

BROUGHTON'S MONTHLY PLANET READER, AND ASTROLOGICAL JOURNAL.

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AGITATION ON ASTROLOGY.

In April, 1860, we commenced the publication of the *Planet Reader*, the first and only serial of the kind in this country which has ever been carried beyond a few numbers. We started with a determination of doing something towards redeeming Astrology from the ban of public opinion, and although for a long time there seemed no prospect of success, we have continued our enterprise at a great outlay of time and money hoping against hope.

Last September, W. H. Chaney, Esq., a gentleman of considerable experience as an editor, author, and public speaker, had his attention called to Astrology, and after a close investigation of the subject, became so interested that he abandoned for the present a new literary enterprise and devoted his entire time to the science. He prepared a course of six lectures, which he delivered at our Hall, 814 Broadway, and on each occasion we gave tests of its truthfulness by the public examinations of the Nativities of persons in the audience, *without seeing such persons, or knowing who they were.*

As far as we are able to ascertain, this is the first course of lectures, and ours are the first public examinations of Nativities, ever attempted in any part of the world. Less than a dozen persons attended the first lecture, notwithstanding it was advertised in the daily papers and by posters, and no admission fee was demanded. But the public interest constantly increased, so much so that the course was re-delivered, and we have commenced its delivery for the third time. The course has also been delivered in Jersey City, and scores of persons there have been made converts to the truths of Astrology.

At a discussional meeting in our Hall on Sunday November 4th., W. R. Prince, of Flushing, the celebrated horticulturist, was present and took part, speaking twice with much ability. At the close of the meeting

he introduced himself to us and Mr. Chaney, and after a very pleasant conversation, in which he expressed himself highly pleased with us both, he took his leave, promising to come again often. We presented him with a copy of the *Planet Reader*, and thus we separated. On the following Wednesday we received a letter from him, and then ceased the correspondence which we give below.

MR. PRINCE TO DR. BROUGHTON.

Flushing, Nov. 6th, 1866.

Dr. Broughton,

Sir:—I have overlooked your pamphlet, and I am sorry to find any respectable man engaged in a profession such as "Astro-Medical Botany," or "Herbs grown or gathered under Planetary Influences."

There is not one word of truth in all these obsolete pretences, and no intelligent mind at the present day places any confidence in these fooleries which common sense totally rejects. Do stop wasting your precious time by thus deluding the ignorant and stupid.

Now for one disease you name *Syphylis* as an example,—You never have, nor ever can eradicate it, neither can any physician in New York. It can only be eradicated by the one Combined Extract from Plants which I have discovered.

Next, you have no remedy that can cure Catarrh of the membrane of the throat, Bronchitis, Incipient Consumption, or diseases of the lungs. All such pretence is nonsense, as you well know, and neither of these diseases has ever been cured except by my special remedies.

The age we live in calls for progress, and not to retrograde to the stupidified condition of humanity when they believed in the fooleries you now profess to revive. It is a fraud on the human mind to publish such trash as you are doing, and I think it is *criminal* for you to practice, or profess to practice, such contemptible delusions on your fellow-men, and it is only the most ignorant, poor, and needy that you can thus lead astray. Digging potatoes is a much more honorable occupation. Yours,

W. R. Prince.

MR CHANEY TO MR. PRINCE.

814 Broadway, New York,
November 12th, 1866.

Dr. W. R. Prince,

Dear Sir:—Yours of the 6th inst. was duly received and would have been sooner

noticed had we not expected to have the pleasure of seeing you personally on Sunday. But having been disappointed in our expectations, I now take the liberty of replying to your letter addressed to Dr. Broughton, who has kindly granted me permission.

In that letter you make use of the following language, in your reference to Astrology :

"There is not a word of truth in all these obsolete pretences, and no intelligent mind at the present day places any confidence in these fables, which common sense totally rejects."

Now, sir, I place the utmost confidence in the principles claimed as truths in Astrology, and am egotistic enough to flatter myself that I have an "intelligent mind," with at least a modicum of common sense. I am also an earnest inquirer after truth, and if, in giving my confidence to Astrology I have yielded to error, I am anxious to be set right.

The public rostrum, with an intelligent and critical audience for judges, seems to me the most fitting place and method for investigating truth and error, and I therefore propose to you, in the most kind and friendly manner, to meet me in a public discussion of this question :—

"Are the principles and definitions in Astrology, as set forth by its ablest teachers, consistent with Reason, and in harmony with Infinite Laws?"

