan and Cavalier struggled for the ascendancy. The prophetic almanacs which he issued were spelled over in the tavern and quoted in the senate; they nerved the arm of the soldier and rounded the periods of the orator. No plot of any importance, in those plot-engendering days, was entered upon by either party without previous consultation with the wizard. The fashionable beauty, overflowing with loyalty and romance, and the prim-starched dame, fresh from a saintly tabernacle—the long-locked Cavalier and the crop-eared Puritan—glided alternately into the study of the wise man, and poured into his attentive ear strange tales of love or war, trade or treason. From the finding of a stray trinket to the restoration of the royal authority, nothing was considered too mean or too difficult for him who held dominion over the stars, with all their signs and houses, advents and portents.

5. "Since high and low, rich and poor, were all equally infected with these absurd notions, it is clear that a fair and explicit detail of Lilly's history would be full of curious interest, and would lay open before us the inmost thoughts of our ancestors at that period. The mysterious follies which vanity, and pride in his art, have led him to stuff his memoirs with, have prevented this object from being effectually attained; but still he gives many pictures of a strange and amusing character. The poorest and least educated of our readers now-a-days will smile at the ridiculous nonsense to which the highest and wisest of their forefathers, only two centuries ago, bent the knee in abject worship.

6. "The family of Lilly were hereditary yeomen in Leicestershire, and the young astrologer, contrary, as he tells us, to the custom of the place, "was put to learn at such schools as the country afforded." He distinguished himself by his aptitude for learning while at school, and was sent afterwards to London, to the service of a gentleman who wanted a youth who could write, and attend on him and his wife. After Lilly had been some time in this

situation, where he was a great favourite, the gentleman's wife died, and soon after the widower, though far advanced in years, united himself to another mate. Lilly still continued in his place, and, on the death of his master, paid his addresses to the young widow. He was successful, and they were speedily married, though, for prudential reasons, the match was for a time kept secret. Lilly never had occasion to repent of this step; his wife turned out a very loving and prudent one, besides being in very easy circumstances. One year before her death, which occurred in 1633, after a wedlock of six years, he chanced to become acquainted with an eccentric personage named Evans, who gave him the first bent towards the studies which tintured so strongly his future life.

7. "Lilly studied for some time under Evans, until they quarrelled regarding the casting of a figure, when the teacher and pupil parted. Our hero had already bought a great quantity of astrological books, and was so far initiated as to carry on his pursuit without assistance. His first wife died, and he joined hands again with a lady who had some money, but turned out a perfect termagant, "being," as he professionally remarks, "of the nature of Mars." Her shrewish spirit brought Lilly much unhappiness, nor was all his skill capable of *laying* it, as long as she lived. He grew lean upon the matter, and retired to the country for four or five years, after which, in 1641, "perceiving there was money to be got in London," he returned thither, and began assiduously to labour in his vocation. He soon became known, more especially as he did not content himself with practising the arts of prophesying and magic in private, but also published a work, termed "Merlin the Younger," which he continued subsequently to issue as a periodical almanac. This arrested the attention of men very speedily, and his fame became universal.

(To be continued.)

CATECHISM OF ASTROLOGY

CHAPTER II.

Q. As I now understand, by assistance of the figure or diagram at page 4, the system of dividing the heavens into twelve houses, what method must I follow to describe such a scheme or figure of the heavens at any particular period?

A. This process we will describe; and, as an interesting case, the effects of which are now in operation, according to prediction, we will erect a figure of the heavens for the moment of the Sun's entrance into the sign Aries for the year 1841.

Q. But why take that moment in preference to any other?

A. Because, when the Sun enters the sign Aries he becomes more powerful in several ways. He is not only longer above the horizon than below each day, in this northern hemisphere, but he is in a sign with which he sympathises, and wherein he is exalted and has other "dignities," as will be explained hereafter. And it is found *by experience* that the positions of the heavenly bodies at that period have certain influences which they have not at others.

Q. Must I, then, for the present, assume that these things have been proved?

A. It will tend to your understanding better the matter in view if you call for explanations only after the facts have been stated.

