



The Stragglings  
**ASTROLOGER**  
OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY;  
OR, MAGAZINE OF  
Astrology, Geomancy, and Occult Philosophy.

COMPRISING

The ancient Practice of raising Spirits, and invoking the Dead.

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With a variety of important and interesting Matter not to be found in any other Publication.

BY

**The Members of the Mercurii,**  
THE EDITOR OF THE PROPHETIC ALMANACK,  
AND OTHER CELEBRATED ASTROLOGERS.

By his Spirit he has garnished the heavens.---JOB.  
For Heaven

Is as the Book of God before thee set,  
Wherein to read his wondrous works.---MILTON.



HEROGLYPHIC—No. XXV.

No. 19. Oct. 9; 1824.—Three-pence.

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## ASTROLOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE.

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THE following letter we have thought proper to insert, although the unhandsome manner in which the writer appears to speak of our work, might have freed us from any charge of partiality, had we refused so to do; our readers, however, must be aware, that we have nothing to fear from opposition, which indeed we would rather court than otherwise. And we shall at all times act with impartiality in inserting any correspondence which is conducted within the bounds of reasonable discussion, or which may be of use in illustrating the different branches of the science.

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To the Editors of "*The STRAGGLING ASTROLOGER.*"

GENTLEMEN,

IT appears from your desultory remarks inserted in the Sixteenth Number of your work, that you do not intend to insert my preceding letter, except I inform you from whence I procured the time of the late Princess Charlotte's birth, and also the time of Napoleon's birth, &c. These questions, with all others which you have proposed, I will engage to answer, if you will *pledge your word to the public* that you will insert my letter on the receipt of my answers to your questions. I have told you in my former lengthy epistle how I obtained the time of the birth there alluded to, but anxious to uphold your fame, and gladly availing yourself of the shallow pretext—secrecy, you have refused to mention the name of the person from whom your information was received. With respect to my former letter, I anticipated that you *dared not* insert it, in consequence of the manifest facts it unfolds, which you cannot *refute by fair and manly* discussion; for by giving publicity to my observations, you would instantly record your own shame in a pamphlet which is disgusting to read, and which many, you well know, have now declined purchasing; but as I was informed that it would be better conducted in future, I then communicated my letter, not supposing for a moment that you would be so uncandid as to render insult as a reward for my intended assistance. What have the nativities of the late Princess Charlotte and Napoleon to do with my letter? the terms, and the thirty nativities I am now publishing, are irrelevant to the matters in question. I ask you to insert my letter, but you fly from the subject, and artfully refuse, without giving satisfactory reasons for so doing. It is pitiful to behold how you have recourse to the meanest of subterfuges, and then substitute passion for reason, and abuse for argument. It appears as though you are alarmed at the few simple observations I have made. I have told you in my letter of the first instant, that the computation of the Part of Fortune in the nativity of his Majesty, is *false*; and, according to my advice, it appears you have been "*to work*" at it, with the assistance of the engraver, and have found it so; but as you have not yet rightly calculated that point, you must try again, and then the next time you will probably be right.



I do not deny that my horoscope of the late Princess Charlotte differs widely from that published in the *Astrological Dictionary*; and you are of opinion that the latter is the most correct. There are many respectable characters who will at any time prove that the demise of that amiable personage was foretold by me four years before that solemn event took place. Mr. Wilson, the author, allows the Moon to the parallel of the Sun in the Zodiac, to destroy life. It is notorious that this Dictionary is nothing but a confused "heap of rubbish,"\* piracy, and palpable contradictions, from one end to the other; and they begin to stare us in the face in the second page, and in the following words:—"If the native be young, and naturally vigorous and healthy, one evil direction seldom kills, it requires a train of malevolent directions to destroy." How strange it must appear, that in opposition to his own rules, he should allow a single direction (which, in fact, is no complete direction at all) to produce dissolution in this case, for though the Moon is the giver of life, yet she could not then obtain the true parallel of the Sun's declination; and as the Sun's zodiacal parallel was not endued with any mortal qualities at that time, as that luminary was directed to the bodies of Venus and Jupiter, near the same period; I affirm that this supposed single mortal direction could not even produce one single day's indisposition. But the fact is, at the time of her death there were nine directions to the Moon, which followed in the mortal train without assistance, and which, in all cases, produce sudden dissolution.