You shall have your choice, to either lead or follow in the discussion, and you may also choose the length of time to be occupied, (both having the same time,) in each argument. You may also elect whether the discussion shall continue one day or any number of days. You shall be under no expense, save in coming to, and returning from, the Hall, for Dr. Broughton and myself will become responsible for all current expenses, and we will not demand any admission fee. If these terms are agreeable to you, then the discussion shall take place at the Hall, 814 Broadway, any evening in the week you may elect, or if it is more convenient for you on Sunday, then it shall be held every Sunday forenoon until such time as you may wish to discontinue it.

If you object to coming to New York, then you may choose any other place you like, and Dr. Broughton and myself will defray one half the expenses of Hall rent, advertising, &c. and you the other half, it being understood that the seats shall be free, under all circumstances.

If there is no truth in Astrology, then of course you can pronounce judgment upon a Nativity just as well as Dr. B., yet he authorizes me to propose that at each discussion you shall have the privilege of selecting some person from the audience who can give the correct time of his or her birth, (Dr. B. not to know who the person is,) and that he will give particulars in describing such person, mentally and physically, and the good and evil periods of life, so that nine out of each ten of said particulars shall be correct.

On the other hand, the Doctor or myself shall

select a person for you from among the audience, when you may see the person and then attempt the same particulars at description given by the Doctor, and yet you will fail in nine particulars out of ten.

Or if you prefer not to try the experiment yourself, then you may procure any number of the ablest Physiognomists, Phrenologists, Psychometrists, Clairvoyants, and Spiritual Mediums, who shall have the privilege of seeing the person we may select, of consulting together and then rendering judgment upon the same particulars attempted by Dr. B., yet their judgment will not be so correct as his.

Or, if you prefer, a committee shall be appointed, in any fair way, who shall select persons from the audience for Dr. B. and for you, or for such other Physiognomists, Phrenologists, &c. not including Astrologers, as you may bring for the purpose of giving judgment as aforesaid.

My object, in thus entering into details, has been to afford you as many advantages as possible in the investigation, and if there are other advantages which you may desire, and which an opponent can possibly yield, you have only to signify what they are and they shall be promptly granted.

I assure you that I am prompted only by the most friendly feeling in thus inviting you to a public discussion on Astrology, and to test it against all other methods for accomplishing the same object. Therefore I trust that you will accept of some part of my proposition for this public trial.

If you should prefer to have the tests without any discussion, we shall be perfectly satisfied, but we shall not be satisfied with a bare discussion without any tests, for the tests seem to lie at the base of the questions in dispute. Yet, if you object to the tests, we will have the discussion alone, for we are determined to accommodate you, if possible.

If I have failed to make any proposition which you can accept, then please signify to me on what terms you are willing to meet us for the purpose of having a fair and searching examination of the claims which we make for Astrology, and we will concede anything you may ask, except an abandonment of the issue.

Should you desire any assistance in the discussion, we shall not object to your bringing to your aid as colleagues, any gentlemen or ladies you may select, or you may allow others to occupy all of your time in the discussion, if you prefer, and not take any part in it yourself.

Should you decline all the propositions which I have made for a public trial of the claims we make for Astrology, then I trust that your high sense of justice will induce you to recall the uncharitable expressions used in your letter to Dr. Broughton; which were gratuitous and without the least provocation.

Assuring you of our highest respect for the energy and ability which have marked your long and successful career in life, I remain

Yours truly,

W. H. Chaney.

MR. PRINCE TO MR. CHANEY.

Flushing, Nov. 13th. 1866.

Evening.

W. H. Chaney, Esq.

Sir:—I have this moment received and glanced over your lengthy letter. I decline to waste my time on so baseless a subject as your assumptions of astrological influences. I decline even to inhale the impure influences of an atmosphere where not only all mental progress is ignored and arrested, but where only a retrograde course is adopted. I would as willingly discuss whether swindling our neighbors out of their property is a *virtuous action* and yet it is *much less pernicious* to humanity than swindling uneducated human minds out of all correct ideas and implanting therein the pernicious seeds of perversion of facts, falsehood, and error. I was not aware until I perused Dr. Broughton's pamphlet that there existed in New York, and in our generally enlightened country, any man claiming respectability and intelligence who so debased and profaned "the God within him" as to pander to the dissemination of falsehood and error among the more ignorant class as a means of pecuniary emolument; and I was amazed at thus realizing this fact. I of course was aware that there are some miserably poor and ignorant females, &c. who eke out their miserable lives by robbing those who are still more ignorant and more credulous than themselves, and these are seemingly incompetent to follow any higher pursuit or development. But that any man claiming to possess information and competent to an *honorable employment* should debase himself to such a false and pernicious calling, I had not supposed.

