

STAR LORE

AND

FUTURE EVENTS.

By the Editor of ZADKIEL'S ALMANAC.

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THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

IN our issue of September we commented on the crisis in South Africa in the third quarter of the present year, and quoted the predictions of it made in Zadkiel's Almanac for 1899, on the basis of the threatening planetary positions and configurations at the ingress of the sun into *Aries*, in March, and *Cancer*, in June, at Capetown.

Since we wrote that article (in August) the Transvaalers revolted against Great Britain, and, aided by the Orange Free State burghers, invaded the Queen's dominions in Natal and Cape Colony. The differences between the Transvaal and the British Government were serious in August and September, and it is now evident that Kruger would have begun the invasion of Natal earlier than October but for being compelled to wait for the spring to render the expedition easier and to furnish grass for the horses of his army. It is, therefore, justifiable to claim that the following prediction has been verified, although the invasion was not actually begun until the 10th of October, seventeen days only after the quarter ended to which the forecast applied:—

PREDICTION OF WARFARE.

“The SUN enters *Cancer*, June 21st, 1899, at 3^h 45^m p.m. MARS flames fiercely in the tenth house at this ingress, and being in *Virgo* and in quartile aspect with the Moon and Uranus he excites martial feeling and inflicts war on mankind, the East of Europe being the most likely battle-ground. How Europe can escape war this summer, with this martial influence showering down on the nations, is difficult to understand; and it will indeed be a great diplomatic triumph if the scourge of international strife can be avoided. . . . Should the seemingly inevitable great war break out, the triumph of Great Britain is assured by the elevation of her ruling planet (Mars) above all the other heavenly bodies.”—Zadkiel's Almanac for 1899, p. 60.

The above prediction was written in July, 1898, and published in October of the same year. On the outbreak of war in South

Africa, there was an attempt made by France to stir up strife in the East, and to take advantage of our difficulties to push us out of the Mediterranean, and China; but the diplomacy of Lord Salisbury and the display of our naval power frustrated French designs which, if they had been supported by a northern Power, would have plunged Europe into a fearful strife. At Hankau, in August, the action of Russia was very dangerous to peace, and but for our Foreign Secretary's skill might very probably have led to hostilities.

In the June issue of *Star Lore*, p. 30, we wrote:—

“Much as we should like to foretell halcyon days for our beloved country, we are compelled to sound a note of warning against the slightest excess of optimistic anticipation. . . . We shall be agreeably surprised if the funds and stockmarket do not show a downward tendency.” At p. 17, we said:—“The Transvaal is in a state of unrest, and the Boers seem bent on defying Great Britain.” At p. 26:—“The nation will have some disputes and crises to pass through in June to August, and again about October or November next.”

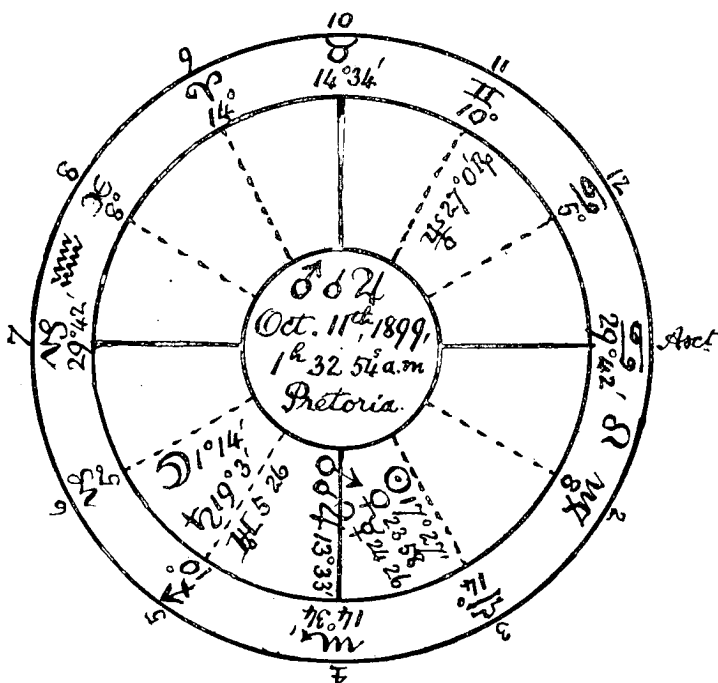
It is remarkable that the insolent ultimatum of President Kruger was presented on the 9th of October, and that on the 10th the Transvaal forces began the invasion of Natal, because it was on the 10th of October that the CONJUNCTION of MARS with JUPITER in SCORPIO $13^{\circ} 32' 46''$ took place, which we said would be “of happy omen for the arms of Great Britain, whose enemies will be scattered.”* This important conjunction took place at $11^{\text{h}} 37^{\text{m}} 14^{\text{s}}$ p.m., Greenwich mean time, the conjoined planets being in the fourth house or division of the heavens, in semi-quartile aspect with the Moon and sesquiquadrate with Neptune.