Q. Will you proceed, therefore, to describe the progress of erecting the figure of the heavens?

A. We will do this by the globe, the readiest way.* At page 539 of the Nautical Almanac, for 1841, you will find that the Sun enters Aries at 6h. 28m. P. M., 20th March, 1841; wherefore we require to know the figure of the heavens for that time. But the first process is to determine the right ascension, or distance in a right sphere from the first point of Aries, which was on the meridian at the noon previous to the phenomenon. At page 47 of the "Nautical Almanac" you find that the right ascension at Greenwich on the 20th of March, at mean noon, or when the clock pointed 0h. 0m., was 23h. 51m. 22.55s., which you find in the last column of the page, under the head of "sidereal time." Take, now, the globe, and elevate the north pole $51\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, and bring 23h. 51m. of right ascension to the brass meridian. When you have done this, find, by the table at page 191 of "The Horoscope," or by the table at page 558 of the "Nautical Almanac," the correction to be added to 6h. 28m. of mean time to turn it into "sidereal time." It is 1m. 5s: call this one minute, and add it to the 6h. 28m., which being 6h 29m., you must turn the globe *from* the east *to* the west (the terrestrial globe), until you have added that amount to the right ascension culminating at noon.

Q. Having done this, should I find 6h. 20m. of right ascension, or $4\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ of Cancer, on the meridian?

A. Exactly so; and on the eastern horizon you will find $\simeq 3\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, that is, $3\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ of the sign Libra ascending.

Q. How am I to find the degree of the ecliptic on the 2nd house?

A. As this "catechism" is to teach the *practice* only of this science, we will not go into the theory by which the houses are divided by astrologers, but proceed to show the *longitude*, or degree of the ecliptic on the cusp of the 2nd house. For this purpose we shall have to refer to the following

TABLE OF POLES OF HOUSES.

Latitude.	Pole of 2nd and 6th Houses.	Pole of 3d and 5th Houses.	Latitude.	Pole of 2nd and 6th Houses.	Pole of 3d and 5th Houses.
0	0	0	0	0	0
3	2	1	9	6	3
5	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	10	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$
6	4	2	11	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$
7	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	12	8	4
8	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	13	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$

* We strenuously advise all persons who desire to examine *mundane Astrology* (which is the easiest to acquire, and the most important and striking in its effects, of any branch of the science), to make use of a globe for erecting figures of the heavens. A small 12-inch terrestrial globe will answer every purpose, and the expense is very trifling; and, if taken care of, such a globe will last a lifetime. We also advise the use of the "Nautical Almanac," with which, and "Zadkiel's Almanac" for the *longitudes*, the necessity for calculations is almost entirely obviated. We may add that, after a little practice, it will be found that a figure for any part of the world may be erected in, at most, five minutes. A table of houses is useful also, but is not absolutely necessary.

TABLE OF POLES OF HOUSES.

Latitude.	Pole of 2nd and 6th Houses.	Pole of 3d and 5th Houses.	Latitude.	Pole of 2nd and 6th Houses.	Pole of 3d and 5th Houses.
0	0	0	0	0	0
14	9½	4½	38	28	15
15	10	5	39	28½	15½
16	11	5½	40	29½	16
17	11½	6	41	30½	16½
18	12	6	42	31½	17
19	13	6½	43	32½	17½
20	13½	7	44	33	18½
21	14½	7½	45	34	19
22	15	7½	46	35	19½
23	16	8	47	36	20½
24	16½	8½	48	37	21
25	17½	9	49	38	22
26	18	9½	50	39	22½
27	19	10	51	40½	23½
28	19½	10	51½	41	24
29	20½	10½	52	41½	24
30	21	11	53	42½	25
31	22	11½	54	43½	26
32	23	12	55	45	27
33	23½	12½	56	46	28
34	24½	13	57	47	29
35	25	13½	58	48½	30
36	26	14	59	49½	31½
37	27	14½	60	51	33

Q. In the latitude of Greenwich, what is the pole of the 2nd house ?

A. Opposite 51½° of latitude, in the second column, you will find 41°, which is the pole required, and to which you must now reduce the pole of the globe.

Q. Having done this, must I turn the globe towards the west ?

A. Yes, until 30°, or two hours of right ascension, have passed the meridian, when you will have 8h. 20m. of right ascension culminating, and you will find ≈ 27½° on the horizon, which represents the cusp or beginning of the 2nd house.

Q. How shall I find the longitude on the cusp of the 3rd house ?

A. In the table you will find the pole of the house to be 24°. Reduce the pole of the globe to 24°, and turn two hours more of right ascension, past the meridian, and you will find m 28° on the horizon, which is the degree on the 3d house.

Q. Will not the degree on the 4th house, or lower meridian, be the opposite to that on the 10th house, or upper meridian ?

A. It will ; and it is in this case vſ 4½°.

Q. How am I to proceed to find the degree on the 5th house ?

A. You will find that the pole of the 5th house is the same as that of the 3d, viz., 24°. But you must now elevate the SOUTH POLE of the globe to that degree—viz., 24°—and turn *four* hours of right

ascension over the meridian, and you will then have 14h. 20m. of right ascension on the meridian, and $\approx 10\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ on the horizon, which is the degree on the 5th house.