So far as Plants are concerned, I am the third gentleman that has devoted life to their study, and I state *knowingly* that all the *Astrological pretences as to Plants are downright and utter lies*. I know also, by the highest means of knowledge ever yet revealed to man, that all the other astrological pretences based on planetary influences are *utterly false, vague, and illusory*, and could not be true without being pernicious.

I can well imagine that Dr. B. and yourself, by giving your minds up to such fallacies and derangements, do attract around you many of the stultified and undeveloped minds of past ages, and they serve to impress error more firmly on your minds, allowing that your minds are too weak to assume an independent position. And this is the only excuse you can offer to your fellow-men and to your God for your utter perversion of truth. My mind is devoted to *Evo-*

lutional Progress based on Eternal Truth, and therefore the very atmosphere of the imposture which surround you, and are seemingly ~~bound~~ there at present, are to me so very repugnant and disgusting, that they prevented me from placing myself there again. Hoping that the Doctor and yourself, who I presume are competent to higher and purer avocations, may abandon a pursuit so false and debasing to all the higher and ennobling characteristics of man, you have my best wishes toward such a change. What I wrote before, and what I write now, are of hand expressions of the sentiments which control my mind.

Yours Respectfully,

W. R. Prince.

REMARKS.

On receiving the foregoing reply from Mr. Prince, Mr. Chaney decided that it was only a waste of time to argue with a man who claimed to be in the possession of infinite knowledge, and who sought such a flimsy excuse for declining every offer for a public discussion and test of the truth, and therefore did not reply.

Actuated only by a feeling of compassion for Mr. Prince, we cannot forbear remarking that he is deserving of the deepest pity for the gross ignorance which he betrays, by first asserting that he is "aware that there are some miserably poor and ignorant females &c." and then adding that he knows "by the highest means of knowledge yet revealed to man, &c." Now in spite of this boasted "knowledge," the merest tyro in the Natural Sciences is "aware" that only superior intellects, and of a peculiar cast, and only after years of hard study, are capable of mastering the abstruse science of Astrology, while he is "aware" that only "poor ignorant females" ever practise it. In charity to Mr. Prince, whom we admire for his great perseverance in other directions, we are bound to believe that he is either in his dotage, or that the eyes of his understanding are totally blinded by prejudice.

Public Lectures.

Several courses of Illustrated Public Lectures will be delivered this winter by Dr. L. D. Broughton, and assistant, at 614 Broadway, on the following subjects: Astronomy, Astrology, Physiology and Phrenology. The public are kindly invited to attend, and for the benefit of those who live at too great a distance to attend, a synopsis of each lecture will be published in the "Planet Reader." It is also the intention to deliver lectures in other towns and cities besides New York city, during this coming winter.

Also, the author is making arrangements to open an Eclectic Medical University in the above-named Hall, so as to give a session this winter. For terms of admission, &c., address Dr. L. D. Broughton, 614 Broadway, N. Y.

(From the Daily News, Sat. Sept. 2nd.)

ASTROLOGY.

[Continued from our last.]

The Soothsayers, Magicians, and Clairvoyants of New York.

The Love Potions, Powders, Elixirs, and other Aids to the Joys of Venus—Expose of the Recipes for Winning the Affections of the Opposite Sex—Magical Preparations of Virgin's Hair, Eyes of Toads, Human Marrow, Cantharides, and the Down of a Youth's Upper Lip—Professor Nelson and His Omens—He Predicts the Triumphant Success of the Independent Journal of the Metropolis—The Lucky Numbers of the Daily News, &c., &c., &c.