At Pretoria the conjunction of Mars with Jupiter took place at $1^{\text{h}} 32^{\text{m}} 54^{\text{s}}$ a.m. of the 11th of October, close to the cusp of the fourth angle or lower meridian, *Scorpio* $14^{\circ} 34'$ being on the angle. The conjoined planets were therefore in opposition to the upper meridian or tenth house, which represents the President and his Government. The sign *Cancer* $29^{\circ} 42'$ ascended, as shown in the diagram.

This conjunction will be of historical interest. It clearly foreshadowed the outbreak of the war, which really began on the 11th of October, by the expiration of the time allowed in the ultimatum, viz., 5^{h} p.m. at Pretoria. It would seem that either the ascendant or descendant of the Transvaal lies between the 12th and 14th degrees of the sign *Scorpio*. It will be remembered by students that on the 15th of November, 1895, there was a conjunction of Mars with Saturn in *Scorpio* $11^{\circ} 33' 13''$, and within a few weeks after it took place the Jameson raid nearly involved us in war with the Transvaal and Germany.†

*Zadkiel's Almanac for 1899, p. 33 (October).

†Vide Zadkiel's Almanac for 1896 and 1897.



Lat. Declin. Lat. Declin.
 0° 14' 22" s. ♄ 16° 8' 18" s. 0° 52' 51" n. ♃ 15° 4' 23" s.

Several conjunctions of Mars with Jupiter have been closely associated with the outbreak of devastating wars. Our readers know that we foretold the Russo-Turkish war of 1877 from the conjunction of those planets in 0° 1' 56" of the tropical sign Capricornus (which rules Bulgaria) on the 1st of March in that year, the fighting being most terrible when Mars was in perigee. Ancient writers on astrology aver that the conjunction of Mars with Jupiter near the tropic or equator, or in the sign Scorpio, or Leo, causes religious disputes to have much to do with the outbreak of war. In the present instance the opposing nations are of the same faith, but the Boers are particularly vociferous of their belief in Divine guidance and protection!

We have been asked why we did not predict the outbreak of war in South Africa for October last? Our reason was this:—When we found that an annular eclipse of the Sun in *Scorpio* in quartile with Mars in *Leo* will be visible in South Africa in November, 1900; and that at Capetown at the Sun's ingress into *Libra*, September 23rd, 1899, at 7^h 43·5^m a.m., *Scorpio* 10° 35' is ascending, JUPITER rising in *Scorpio* 10° 0', and Mars cadent in the 12th house in *Scorpio* 1° 23', and when we reflected that the

point then in dispute was merely one of equal rights for Boers, Britons, and natives, in the Transvaal, and that the British Government was desirous of peace and not of war, we concluded that Kruger would concede what he had before promised; and we did not think that he was bent on plunging into war in order to establish the rule of the Transvaal Republic over the Queen's dominions! We thought that the peacemakers would smooth over the difficulty for the remainder of the present year and the greater part of next, and that war would not be entered upon before November, 1900; especially as great Solar eclipses are usually found to be more powerful than planetary conjunctions acting alone. We therefore wrote (in July, 1898) that:—"Jupiter rising promises a successful period, and the surmounting of the recent difficulties and racial troubles."^{*} The tide has turned now in favour of the British army, whose heroic valour has won the admiration of even our enemies. The splendid defence of Kimberley, Ladysmith, and Mafeking, and the victories in which our brave sailors took a gallant part have shown how nobly our men do their duty. It may be mentioned that we foretold that in November "honours fall to the lot of the army and navy."[†]

Writing last July on the Solar eclipse of November 22nd, 1900, we said:—"At Capetown a partial eclipse (0.492) is visible. The new moon takes place in *Scorpio* 29° 33', at 8^h 31^m. a.m., *Libra* 9° 22' culminating, and *Capricornus* 22° 16' ascending. Falling in the last decanate of the sign *Scorpio* and in exact quartile with Mars in *Leo*, this eclipse pre-signifies 'the rise of some tyrant' according to Proclus. As Mars is on the point of entering *Virgo*, a sign of human form, there is reason to fear that a great WAR will very soon break out in South Africa, brought about by either a tyrant native chief or the obstinate President of the Transvaal. The worst effects are pretty sure to fall on Matabeleland and the Transvaal. My fear is that Great Britain will be compelled to fight for her supremacy in South Africa, the enemies of British rule being determined to end it if they can. . . . Natal seems likely to see more of warfare than Cape Colony."

The *Daily Telegraph*, October 12th, wrote that:—"Zadkiel is compelled to go to press so early with his Almanac for the ensuing year that his prophecies have got (*sic*) slightly out of gear. He has put the war with the Transvaal a year too late. In the Great History of the Ages a trifle of twelve months may not be of great importance, but when dealing with the practical affairs of the period a vaticinator is of little use unless he is exact." To this we may reply that he would be a bold press-writer who would now venture to affirm a belief that the months of November and December, 1900, will be times of perfect peace in the Transvaal,

*Zadkiel's Almanac for 1899, p. 61.

†*Ibid*, p. 35.

Natal and Matabeleland. Of course the *Telegraph* writer could not be fair enough to record the fact that we did foretell danger of war, discord, etc., in South Africa in 1899, many months before the outbreak took place. The *Echo* copied this criticism from the *D.T.*, which is highly absurd on the part of the half-penny paper, which heads its correspondence with the motto:—"Hear All Sides," and yet refuses insertion to letters defending astrology from grossly unfair attacks upon it; and down to the moment that war was declared by Kruger the *Echo* protested that the Boers had no warlike or any other evil design against the suzerain Power!