Q. If I turn the globe two hours more, will that give me the degree on the 6th house?

A. If you elevate the globe to the pole of the 6th house, it will. That pole is 41° , the same as that of the 2nd in the latitude of Greenwich, which being elevated (that is, the SOUTH POLE, as we have now got past the lower meridian) gives us $\times 10^\circ$ on the cusp of the 6th house.

Q. I have now obtained the degrees on the cusp of each of the six houses, reckoning from the eastern horizon—viz., 1st, $\triangle 3\frac{1}{2}^\circ$; 2nd, $\triangle 27\frac{1}{2}^\circ$; 3d, $\text{♌ } 28^\circ$; 4th, or lower meridian, $\text{♋ } 4\frac{1}{2}^\circ$; 5th, $\approx 10\frac{1}{2}^\circ$; and 6th, $\times 10^\circ$; how may I obtain the others?

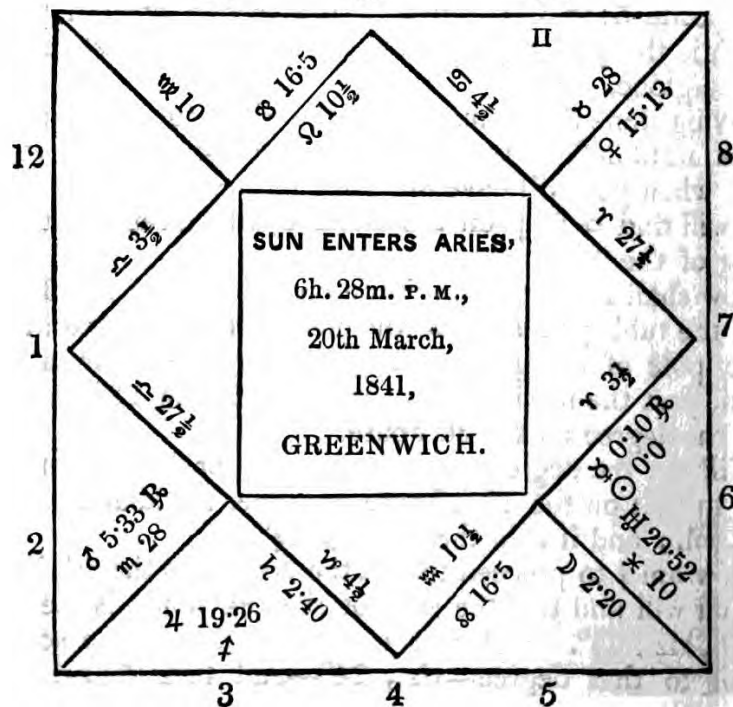
A. The other six houses cut the opposite signs of the zodiac in the same degree—viz., 7th house, or western horizon, $\gamma 3\frac{1}{2}^\circ$; 8th, $\gamma 27\frac{1}{2}^\circ$; 9th, $\text{♍ } 28^\circ$; 10th, or meridian, $\text{♎ } 4\frac{1}{2}^\circ$; 11th, $\text{♏ } 10\frac{1}{2}^\circ$; 12th, $\text{♐ } 10^\circ$. This will appear obvious, if we consider that the SIX NORTHERN SIGNS, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, and Virgo, are opposite the SIX SOUTHERN SIGNS, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricornus, Aquarius, and Pisces.

Q. But I have not yet found either Gemini or Sagittarius in my figure.

A. Because the cusp of the 3d being in Scorpio, and that of the 4th being in Capricornus, the *intercepted* sign Sagittarius lies all within the space of the 3d house, or between its cusp and the cusp of the 4th house, and must be placed in accordingly; and also the opposite sign, Gemini, in the opposite house—viz., the 9th house.

Here follows the figure, into which we have introduced the planets, &c.

AR 6h. 20m. 26s. = $95^\circ 6'$.
 11 10 9 |



Q. How are the planets' places found, and by what rule are they introduced into the figure?

A. The places are originally calculated by means of spherical trigonometry, and given for each day at noon in the Ephemeris in "Zadkiel's Almanac:" their motion in twenty-four hours being taken at once by inspection of the Ephemeris; their places, at any intervening time, are found by a simple proportion. As in this case six hours are one-fourth of 24 hours, and 20 minutes one-third of one-sixth of that amount, the calculation is very simple; and in all these cases it is not material if we do err a minute or two in the longitudes. To begin with the Moon, we find she moved, in the 24 hours, from noon of the 20th to noon of the 21st March, just $12^{\circ} 31'$, one-fourth of which is $3^{\circ} 8'$, or $188'$; and as one-sixth of that is $31'$, or one hour's motion, it is plain that $10'$ will be her motion in the 20 min. beyond the six hours. $3^{\circ} 8' + 10' = 3^{\circ} 18'$, which, added to her place at noon on the 20th, Aquarius $29^{\circ} 22'$, will give Pisces $2^{\circ} 20'$, the place of the Moon at the **INGRESS OF SOL IN ARIES**. This is to be entered just *outside* of the 6th house, which is Pisces 10° ; but if the Moon had been in more than 10° of the sign, she would have been inside the 6th.