Amulets, talismans and other devices are as much in vogue as ever, as the following secret circular, which has been published by a conspicuous astrologist, demonstrates:

THE GIPSIES' SECRET TALISMANS

for procuring love, finding out secret thefts, thwarting the enemies of the wearer, etc.:

No. 1.—Elixir of love and sympathetic ingredients. This is an occult substance to wear over the heart. It imparts an influence, from him or her who wears it to and upon others, so as to make them completely subject to the wearer's will, that they cannot deny the wearer's wish or will in anything. The wearer of the elixir of love holds a most weird and magical, and even mysterious power over any and every one upon whom he or she sets the mind, will or power. Distance makes no difference. I warrant it as sure and simple, and send full secret instructions. Price \$3 50.

No. 2.—Is calculated to win the love of the opposite sex, to excite their admiration and secure their undivided love.

No. 3.—Will give you an influence over your enemies or rivals, moulding them to your will.

No. 4.—Will enable you to discover lost, stolen or hidden treasure.

For No. 5, having sent the demanded 50c., these receipts for making powders *d'amour* were forwarded:

"Beautiful stars in other days.
The prophet's eyes might read your ravs.
And tell of many a strange event
Of warfare and of warning sent."

RECIPE NO. 1.

Spanish flies	.....	3 parts.
Peasblossoms	.....	1 part.
.....	.....	1 part.
Cloves	.....	.....

RECIPE NO. 2.

The hair of a young virgin	.....	3 grs.
Down of a youth's upper lip	.....	4 grs.
Eyes of toads	.....	1 oz.
Human marrow	.....	1 gr.
The sting of queen bees	.....	1 sc.
Camphor	.....	5 oz.
Pure gold	.....	1 gr.

RECIPE NO. 3.

The following must be gathered in silence when the full moon is in the heaven:

White rose leaves	.....	3
Red rose leaves	.....	3
Forget-me-nots	.....	3
Blossoms of veronica	.....	3

These must be placed in a vessel, and 495 drops of water poured. Boil for the sixteenth part of an hour, and give three drops to the person you love.

No. 6.—Price 25 cents, and exclusively for ladies—was sent, upon receipt of the insignificant sum to "Mary Morton." The substance was, that an unmarried lady, if she wished to see her future husband, must look over her shoulder at the new moon, repeating:

"New moon, now, pray let me see
Who my husband is to be;
The color of his hair,
The clothes he is to wear,
And the happy day he'll wed me."

In this case the maid is warranted to see her husband before the wane of the moon. Of

MODERN ASTROLOGICAL BOOKS

there is every variety—the first ever published in America having been a curious collection, entitled the "Book of Knowledge." Among later publications, and these of present authority, are the following:

Pettingill's Dream Book	.....	Price.
The Fortune Teller	.....	30 cents.
The Magnetic Dream Book	.....	30 "
Al-Ma-Kan-Zur Circle	.....	25 "
The Golden Wheel	.....	35 "
The Magician's Own Book	.....	\$1 50

These books are sometimes kept for sale by astrologers, and contain only the lucky numbers and some vague material upon the subject of dream interpretation, with the significance of various omens.

THE ASTROLOGERS OF NEW YORK,

although not legion, have a large practice. All classes of society, from judge to scavenger and from belle to servant girl, dispense to them more or less patronage—putting, in most cases, implicit faith in their revelations of the hereafter. Clergymen have been known to seek counsel of them in their secret retreats, and business men innumerable consult them on all matters of unusual importance. Curiosity is more frequently an ostensible than a real plea. There are few persons who have not some lurking belief in the assumed gifts of the necromancers. In Paris the profession is far more lucrative than here, and noted astrologers have a regular round of business, con-

temers who consult upon all matters of uncertainty. The curiosity to lift the veil and peer into the world that shall be, is only human. No scoffing can eradicate it; no denying of its legitimacy can shake the faith in the magical which prevails and will prevail so long as man is merely a man, with the passions and impulses of man.

ASTROLOGY IN BROADWAY.