To return to the figure of the heavens cast for the moment of conjunction of Mars with Jupiter at Pretoria. As the latitude of that town is *south*, the ascendant is on the right hand of the circle representing the heavens, and the other houses are numbered in rotation from it downwards to the fourth angle and then upwards, in a manner precisely the reverse of that applied to figures for places in the northern hemisphere. The moon, ruler of the ascending sign (*Cancer*), and the Sun, co-ruler (*Leo* being in the ascendant), are both afflicted; and as the tenth house rules the Transvaal Government and the President, the fourth rules their enemies, and in the latter house the ruling planet, Mars, is strongly situated, and in conjunction with Jupiter. The eventual and speedy triumph of the British forces is thus pre-signified. Again, if we cast a figure for 5^h p.m. of the 11th of October, the time at which the ultimatum expired, we shall find that at Pretoria *Aries* 4° 31' ascended, and *Capricornus* 4° 35' culminated; the Moon in the tenth house, in ♄ 10° 0' has the sextile nearly of both Mars and Jupiter, but she has also the parallel declination with the three malefic planets, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, and applies to the quartile aspect with the Sun in the seventh house (that of war). So that this figure also pre-signifies the utter defeat of the Boer forces.

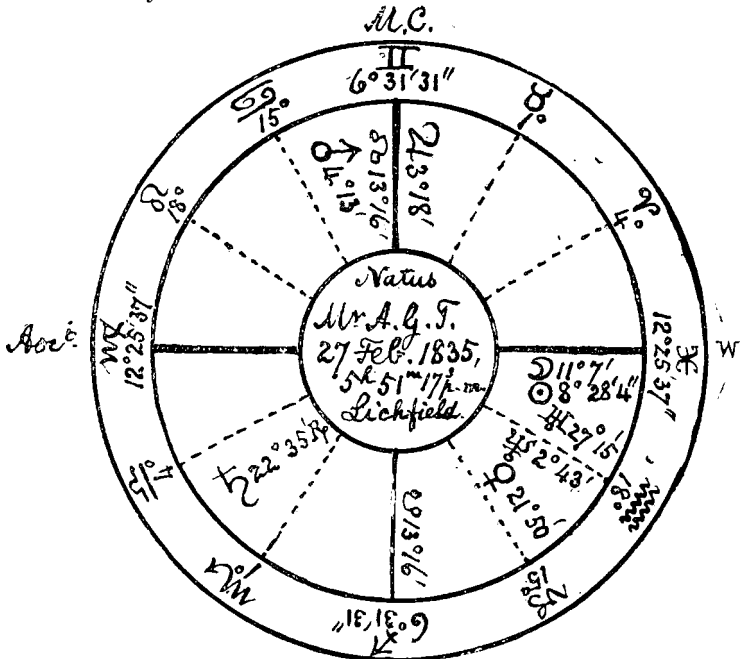
At the winter solstice at Pretoria, December 22nd, 1899, 2^h 51·5^m a.m., *Scorpio* 24° 46' ascends, Jupiter being in the ascendant in 29° 8' of that sign. *Leo* 10° 16' culminates, the Moon being in the tenth house in 26° 0' of that sign in trine aspect with Saturn, and applying to the quartile with Jupiter and trine with the Sun. This shows that the Transvaal Republic is nearing its end, and that the form of government will be *changed*, and the change will be to the advantage of the country. The PLANET OF REFORM and civilisation—the benefic JUPITER—is on the point of entering his domal dignity, and this is a happy omen of peace, security, prosperity, and justice under the British flag.

As the new moon of the 1st of January, 1900, falls exactly in the place of the Moon (*Capricornus* 10° 0'), and in conjunction, nearly, with Mars, at 5^h p.m., at Pretoria, of the 11th of October, 1899, a decisive battle will take place soon after New Year's Day, which will put an end to the inglorious rule of Kruger, and place his capital at the mercy of the British Army.

When writing, last July, on the planetary positions at the December solstice at Capetown we foretold that they would prove to be "more peaceful than of late, and more favourable to British supremacy in South Africa."—*Vide Zadkiel's Almanac for 1900, p. 55.*

HOROSCOPE OF MR. A. G. TRENT.

THE distinguished author whose nom-de-plume is A. G. Trent, when writing on astrological matters, has kindly given his permission to the Editor of *Star Lore* to present his horoscope in these pages. He writes:—"The right ascension of the mid-heaven is 64°40', which brings up primary directions agreeing well with the chief events of my life. If there is any error in my calculations you will correct it."