My work on the nativity of Napoleon, published in 1805, is sold in London, and therefore you can have recourse to it at any time. You will there see that his downfall was, many years prior to his fall, correctly foretold. The Sun, the significator of honour and grandeur, and also the significator of life, came to the right parallel of Mars exactly at the age of forty-five years and eleven months, which was the time when Buonaparte was overthrown at the battle of Waterloo; his life was then in the most imminent danger, and his escape was almost miraculous. I observed the directions which would then be in operation against the giver of life were very violent, and, according to my judgment, would prove mortal; in fact, they were the destruction of his political power; I did not compute directions which were to come up after the native was deprived of existence, as may be seen in my work, the greatest arc at the end of the table of directions is calculated no farther than fifty-one degrees twenty-three minutes, therefore you may observe from what follows, that my calculations and judgment are more correct than those given by all others who have published this nativity, though you have in vain endeavoured to prove the contrary.

A Mr. Thomas White has published this nativity, and says that Napoleon will die at the age of seventy-three years and eight months. Mr. Swift has also published the same geniture, and predicted death at sixty or sixty-two.

Mr. Iver's nativity of Buonaparte, printed by T. Orger, High Wycombe, had no evil direction in operation at the time Napoleon was overthrown; for he had promised him the continuation of the throne of

\* See the Dictionary, page 386.



France, with a long and prosperous reign, crowned with riches and honour, till sixty-nine years of age, when death would gently lead him by the hand out of this world of honour and grandeur, to exchange for another far more glorious.

But before I conclude my lengthy epistle, as you have had much trouble in computing the Part of Fortune in the geniture of his Majesty, I shall notice what we are told concerning that point in your favourite Dictionary of Astrology, page 306. "It is," the author says, "an imaginary point in the heavens, supposed as a moderator, to contain equal power with the luminaries, but which is really nothing but a phantom, hatched in the figurative brain of Ptolemy, which has no influence whatever, except influence can arise out of nothing; it was a favourite maxim with that author to have every thing, as his grandmother might call it, in apple-pie order." Now, if the Part of Fortune is a phantom, I will ask why he has used it in his horary questions, allowing it there to have a certain influence and power; we are told in pages 307 and 308, that "it is astonishing that Placidus should not see the cause of the mistake of Negusantius, and he would have seen it had he not been led away by the foolish doctrine of Ptolemy, concerning aphetical places." The author tells us, in the 159th page, that "amidst this vast heap of incongruities, I would advise the student to confine himself chiefly to the rules laid down by Ptolemy, which are by far the most rational."

The Dictionary of Astrology, which you appear to sanction, abounds with numerous contradictions as glaring as the above, which you may (should you be so disposed) endeavour to defend. If you still refuse to insert my letter, I shall publish it, with your remarks thereon also, that the impartial community may judge how far you have acted with candour and probity towards one who had no other object in view than that of offering you every assistance in his power for promoting the primitive principles of this venerable science.

I remain, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

J. W.

Lincoln, September 24, 1824.

With respect to the above assertions respecting our "favourite Dictionary," if Mr. W—— will give himself the trouble to read over a former part of our work, he will find we have ourselves combated its opinions. We have no interest in the Dictionary, nor any knowledge of the writer, having ourselves found out many an "Astrological bull" and blunder therein, which, however, we did not think it worth while to notice. As an instance of these errors, we refer the reader to pages 43 and 49, where there is a difference of 30 minutes in the same arc of direction (the mid-heaven to the trine of the Sun), and the arcs of direction in several other places are very erroneous. But we still think, notwithstanding the defective knowledge of the writer, and his palpable egotism, that, as a book of reference, the Astrological Dictionary is very useful.



## CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING

THE

## Nativity of His Majesty.

To the Editors of "The STRAGGLING ASTROLOGER."

GENTLEMEN,

OBSERVING that RAPHAEL has answered my former query relative to the prorogator in the geniture of the King, I am emboldened to hope he will return answers to my following questions.

I had intended to object to Raphael's reply, that "the Sun has passed the middle of the eleventh house by the space of three mundane degrees;" but as he has, in your Sixteenth Number, explained himself by saying that the ☉ is 3° nearer the 12th house, I need not urge my objection. Now, as Raphael allows the ascendant thus selected to be the prorogator in the geniture under consideration, I wish to know why that point, directed to the mundane square of the Sun, did not give different effects at that period, when that luminary came to the zenith; for it must appear plain, that when either the northern or southern angles is directed to the body of a planet, the ascendant, at the same time, comes (by true and natural motion) to its square in mundo, which is the case in this example. I also wish to be informed, why the ascendant (which he allows to be the true prorogator) to the opposition of Saturn and mundane square of Mercury, passed over, and did not produce events agreeable to the nature and power of those promittors. These are questions of no small importance, and, according to my opinion, they ought to be properly explained, as they would, in a great measure, either confirm or make void the operation of the aphetical point Raphael has selected; and as he has stated the reasons which have induced him to take the ascendant as the hyleg in the geniture, he will, I hope, deliver impartial answers to the questions I have now proposed.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

September 27, 1824.