"All those who wish by science their fate to sum,
Present, past and future, must to Broughton's come."

who can be consulted in astrology on all affairs of life at No. 814 Broadway. Our reporter accordingly called, and having wound his way up several flights of stairs, was ushered into a respectable parlor or ante-room, where half-a-dozen persons were sitting, evidently waiting their turn to be ushered into the presence. To the question, "Can I see Dr. Broughton?" a very pretty and rather tidy servant replied that our reporter would have to wait his turn. The room was rather luxuriously furnished and decorated with winged mythological beings, Cupids, Venuses and Dianas, presided over by Mercury, who ruled, in old times, the kingdom of knowledge, and bore the keys of its manifold avenues. Among the visitors was one who appeared to be a business man, a couple of genteelly dressed ladies and an anxious faced young girl, who had obviously met with a loss, or perhaps—

"Had dreamed of sailing in a boat
Which shows that maiden fancies float,"

and was here to listen to destiny as read by the learned seer. Taking a position so as to get a peep through the door of the sanctum slightly ajar, our reporter was rewarded with the sight of mystical configurations and puzzles cabalistic hanging against the wall in mysterious and uninterpreted grandeur. Concluding not to wait the pleasure of the astrologer, our reporter, with a promise to call again, effected an exit, and continued his tour of investigation.

AN ASTROLOGICAL NEIGHBORHOOD.

About Twentieth street and Seventh avenue are clustered a galaxy of astrologists and clairvoyants, among whom are the following:

Miss Decolam, No. 49 East Twenty-eighth.
Mrs. Webster, No. 61 Eleventh.
Madame Ray, No. 375 Seventh Avenue.
Madame Ross, No. 98 West Twenty-seventh.
Prof. Nelson, No. 168 West Thirty-fifth.

ASTROLOGY THAT IS ASTROLOGY.

The last named is among the most mysterious members of the profession and most profoundly read in the lore of astrology. He is not only individual, but national in his vaticinations. Grave in his appearance and mysterious in motion and carriage and an elderly man withal, he makes a lasting impression upon the observer, and is overwhelmed with visitors. The following is his national horoscope for September:

In this month the tenth Mars leaves Gemini and enters Cancer which rules New York and vicinity. In and through this eventful month railroad accidents, steam explosions, disastrous fires, horrible crimes, etc., may be anticipated. Evil influences and similar occurrences fall out in Holland, Amsterdam, Constantinople, Algiers, Switzerland and Scotland. Napoleon the Emperor, with many evils and troubles to contend with, more so at about the 18th to the 20th of the month. The Emperor of Russia has losses and troubles, chiefly from the 9th to the 12th. The Turkish Empire is under great excitement. The King of Prussia is under good influences. In India, Greece and Mexico, peace and prosperity abound. Predictions verified. Many and most of the predictions I wrote to that great and widely circulated paper, the Sunday Mercury, have come out to the very letter, and are still coming out almost daily.

The professor speaks in low, oracular tones, and is of deeply mysterious mien. Favorably impressed, our reporter sought an interview with Prof. Nelson. and was received with that urbanity which is characteristic of the man. He drew our reporter's horoscope, and added something concerning the nature of the journal whose representative he was addressing. "The DAILY NEWS," said he, "will be the greatest paper in the world for astrology advertisements, for you publish the luckiest numbers drawn from the wheel of fortune; and speaking of lucky numbers, I say to you, Mr. Reporter, that I have foretold more numbers of tickets that would draw prizes in loteries than any other astrologist in America; for my astrology is astrology, and no mistake; but those numbers which are printed in the NEWS every day are the luckiest numbers—the luckiest numbers! Read my monthly horoscope to all the world," he continued, "and you can learn all about the battles of Europe, Louis Napoleon and the Sultan of Turkey; the Fenians, the winners of the Derby and the St. Leger, and the London prize fights, in advance of the Atlantic Cable! The DAILY NEWS," added the professor, "has increased in circulation at the rate of five hundred copies daily the last two weeks, and will circulate within a year a hundred thousand copies every morning." Hearing which gratifying words, our reporter withdrew.

The remaining members on the list are all clairvoyants, having a large medical and astrological practice, with the exception of Mrs. Webster, who possesses the gift of second sight and hails from

"Scotland's icy mountains."

{Mrs. Webster transacts an immense business, both by correspondence and personal omen. The most fruitful source of wealth among all those votaries of magic is the sale of talismans and potions for inducing love, for making plain people handsome, and for affecting other equally desirable ends.

[Several other names, with reports in relation thereto, follow, but want of space compels their omission.]

REMARKS.

It is a fact which no evidence can disprove, that some of the best mathematical and philosophical minds in all ages of the world have

been earnest advocates for the sublime teachings of Astrology. Their utterances have been like waves of intelligence, breaking upon the blind understanding of sceptics, disturbing their quiet and causing them to send forth their insane and impotent howls against the eternal truths of a science which is entirely beyond their comprehension.