We shall next proceed to point out what the figure denotes in this country during the summer.

ASTRONOMY.—No. V.

Astronomy is not only the most ancient and the most perfect of any of the physical sciences, but it is also the most useful. It has claims to be the basis of chronology, geography, and navigation, and it has greatly contributed to the perfection of architecture: inasmuch as, by its practice, men have improved in geometry, have developed the wonderful properties of the triangle, and have advanced, from being the dwellers in hovels, to be the occupiers of what, in by-gone ages, would have been regarded as palaces. It was the first science which, by enabling mankind to measure time, enabled them to emerge from barbarism. By it not only the dimensions of the earth have been ascertained, not only have the situations and extent of its various countries been learned, and commerce carried on to the benefit of the health, comfort, and convenience of the inhabitants of those countries, but it has enlarged our faculties, elevated our ideas, exalted our minds above the low prejudices of vulgar, ignorant, and contracted souls; and, above all, it has solemnly convinced our understandings of the existence, wisdom, power, goodness, immutability, and providence of the Supreme Being.

If we thus view the works of the creation, is it not impiety to be inattentive to the course of nature, and regardless of the heavenly bodies? Is it not to violate our duty to our great Creator to grovel on perpetually amidst the paltry pleasures, or in pursuit of the petty objects of this earth, and to neglect the phenomena that have been placed within our view to bespeak the wondrous attributes of Him whose fiat called them into being?

A learned divine has observed, "I would persuade all mankind, if possible, to gain some degree of acquaintance with the vastness, the

distances, and the motions of the planetary worlds. It enlarges and improves the understanding, assists the intellect, and ameliorates the heart. With what pleasure and rich profit would men survey those astonishing spaces in which the planets revolve, the hugeness of their bulk, and the almost incredible swiftness of their motions? When we muse on these things, we may lose ourselves in holy wonder, and cry out with the psalmist, ‘ Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him ; and the son of man, that thou shouldst visit him ? ’ ”

If the study of the heavens do us no other service, it will, at least, eradicate our self-conceit, which becomes altogether contemptible when we reflect that an individual is only one among the millions of intelligent beings who inhabit one of the countless millions of habitable worlds—when we consider that man is but an insect, that the world itself is but an atom. It is now universally admitted that intellectual improvement conduces to happiness : but Astronomy effects this object, by dispensing to our minds the rich results of the genius of all nations, and the industry of all ages ; therefore it is demonstrated that the study of Astronomy conduces to happiness.

FULFILLED PREDICTIONS FOR MARCH, 1841.

PREDICTIONS.

“ India is *fearfully* agitated—Greece a political volcano, the fires of which are fed by Russian agents.”—*Almanac*, March, 1841.

“ Certainly, China will not be prevailed against.”—*Almanac*, February, 1841.

N.B. See the predictions of war in China in April, and even in June. Let speculators in tea be on their guard !

Insurrections in Bulgaria and Albania, &c., were foretold in the month of *March*.

We may here observe, that the influences on Paris did not produce all the violence we expected ; but they caused the tyrannical measure of the fortresses to be adopted, which has been as bad as any revolution, and utterly destroyed the liberties of the inhabitants. The predictions, that “ France assumes a most warlike mood,” and “ France will be greatly agitated—warlike feelings through the land,” have been perfectly fulfilled.

EVENTS.

See accounts of a serious insurrection in Candia in the *Times*, 6th May, which says, “ Russian agents are busy among the insurgents.” Also accounts of the agitated state of Scinde, Affghanistan, and the Punjaub, the storming of Nepanee, &c. ; and that “ Lahore is still the scene of riot and bloodshed ;” and “ in the *Punjaub all is confusion.*”

“ LORD JOHN RUSSELL could not say whether hostile operations might not be recommenced.”—*Times*, 7th May, 1841.

Insurrections broke out accordingly in all Bulgaria and Albania, &c., 6th of April.—See *Times*, 8th and 10th of May, 1841.