PLANETS.	LAT.			DECLIN.			RT. ASCN.			MER. DIST.			SEMI-ARC.		
	°	'	''	°	'	''	°	'	''	°	'	''	°	'	''
Sun	°	11	7	8	24	8S	340	6	9	95	6	12	101	10	0
Moon	°	4	59S	12	0	41S	344	31	43	99	51	46	106	11	53
Mercury ...	°	2	30N	0	19	13N	354	25	42	70	14	15	90	25	12
Venus	°	3	4N	18	38	57S	293	5	25	48	25	28	116	15	46
Mars	°	3	9N	26	31	42N	95	4	32	30	24	35	130	32	54
Jupiter ...	°	0	32S	20	18	51N	61	25	2	3	14	55	119	2	9
Saturn ...	°	2	41N	6	17	28S	201	52	24	42	47	33	98	18	39
Uranus ...	°	0	42S	13	6	42S	329	41	8	85	1	11	107	46	52

The local time of birth was 5^h 51^m 17^s p.m., in lat. 52° 40' N. and long. 7^m 20^s W. This makes the sidereal time 4^h 18^m 39^s 8 = 64° 39' 57" in arc of R.A., *Gemini* 6° 31' 31" culminating, and *Virgo* 12° 25' 37" ascending. We have computed the planets' longitudes, latitudes, declinations, right ascensions, and semi-arcs very carefully, and have presented them in the diagram and speculum.

Virgo rising, Mercury being in an angle* (the western) elevated above the Sun and Moon in the same sign (Pisces), and separating from sextile aspect with Venus, confers clear, incisive, and strong mental powers, and inclines to a literary career. Mercury in mutual reception with Jupiter, which benefic planet is elevated above all the heavenly bodies, renders the mental nature "generous, reverent, joyous, courteous, liberal, just, magnanimous, noble, self-reliant, and fond of learning," says the author of the *Tetrabiblos*. Venus harmoniously configured with Mercury renders a man a "lover of the arts, philosophical, of scientific mind and good genius, poetical, delighting in learning and elegance, fitted for various arts, intelligent, not mislead by error, quick in learning, self-teaching, copious and agreeable in speech, sincere, and high-minded."

In regard to the physical constitution, the question of hyleg must be decided before judgment can be given. By oblique descension the Sun is 6° 3' 48", and the Moon 6° 20' 7" below the western horizon, and neither can therefore be hyleg according to the rule which limits the hylegiacal place in the western angle to from 25° above to 5° below the horizon. In such case the ascending degree is hyleg or the vital point. In this nativity the ascending degree has no aspects from any of the planets, but is not far from the parallel of declination of Saturn and the Sun, and this only caused delicacy of health in infancy. Mr. A. G. T. writes that "the civil directions of Saturn to the Sun, Moon, and ascendant, all failed to affect health, though they brought family troubles." This is remarkable, and shows that a good constitution and excellent vitality enable the possessor to withstand the attacks of the enemy of life—in the case of one who leads a temperate life in every way—in youth and middle age. Very probably the predominant position of Jupiter so near the mid-heaven has exercised a powerfully benefic influence on the constitution.

Worldly prospects are seen to be good, when the meridional position of Jupiter (only 3° 14' 55" past the meridian), the conjunction of the Sun with the Moon in a Jovian sign, and the angular position of the ruling planet are considered. No doubt but for the approximate zodiacal parallel of the Moon with Uranus and the sesqui-quadrate aspect of the Sun with Saturn in the second house, and the fact that Jupiter has really passed the upper

* Unfortunately Mercury's symbol was accidentally omitted from the diagram. ☿ is in ♋ 25° 0', in the 7th house.

meridian, our author would have risen still higher in the world and would have accumulated wealth. His fame is enviable, but as he is not a sordid wealth-seeker and has always evinced the highest and noblest aims in the spread of truth and learning, he has not yet made such a fortune as some writers of far less power and not so noble and outspoken in defence of truth have achieved.

Our readers will be interested to learn that one of our author's first contributions to literature and science dealing with *astrologia sana* took the shape of a clever letter to the *Spectator*, in the year 1862, on the natiivities of the Bourbons, a portion of which we quoted in the 16th chapter of our "Science of the Stars." It was that letter which led the late editor of the *Spectator*, Mr. R. Hutton, whose nativity we gave in *Star Lore* for October, 1897, to apply to us for astrological advice.

To the *University Magazine*, March, 1880, Mr. A. G. T. contributed a highly instructive article on "The Soul and the Stars," which, by kind permission, we reprinted in *Urania* for April and May, 1880, and (condensed) in the "Science of the Stars," chap. 15.

Under the operation in his nativity of—

☉ ♂ ♃ m., d. 25° 33'

Asect. par. ♃ Z., d. 26 30

Mr. A. G. T. first became interested in astrology as a key to mythology, being led, as he writes, "by a sudden impulse received on January 29th, 1861, at about a quarter to eleven in the morning, and at the precise moment when Mercury, then in *Aquarius*, came to a trine aspect with Uranus, which had for some time been stationary near my mid-heaven. I certainly had no idea of anything of the kind a minute previously. I think I should not do right to suppress this circumstance, on account of the confirmation which it lends to astrology."

Mr. A. G. T. married at 28 years, under—

♃ * ☉ Zod., con. 27° 48'

M. C. ♃ ☉ Zod., con. 28 35

As the Moon was in exact mundane conjunction with the Sun (the arc for the ♂ being 0° 2'), the latter becomes significator of marriage, and under the Zodiacal sextile of the Sun to the mid-heaven marriage took place.