But Astrology will not "down" at their bidding, notwithstanding the daily papers occasionally devote three or four columns to the subject, wherein they mingle truth and falsehood so ingeniously, as in the foregoing extracts taken from the *Daily News*, of this city, that the uninitiated, being unable to distinguish between the two, are inclined to treat Astrology as being on a par with fortune telling by cards, tea-grounds, etc., and therefore an imposture.

I am rather pleased than otherwise, with these insensate ravings, for they provoke inquiry among the liberal minded, and Astrology has nothing to fear from the closest scrutiny. Besides, such slurring criticisms prove that the public mind is being agitated upon the subject to a very great extent, or it would not be deemed necessary to occupy so much *valuable space* (?) to expose what "nobody believes."

But the vulgar impudence of these critics is more than equalled by their ignorance. They do not seem to be aware even of the definition of the word Astrology, for under that head they class Spirit Mediums, Clairvoyants, Palmistry, Moleology, Interpretation of Dreams, Fortune Telling by Cards, omens, &c. Even the *Herald*, in classifying the advertisements, falls into the same error, wherein there is no more connection or similarity between Astrology and these cunning devices of charlatans than there is between lace and lobsters, or a natural philosopher and a natural fool. Yet the truths of Astrology are pronounced upon, not according to their own merits, but the merits of these charlatans.

What would be thought of a man's judgment who should decide upon the Merits of the *Materia Medica*, without having examined it, but from the impressions received from visiting all the quacks in the city? Yet he would be just as rational in his decision as the critic who denounces Astrology because some old negress, after shuffling and cutting a pack of cards, advised him to buy a certain policy ticket which has proved a blank.

I can compare these critics to nothing but a squad of cowardly soldiers, who, afraid to meet their real enemy in open battle, straggle off and strangle a community of ignorant women and children, in no way related to their real foe, and then go about boasting that they have slain every armed veteran of the enemy.

Why do not these critics attack the champions

of Astrology, instead of wasting their ammunition upon silly old women who set themselves up as fortune tellers? Or are they so ignorant that they do not even know the names of standard works upon this science? Presuming the latter to be the case, I will so far take pity upon their ignorance as to name a few standard works.

Complete Dictionary of Astrology, by James Wilson, Esq., London, England; Astronomy and Elementary Philosophy, by Plaudus de Titus; Zadkiel's Handbooks of Astrology; The Prognostic Astronomer; or, Horary Astrology, by Dr. W. J. Simmonite; Raphael's Manual of Astrology; New and Complete Illustration of the Occult Sciences, by the late E. Sibly, M.D., F.R.H.S.; The Complete Arcana of Astral Philosophy, by W. J. Simmonite, A.M., M.B. A., Ph., Mat. Here these cowardly critics may find foemen worthy of their steel, and I recommend a bout with them while the old women are allowed a season of rest.

W O N D E R F U L

CHARMS, TALISMANS,

AND

Curious Secrets

IN

OCULT PHILOSOPHY.

[Extracted from Ancient Manuscripts and rare old Authors]

"When the silent stars are shooting,
And the answering owls are hooting,
Shall my spirit be on thine,
With a power, and with a sign?"—BROWN.

"The charm works, and now, Arthur, bid thee to the green wood, keep to the left, and anon on the verge of the sloping pasture, where the *fairy-ring* envelopes its mystic space, thou shalt find the deadly *nightshade*, and the root of *vervain*; haste, I say, for the hour of *Saturnus* will be gone by, and lo! the moon has already risen to light thy path.

"Arthur—Father, I speed, wined off by love, and all anxiety to try thy potent *spell*—ye stars be favorable!"

OLD PLAY.

It seems a natural instinct of the human mind, at this age of the world, to disbelieve and ridicule whatever is unknown or not generally understood. This phase of character, however, is generally limited to the superficial and ignorant, who always believe too much or too little. Thus the *N. Y. News*, in its death throes. (It is now uncommonly dead and defunct,) raved about Astrology, Charms, etc., betraying an ignorance of the subjects ridiculed worthy only of a *Hottentot*.

tot or Digger Indian. We should not have occupied so much space in copying from the *News*, but from a desire to expose the malicious ignorance manifested by the writer, who evidently could not tell the difference between the parallax of a star and the precession of the equinoxes, and yet there is less analogy between the two than there is between a pumpkin and his own cranium.