THE WESTMINSTER STUDENT

RAPHAEL'S REPLY

TO

THE WESTMINSTER STUDENT.

SIR,

As I am at all times most willing to explain any theory or data which I may advance relative to the celestial science of the stars, I unhesitatingly seize the earliest opportunity of answering your letter; and however confident I may appear to be in respect to my own opinions



(and you will allow me to have some little confidence, since I have been a close student of this sublime science for nearly ten years, and have examined many thousand genitures), yet I can assure you, I am not too proud to own myself in a fault, provided you can disprove my assertions upon the grounds of reason and experience.

Your candid admission respecting the verbal error relative to the Part of Fortune, is a sufficient proof that I have an antagonist of good sense to oppose me, and one who does not keep up an idle and senseless play about the mere forms of expression, merely for the sake of argument. Your first question, why the mid-heaven to the body of the Sun did not give different effects at the period of the coronation, is best answered by a reference to the journals of that time, which, if you will do me the favour to inspect, will convince you the direction I mention was then really in force; for what could more plainly evince it, than the frequent procrastinations of that ceremony, through the illness of his Majesty? and to the same cause may be ascribed the violent party spirit of that period; the opposition from the queen's friends, unpopularity of the government in certain quarters, the death of her majesty, and other circumstances, plainly denoted by the ascendant to the square of the Sun in mundo.

Another proof may be adduced from the experimental fact, that, for some time before a planet arrives at the cusp of an angle, its effects are plainly visible. It was the commencement of these effects which caused the accession to the throne, and other honours, previous to the actual ceremony of the coronation. This direction is also known to indicate honours late in life, and the effects of which must continue some time in force, according to analogy and reason, the best guides in these cases, next to experience. Hence the acclamations and public honours which awaited the native after his public assumption of the regal dignities in Ireland, Scotland, Hanover, &c. and the increase in popularity of his government ever since that period, which yet has been a little mixed with opposition, precisely as the direction should operate.

Your next question, Why the ascendant to the opposition of Saturn did not have evil effects, is best answered by referring you to the *Tetrabiblos* of Ptolemy, the only standard work we possess, where, at page 136, &c. you will find the following words: "The operation of their anaretic degrees will likewise be inspected, if either of the benefics should cast a ray in quartile, trine, or opposition, to the said anaretic degree itself, or to some other degree near in succession, and not farther distant from it than twelve degrees, if the benefic be Jupiter, nor than eight, if Venus," &c. &c. Now, in the above direction, Venus is in almost exact opposition to the supposed anaretic place, and consequently life could not have been any way in danger. But were you to consult the chronology of that period (the 39th year of his Majesty), probably some extraordinary vexation, dispute, and personal ill health or misfortune in his illustrious family, might be discovered.

The third question, Why Mercury to the mid-heaven did not give illness, &c. is easily answered. Mercury, according to Ptolemy, has no power here to kill or save, being under and applying to the Sun beams. He is in square to Jupiter, and when he arrives at the mid-



heaven, is in square also to the place of Venus at birth; these are powerful reasons for nullifying his evil effects.

I might bring forward many other reasons for the given time being astrologically correct, especially were I to have recourse to secondary motion, terms, transits, periods, profections, and revolutions; but as they are too prolix and uninteresting to merit insertion, and are not generally believed at the present day, I shall forbear to have recourse to the wily subterfuges of such complicated arguments. I trust I have fully answered the questions you proposed; but before I leave off, will just mention the result of my experience in these cases. First, that no single direction, however powerful, can destroy life in a vital nativity: secondly, that every direction operates more or less powerful, according to secondary causes, such as the time of life when it takes place, the same direction operating widely different in youth and in old age, especially where the constitution has been impaired: thirdly, that where the aphetical point is well guarded by the benefics at birth, long life may be expected, as is the case in this geniture, and in many others which I could bring forward.

Your friend, Mr. W——, has laboured very hard to refute my calculations: he has likewise accused me of a want of knowledge, and of concealing my real name, under a feigned signature. To the first accusation I reply, by requesting Mr. W—— to send his own nativity for insertion, when I will publicly give my judgment and calculations thereon. To the second, I reply, by resuming a name which I have never yet disgraced, either by concealing truth or advocating falsehood—and I beg leave,

Respectfully, to remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. C. Smith.