Distinguished promotion fell to the lot of our author at 34 years of age, under—

M. C. △ ☉ Zod., d. 34° 34'

Another important promotion came to pass in at 40½ years, under—

Asect. △ ♃ m., con., 40° 6'

☉ par. ♀ Zod., con., }
last contact } 40 20

Still higher promotion was attained at 55 years of age, under the direction of Uranus to the mundane sextile of the Sun and Moon (arcs = 55° 31' and 55° 33' respectively).

Retirement took place in the 64th year, under—

☽ 45° ☉ Zod., d. 63° 51'

☉ 45° ☉ Zod., d. 63 52

M. C. par. ♀ Zod. c. 63 56

Our author is still, however, engaged on some valuable literary work, which promises, under favourable primary directions, to be a great success, as we sincerely hope it will.

Before concluding, we may mention that very little travelling has been made by Mr. Trent, notwithstanding the cadent position of the Sun and Moon in mundane trine with Mars in a movable sign.

Mr. Trent contributed a valuable paper to the September issue of this Magazine, and another to the present number. Our readers will unite with us in cordially wishing him long life and prosperity. With so clever and distinguished a writer on our side, astrologers can well afford to laugh at the puerile attacks of literary men and pressmen who are utterly unacquainted with the ancient science.

M. BOUCHE-LECLERCQ'S HISTORY OF GREEK ASTROLOGY.*

This is a wonderful and unique book. Nothing like the same amount of research, we will undertake to say, has been devoted by any astrologer to the investigation of the antiquities of the science which he professes, as M. Bouché-Leclercq has displayed in exploring the relics of what he erroneously esteems a fantastic superstition.

This incredulity as to the truth of astrology must necessarily appear to every astrologer a blot upon M. Bouché-Leclercq's work; and such it undoubtedly is, but not, strange to say, in its scientific aspect. It would have been impossible to have taken greater pains in the ascertainment of facts, or to have expounded results more clearly and convincingly, if M. Bouché-Leclercq had firmly believed that he was rendering an important service to philosophy, instead of exhibiting a melancholy instance of human folly. The astrological student will learn quite as much from him as he could have learned from an apostle of astrology. The mischief is literary. The tone of M. Bouché-Leclercq's work is seriously lowered by his want of sympathy with his subject, and his consequent perpetual attitude of carping and derision. Could it have been written by a serious astrologer of equal learning, it might have been one of the most delightful of books. An entirely negative attitude is seldom profitable, especially when it is founded upon ignorance.

In justice to M. Bouché-Leclercq, it must be remembered that he could not approach his subject otherwise than with well-nigh invincible prepossessions, and that these were little likely to be

* *L'Astrologie Grecque.* Par. A. Bouché-Leclercq. Paris, 1899.

modified by research into antiquated astrology. One chief merit of his work is that it utterly explodes the notion that astrology was better understood in ancient times than now. On the contrary, it is evident that the modern astrologer stands in a far better position than any Egyptian or Chaldæan, provided that he abstains from encumbering himself with superstitions excusable in them, but which in him would be charlatanism. These ancient sages were, indeed, by no means such fools as M. Bouché-Leclercq supposes, but nine-tenths of their system was wholly visionary, founded upon mere fancies and false analogies. The remaining tenth did, indeed, contain a precious core of truth, based upon accurate observation. This, with some alloy of baser material due to human infirmity and the contagion of error, we find in Ptolemy's *Tetrabiblos*, a book which, in scientific value, infinitely outweighs all the rest of ancient astrological literature. M. Bouché-Leclercq always speaks of Ptolemy with great respect. Had he asked himself how so illustrious a man could advocate an idle and visionary system; and resolved to test his writings, not by other writings, but by inquiry into facts of every-day occurrence, he would not, indeed, have judged the bulk of ancient astrology very differently, but he would not have involved truth in the condemnation which he has dealt out to error.

The title, "Greek Astrology," is far from giving a full idea of the scope of this treatise, which includes the Latin writers who borrowed from the Greeks, and can hardly keep clear for a page of Egypt and Chaldæa. It explains most fully all the rules and beliefs of the ancients, whether relating to signs or degrees in the Zodiac, planets, chronocrators, revolutions, dodecatemoriæ, or any other element of their systems. Ptolemy takes the inquirer but a little way; much attention is given to the exposition of those very difficult Latin writers, Manilius and Firmicus. The austerity of the subject is relieved by dissertations on the attitude of ancient society towards astrology, the condition of its professors, and the influence of their views on philosophy and theology. Could but the book have been written in a sympathetic spirit, instead of one of constant hostility and detraction, it would have been as delightful as it is valuable. But this would be too much to expect. The attitude of learned and scientific men towards astrology can only be modified by proving to them that it is based upon facts, not upon fancies. With no such intention upon the writer's part, a book like this is inevitably calculated to produce the reverse impression. It may, however, contribute even more benefit than injury to the cause of astrology if it teaches modern astrologers to be thankful for the clearer light which they enjoy, and warns them against either reviving old errors or inventing new ones, and especially against importing questionable notions from questionable studies which have in any case no connection with their own.

A. G. T.

RULING SIGNS.

By NEMO.