Without entering into any defence of the theory of talismans, we will state that Sir Isaac Newton, in his "Principia," lays down the principle, as the foundation of his theory of gravitation, that "every atom of matter is attracted by, or gravitates to, every other atom of matter with a force inversely proportional to the squares of their distances." Accepting this as a basis for investigation, it may be worth while to inquire if human beings are affected magnetically by each other by animals, vegetables, minerals, etc., and this brings the inquirer at once to the subject of talismans. The ancients doubtlessly entertained many absurd ideas respecting talismans, yet it is not impossible that there might have been a germ of truth amid their abundance of superstition.

In the whole circle of the *Theurgic Art*, there is scarcely anything more abstruse or intricate than the mystical art of talismans. The practice has occasionally received much opposition, and been treated with contumely, by those persons who are either unable to comprehend the secret yet sublime mystery of Nature, or unwilling to give credence to anything beyond the immediate sphere of their own comprehension; and on the other hand, the art has stood its ground with firmness amidst the change of ages. Mourning rings, miniatures, lockets, devices, mottoes, armorial bearings, and the "boast of heraldry," are all so many relics of talismanic learning.

"Sunt lachrymæ rerum et mentem mortalia tangunt."
Virgil.

Most persons must be aware that pleasant sensations are often produced by *images* of a pleasant nature; and not only this, but the indescribable sensations are often produced by undefined combination of forms. Hence we are in the habit of attributing even to inanimate bodies an air of grandeur, something of solemnity, a striking appearance, which is a proof that these bodies or forms contain something which has a tendency to excite

these respective emotions, and which lays firm hold of the mind, by swaying it toward them through an occult and imperceptible sympathy.

It requires no great degree of credence in the astrologer, to believe in the effects of talismans; for if (as can be proved) the heavenly bodies are at times more propitious and fortunate in their influence over terrestrial objects than at others; why should not the Theurgist be able, from his close observance of Nature in her most retired forms, to render the images or talismans he constructs malevolent or propitious, according as the constellation, under which he makes them, partakes of either; and this by a true and never-failing sympathy, which the astrologer knows to subsist between celestial and terrestrial objects, at all times and in all climates.

The celestial influence, although the chief, is not the only cause of talismanic effects, for there are causes far more occult and secret, which have been discovered by the indefatigable pursuits of the ancients, and have never yet been made known to the world, partly through the tendency which mankind have to think lightly of that which is within their comprehension, and partly through the inadequate reasons which could be assigned for the effects approaching to supernatural power over mundane affairs.

Suffice it, however, that such effects are possible to every scientific Theurgist, who makes the sympathetic properties of Nature his chief study, and pursues her mysteries with undivided attention. But to define the principle on which these causes act, to learn scientifically forms, time, and ingredients, which will produce the proposed effects on given objects, even though the *form* may not, to the minutest inspection, betray its intention;—nay though it be concealed in an envelope and buried in the earth; and farther, although the maker of the talisman has never been within a thousand leagues of the person to be affected!—To accomplish this is undoubtedly a *great art*, and yet it is an art which has been more or less known to philosophers of all ages, and in most parts of the habitable globe.

☞ THE PRESIDENT'S NATIVITY.—For want of space we are unable to continue the Nativity of Andrew Johnson in this number, beyond the calculations inserted in the "Fate of the Nation." It will be resumed in our next.



THE FATE OF THE NATION, For the Winter Quarter of 1867.

The Winter Quarter commenced at 7h. 53m. P. M. on the 21st of December, 1866. when 10 degrees of Leo was rising and the 1st degree of Taurus culminating. The Sun is lord of the scheme and in the 5th House, applying to an opposition of the Moon and Herschel in the 11th. Mercury and Venus are also in the 5th House, in sextile to Jupiter and the Part of Fortune in the 7th. Saturn is retrograde in the 4th, applying by a trine to Mars retrograde in the 12th.

The foregoing positions of the planetary orbs are decidedly ominous. Though war is neither indicated nor threatened, yet there will be treachery from foreign diplomats who will endeavor to impose upon our Government under the guise of friendship.

Speculations of all kinds will be active, Wall Street will be alive with excitement—fortures will be made and lost in a day. At the opening of the year stocks and gold are liable to go up, but afterwards their value will fluctuate.

Saturn afflicting the 4th House denotes treachery on the part of pretended friends, and conspiracy from the secret enemies of the Government. But the Moon making a conjunction with Herschel will bring to light numerous frauds and villainies on the part of persons hitherto unsuspected.

Trade and business will improve slightly during the current quarter, yet there will be little firmness.

The public health will be generally poor, and many aged persons will be carried to their last resting place.

I look for serious injury to the agricultural interests in consequence of storms and floods, and that provisions will increase in price.

President Johnson's enemies appear to be hushed during the present good aspects in his Nativity. But near the middle of February they will again burst forth in their fury, and probably attempt his impeachment. But they have nothing to hope for—they will never succeed.

An aged member of the Cabinet will be seriously afflicted, and either retire from his position, or he may close up his last earthly account.

Gen. Grant's Nativity is afflicted during the early part of the year, yet it is more likely to affect his health than his official administration in connection with the War Department.

Herschel and Mars both afflicting the ruling sign of New York, will cause this city to be a great theater of robberies, forgeries, incendiaries and murders. The lower classes will experience great suffering, and there is danger of riots during this quarter.

Jupiter has completed his transit through Capricorn, and Mars and Herschel being now opposed to the ruling sign of Mexico, hot work may be expected in the country of the Montezumas. If still there, Maximilian will discover Mexico a very unhealthy climate for the residence of a foreign prince.

Should Napoleon III have survived the transit of Saturn over his own place in the Mid-heaven of his horoscope, he has still some very evil aspects to encounter in February and March, during which he will either commit some foolish or rash act, similar to his invasion of Mexico, or he will be in great danger from attempted assassination.

I observe that Saturn is afflicting the Sun's place in the Nativity of Pope Pius IX. This aspect will bring grief to the old man, and may be the means of bearing him away from the troubles impending over his head. Should he survive, the coming spring will long be remembered on account of the sorrows and afflictions of *The Last of the Popes*.

I look for many failures in England and France, and much suffering among the lower classes; also great excitement respecting religious subjects, and numerous accidents &c. among travellers shipwrecks &c.

Ireland is still unsettled, and there is great danger of severe suffering or a violent outbreak during the first current quarter.

January.

The full-moon for January, 1867, occurs on the 21st of December, 1866, at 3h. 38m. P. M. The lunation falls in the Ascendant with Herschel afflicting the 2nd House. The heavenly portents are alarming at the outset. But the excitement will soon subside, although there will be enemies busy in their conspiracies against the President and his Cabinet. Yet their attempts will all prove abortive. Business will slightly improve, yet there will be great fluctuation in prices in consequence of speculations. The public health suffers, and there is danger of the death of an eminent person, New York and the northern cities suffer from storms, floods, and fires. I look for many heavy failures both in this country and in England, resulting in great suffering and excitement.

February.

The full-moon for February occurs January 20th at 2h. 40m. A. M. Mars, lord of the scheme, is in the 8th House, in opposition to Mercury in the 2nd. These are very evil positions of the heavenly orbs. The enemies of the President will be rampant for his impeachment. There will be much excitement about Government affairs, and great danger of an attempt being made to assassinate the President. I look for the death of some member of the Cabinet. Business continues dull, with fluctuation in prices, in consequence of the discord between Congress and the Executive, which impairs public confidence. New York suffers in particular at this time. I look for more distress and suffering among the lower classes than has been experienced for many years. Let the authorities be particularly guarded against riots and incendiaries at this time.

March.

The full-moon for March occurs on the 18th of February at 2h. 45m. P. M. The opposition occurs in the 2nd House, in square to Saturn in the 4th. These positions will cause a great stagnation in money affairs. Instead of a brisk spring trade, there is a great falling off in all kinds of business. A want of harmony between the President and Congress continues to impair public confidence. I look for severe storms for the season, which will occasion great floods and do much injury to the agricultural interests, as well as the northern cities generally. A division in the Cabinet seems imminent at this time. During this month the President should to particularly guarded against secret enemies Mars and Herschel still afflicting the ruling sign of New York, will cause more suffering in the city than is usual at this season of the year. I look for great commotion in Mexico, and should Maximilian still remain within the borders, now will be the time for him to make a hurried departure. News from abroad will be exciting, and treachery from some of the European governments may be expected.

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