(1) A little after 10 a.m., May 12th, 1899, there was a strange catastrophe at St. Helens, Lancashire. A chemical explosion shook the town; a thousand tons of vitriol were let loose; a big gasometer was set on fire; three men were killed and 20 injured, some of the latter subsequently dying. At the time of the explosion D was in $\text{II } 23^\circ 3'$, applying to ♄ ♁ in $\text{II } 23^\circ 16'$ and just separating from ♁ ♃ in $\text{♁ } 22^\circ 27'$. ♁ has affinity with extraordinary events and with chemicals, and on the previous day D had been in $\text{♁ } \text{♁}$ in $\text{♁ } 6^\circ 41'$. Probably, therefore, the 23rd degree of ♁ rules St. Helens.

(2) New York is considered to be ruled by ♁ . On March 17th, 1899, the Windsor Hotel was destroyed by an incendiary fire, with great loss of life. On that day ♄ was in $\text{♁ } 21^\circ 17'$; ♁ was in $\text{♁ } 8^\circ 1'$, in almost exact sesquiquadrate of the place of ♄ , having been stationary in $\text{♁ } 8^\circ 2'$ on March 13th. Probably the 22nd degree of ♁ is the ascendant of New York.

(3) In *Star Lore* I suggested that ♃ ruled Brazil; not ♁ , as I had written in the *Future*. This is somewhat confirmed by the fact that while ♃ transited the opposite sign of ♁ , Rothschilds' Funding Scheme was brought out, and the Brazilian exchange rose. I think the Brazilian province of Rio Grande do Sul is especially ruled by ♁ , as during the transit of the greater malefics through that sign, the province suffered much from floods and insurrections.

(4) My suggestion in *Future* that ♁ ruled Argentina has now been verified. During the recent transit of ♃ through that sign, Argentine affairs improved greatly: the dispute with Chili was submitted to the arbitration of England; the gold premium fell enormously; the railway traffic was much increased; and full payment of interest on the national debt was commenced.

(5) In 1897 the town of Maidstone, Kent, was scourged with typhoid, there being 1743 cases and 114 deaths from September 11th to October 27th, the epidemic not having ceased even then. The daily returns from September 11th to October 14th are given in the *Sun*, October 15th, 1897. There we find that the first sudden increase occurred on September 16th, when there were 29 cases reported, against 11 during the previous five days: ♁ was then in $\text{♁ } 25^\circ 49'$, and ♃ in $\text{♁ } 26^\circ 6'$. On September 20th, when 121 cases were reported, the highest number with one exception, ♁ was in $\text{♁ } 25^\circ 59'$ and ♃ in $\text{♁ } 26^\circ 25'$. On September 29th, when the maximum of 124 cases was reported, ♁ was in $\text{♁ } 26^\circ 22'$, and ♃ in $\text{♁ } 27^\circ 11'$; D was also in ♄ with ♁ and ♃ in the early morning of September 30th, on which day 112 cases were reported. I conclude from these statistics that the 27th degree of ♁ rules Maidstone. Students should ascertain what benefit accrues when ♃ transits that degree next December. It

is worth noting also that on September 25th, when the reported cases suddenly rose again to 104, ♃ was stationary in $\Pi 22^{\circ} 34'$, nearly in the aspect of 150° with ♎ 26° .

MR. ANDREW LANG ON ASTROLOGY.

The *Daily News*, November 3rd, contained an attack on astrology headed "Zadkiel, the last of the Astrologers," from the pen of Mr. Andrew Lang. The article opens thus:—

"Zadkiel publishes his Almanac, and we cry, 'How are the mighty fallen!' The time has been when astrologers were the favourites of kings, and would have moulded the whisper from the throne if kings, in those days, had whispered. They were more in the habit of shouting, and the royal whisper only came in with Louis XI. of France, a great devotee of astrology. At the very same time James III. of Scotland was accused of making his leading astrologer Archbishop of St. Andrews. But poor James's enemies were the nobles, and they, not being literary characters, regarded people who had mastered the three R's as black magicians. To a fighting man of that period the first book of Euclid must have seemed something truly Satanic. . . . James III. was reported to have slain his brother, Mar, for astrological reasons. There is no proof of this, but people who believed in astrology were capable of those excesses. . . ."

"Zadkiel foretold the South African crisis. That was not very difficult to do; the crisis has been with us for some time. Apparently Zadkiel did not foretell the unfortunate existing condition of the crisis.¹ Zadkiel hopes that Jupiter will keep Mars in order during the coming year. 'Vain hope and vision vain.' It is hardly worth while to have a Jupiter if he does not (as Homer says he once did) shut Mars up in a vessel of bronze. It seems incredible that any mortal should still think that the 'influence of the planets' has any effect (or, at all events, any traceable effect) on human fortunes. As Professor Huxley was wont to argue, we do not know all the possibilities. The planets may have some pull on us, just as pigs, in obedience to some hitherto unrecognised law, may fly. But it is highly improbable. Again, if the planets have any influence, we have no evidence to show us what that influence is. Venus may be warlike; Mars may govern arbitrations; Herschel may look after literature, not law. For this inquiry we need statistics which do not exist.² Mars is called warlike merely because he is the 'red planet.' To Venus was assigned the region of the affections, merely because Venus is pretty. The whole logic of the business is based on childish analogies. The star that is Mars here, was the rabbit, or the frog, or the coyote among the ancient Aztecs;³ so astrology in Anahuac drew conclusions, all unlike those of European prophets, from the same stellar premises. Obviously this is not science, is not even science as much as heraldry is: and the learned societies will never have anything to say to the matter.⁴ Zadkiel will never address the British Association. Yet Bacon thought that there might be something in astrology, just as the open-minded members of the Royal Society investigated Second Sight. But the evidence, mostly in Gælic, was scanty, and the witnesses were remote. The learned Robert Boyle reached no definite conclusion.

"For January, Zadkiel has nothing to say about South African troubles.⁵ When we find that Zadkiel can get no further than 'fearing' that Britain will be obliged to fight in South Africa we see the precise value of his private observatory. Of course, if the stars were set on it, men do vainly blame Mr. Chamberlain or President Kruger. The stars

are the culpable parties, and the doctrine of human free will receives another blow. The beginnings of astrology were pardonable. The planets, so early philosophers argued, were not there for nothing; they must be useful somehow to the human race. As no obvious use could be detected, a fanciful purpose was invented, and one good shot in a thousand was taken as ample evidence of the whole theory. The peoples who started astrology took omens not from the stars, but from everything in Nature. For example, from the livers of chickens, and the fall of sticks planted lightly in the ground. . . . To be logical, astrologers should accept the whole of the ancient science of omens, for one part of it is as scientific as another, and all are babyish. Meanwhile, the hero in Homer spoke, long ago, the last word on the subject: 'One omen is best, to fight for our country.'

Really this audacious and childish mistaken account of the origin of astrology—all that Mr. Andrew Lang can set against the opinions of such learned men, who were masters of and believers in astrology, as Kepler and Bacon—reflects very sadly on his wisdom and judgment. A more ignorant display we never read in any attack on astrology. Had Mr. Lang spent a few hours in reading Godfrey Higgins's "Anacalypsis," and the Rev. Mr. W. Gershom Collingwood's "Astrology in the Apocalypse," he could not have penned so false a description of what he wrongly conceives to be the origin of astrology. Mr. Collingwood testifies to the "enormous pains for many centuries," spent by the ancients, "in amassing data from observation; that they proceeded by real *inductive* reasoning to frame laws of Nature from which they attempted to deduce particular conclusions. . . . We cannot look back, down the vista of the history of philosophy, upon those early astronomers without the profoundest respect; nor can we wonder that the whole ancient world, including Hebrews and Christians, found much to accept in the primitive science of astrology."

A belief in *astrologia sana* does *not* involve a belief in fatality, as Mr. Lang asserts. The use of astrology is to foresee and foretell times of danger, &c., so that wars and disasters may be avoided as far as possible, and prepared for. Had our warnings been attended to the Boers would not have found Natal so unprepared to resist their invasion. More than one of our gallant and able generals met with a disaster through commencing an attack at an unpropitious and evil time. Ships are wrecked through storms not being foreseen long enough in advance, owing to the neglect of astro-meteorology by the prejudiced savants of the learned Societies and the Meteorological Office; and through ships being launched when evil planets are predominant.

The world pays a fearful price for the neglect of astrology on the part of the leaders in science; for it would prove a most useful aid alike to statesmen, to the heads of the army, the navy, the mercantile marine, the physician, and the surgeon.

We have always admired the talent of Mr. Lang as a writer, and we are really sorry that he should have damaged his reputation by writing such an article as that passed under review.

1. In October, 1898, when Zadkiel's Almanac for 1899 was published, there was no embittered dispute between Great Britain and the Transvaal. The crisis began in the spring, and became acute in the summer quarter of 1899 as we foretold; moreover we said that "warlike measures" would have to be taken, and that in October our enemies would be scattered as they were at Eland's Laagte and other places.—Zadkiel.

2. Plenty of evidence of planetary influence does exist in the works of Placidus, Zadkiel I., and Zadkiel II.—Z.

3. As childish arguments Mr. Lang's would be difficult to beat. If he will read the introduction in the "Text-book of Astrology" and that in the "Science of the Stars," he will find his puerile arguments completely refuted. The Aztecs were acquainted with the causes of the eclipses, as Prescott shows in his "History of the Conquest of Mexico." Mars was the god of war of the Buddhists and the Hercules of the Chaldeans.—Z.

4. The original Meteorological Society of Great Britain, Lord R. Grosvenor (Lord Ebury), Dr. Lee, F.R.S., and several other well-known scientific men being members (1833 to 1843), did permit discussions on planetary influence, and Zadkiel I. (Lieutenant Morrison, R.N.) read some papers on the subject before that Society. The Royal Meteorological Society at the present day ignores planetary influence, but that is on account of silly prejudice such as that which animated Mr. Lang when he wrote the above article.

5. At page 55 of Zadkiel's Almanac for 1900 Mr. Lang will find allusions to South African troubles at the beginning of the New Year.

NOTES.

The immunity of Calcutta from plague is considered by medical men to be due to malaria rendering its inhabitants insusceptible to the contagion.

Mr. B. Suryanarain Row says that "propitiatory ceremonies performed on a large scale in Bellary saved it from the attacks of plague, although it has been raging all round it. . . . People would spend thousands on ill-understood recipes rather than on the worship of the gods."

If Mr. Row has discovered the ruling signs of Calcutta, Bombay, and Bellary, some light may be thrown on this question of the immunity of Calcutta and Bellary.

In Indian astrology "the principal planets are seven in number, viz. :—the Sun (Ravi), the Moon (Chundra), Mercury (Budha), Venus (Sukra), Mars (Kuja), Jupiter (Guru), and Saturn (Sani). These are called, with Rahu and Kethu, *Nava grahas* (nine planets)." It will be observed that Uranus and Neptune are still ignored, even in the latest treatise on astrology, by Suryanarain Row!

At the meeting at Portsmouth of the British Medical Association, Aug. 2nd, Dr. George Wilson, of Warwick, president of the State Medicine Section, dealt with the relation of bacteriological research and treatment to preventive medicine, contending that bacteriologists had failed to discover the preventive method for which they sought, and their insane hunt after the pathological bacilli was one of the most irrational crusades which had ever taken place. To declaim the new crusade simply because it had received royal patronage was like going back to the days when the royal touch was supposed to be the cure for the king's evil.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. A. G. T. writes:—"The horoscope of Lord Randolph Churchill is exceedingly interesting. You do not mention that the Moon is in mundane opposition with Uranus, which would fully account for his eccentricities. The mere parallel of these planets, I think, would not. My own nativity has curious resemblances to his: the familiarity just mentioned, Jupiter just past the meridian, and Caput Draconis in it. I am constantly observing confirmations of the old astrological doctrine respecting the Dragon's Head and Tail. Do you really find any effects from zodiacal parallels to the ascendant? My ascendant (hyleg) has almost the exact parallel of Saturn; yet, except for a bad time in infancy, my health has been good."

In the Editor's nativity the ascendant (hyleg) *Sagittarius* $10^{\circ} 29'$, had $22^{\circ} 2' 23''$ south declination, and Saturn had $21^{\circ} 58' 23''$ south declination, therefore the parallel is very close: accordingly, in infancy, convulsions during dentition were so frequent and prolonged that his life was despaired of. Since 16 years of age, however, health has been good. These two instances show the force of Saturn's zodiacal parallel to the ascendant (hyleg), but the vitality being good, the danger to life did not extend beyond infancy.

A UNIVERSITY STUDENT writes that he was much interested to find the poet Virgil stating that his hero Æneas was born under the auspicious influences of Jupiter, Saturn, and Venus. If he will refer to our Text Book of Astrology he will find numerous quotations from Virgil of passages displaying an apt knowledge of astrology and astro-meteorology, the latter chiefly at p. 127 of Vol. II. Our correspondent also expresses his wonder and disgust at the hostile attitude of the leading London journals, seeing that some of the best leader-writers are University graduates, and should therefore respect the belief of ancient poets and philosophers in astrology. Journalists have received some smart raps over the knuckles of late from the Premier, the Viceroy of India, the Sirdar, and Earl Rosebery. The ideal of Earl Rosebery—the newspaper containing "nothing but truth"—is still in the dim vista of futurity. A Radical newspaper averred that this theory of the ideal newspaper is impracticable—"a newspaper which should present nothing but naked truth would sometimes have to appear as a blank sheet." Astrological truth seems to be unpalatable to most journalists, who fear to offend the scientific authorities!

G. A.—The operation must not be performed on the day suggested by your medical adviser. Try the effect of medicine for a month longer, and probably the operation will then be quite unnecessary.

INQUIRER.—The astrologer who dubbed you a Saturnine man, although Saturn was but three degrees above the cusp of the second house in *Leo* at your birth, and Jupiter had lately risen in *Cancer*, violated the rules of natal astrology, and made a great mistake. Your ruling planet is Jupiter, certainly.

INVALID.—As you have read the treatise on Medical Astrology in the second volume of the Text Book of Astrology, you should now read Dr. Stirling Saunders's pamphlet on the Bio-Chemic Treatment, published by Gay and Bird, London.

REVIEW.

“The Year Vikari and its Prospects—1899-1900.” By B. Suryanarain Row, B.A., Bellary. The Aryan Press. Price, one rupee.

The Hindu year Vikari began on the 11th of April, 1899, and “the horoscope of the year Vikari” is given, and so are the “combinations of the planets to be studied month after month with reference to that time of birth, to predict and to judge of the results likely to happen during this year.”

With every respect and the most cordial fraternity for the learned author, who has done great service by translating treatises on astrology from the Sanskrit, we must record our opinion, based on a long experience, that the Solar Ingresses and Eclipses form a much more reliable basis for judgment and prediction than a figure for the commencement of Vikari (sunrise). The reader will find discrepancies between Indian and European astrology due to the describing of the Zodiacal positions of the planets as if the constellations of the same names as the signs were the signs themselves; planets being described as in *Scorpio* when they are in *Sagittarius*. Nevertheless, the work is well worth attentive perusal.

The Liverpool *Evening Express*, December 2nd, writes of “Star Lore” for September thus:—

“This magazine may be read straight through with interest. Evidently much investigation, thought, and carefulness have entered into the production of this work, for the methods are founded on astronomical calculations. It is clearly the work of an earnest, thoughtful, and scientific man, and well worthy of the attention of those interested in the subject.”

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