London, Sept. 28, 1824.

#### WONDERFUL INSTANCE OF ABSTINENCE FROM FOOD.

SOME colliers working in a coal-pit at Horstol, about half a league from Liege, one of them, in February 1683, pierced a vein of water, which gushing in, violently drowned one of them.

Those who were near the mouth of the pit were drawn out, but four of them being farther within, saved themselves in a little ascent within the mine.

Twenty-four days were spent in drawing off the water; and on the twenty-fifth they were drawn out. "I saw and examined them myself," says the author of this account; "they had not a morsel of bread with them, but lived on the water of a little fountain, which broke out near them; two bottles of this water I caused to be evaporated; but nothing, except a scarcely perceptible calx, remained."

*Phil. Transactions*, vol. x. p. 238.



## A Charm

TO PROTECT AGAINST THIEVES.

WHOSO will protect himself against thieves by night or by day, let him wear this charm (written on virgin parchment) about him, and repeat the words thereof every morning, so shall no theft happen to annoy him.

Original MS. dated May 8, 1577.

## THE CHARM.

*Deus autem transiens per medium illorum, ibat \*\*\* Ihus xpus*  
 \*\*\* *benedictus Deus quotidie prosperus iter facit Deus salutaris*  
*noster \*\*\* Ihus \*\*\* obstinentur oculi eorum ne videant, et dorsum*  
*eorum ni curva \*\*\* Ihus \*\*\* effundus supra eas ira tua, et furor ire*  
*tue comprehendat eos \*\*\* Iernat \*\*\* supra inimicas meos formido et*  
*pavo in magnitudine brachii fiant eniobiles quasi Lapis, donec per*  
*transeat famulus tuus \*\*\* quem redemisti \*\*\* dextera tua magnifi-*  
*cata est, in virtute Domini per crusist inimicus in multitudine vir-*  
*tutis tuæ deposuisti omnes adversarios meos \*\*\* Ihesu \*\*\* eripe me*  
*et ab in surgentibusque in me libera me \*\*\* Ihesu \*\*\* custodi me,*  
*et de manu peccatoris et ab hominibusque iniquis eripe me \*\*\* Ihesu*  
*\*\*\* eripe me de opera tibus que iniquitate et a viris sanguine salva me*  
 \*\*\* *gloria Patri \*\*\* Anthos \*\*\* Anostro \*\*\* Moxio \*\*\* Bay*  
 \*\*\* *Gloy \*\*\* Apen \*\*\* Agia \*\*\* Agias \*\*\* Yskiros \*\*\**



## The Weekly Astrological Calendar:

FOUNDED ON CELESTIAL INFLUENCE.

From Oct. 9, to Oct. 16, 1824, inclusive.

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For Fortune, at some hours, to all is kind:  
The lucky have whole days, which still they choose;  
The unlucky have but hours, and those they lose.---DRYDEN.

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- Oct. 11. This day is indifferently good for worldly affairs.
12. The morning of this day is remarkably evil, accidents will befall the traveller, delays and vexation will follow almost every other undertaking. Those who are married this morning will soon be separated; and there can be no real or sincere attachment between those who, to-day, approach the altar. The child born will be in danger by falls, and breaking the limbs.
13. A favourable day, excellent for requesting favours of the great, and gives celerity in most affairs.
14. The whole of this day is favourable, but the afternoon is devoted to the benevolent influence of Venus; business, and other pursuits, will now prosper. Affairs of despatch and travelling should be engaged in on this day.
15. A disastrous and unpropitious day.

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### ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS.

- Oct. 9. **Mercury** in his north node.
11. **Mercury** stationary.
12. **Mercury** becomes direct. Conjunction of the **Moon** and **Saturn** in **Gemini**, a quarter before eight in the morning. The child born at, or near, this time, cannot live.
13. **Mercury** in Perihelio.

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### SINGULAR PUNISHMENT OF IMPIETY.

AMULIUS, king of the Latins, was a proud man, and at last grew to that degree of arrogant impudence, that he sought (amongst the people) to have the reputation of a god; and to that purpose he had certain machines, by the help of which he imitated thunders, made an appearance of lightnings, and cast out thunder-bolts; but by a sudden inundation of waters, near the place where he dwelt, both he and his palace were overborne and drowned.

Zon. *Annal.* tom. 2. p. 34.



## Astronomical Tables.

(Continued from page 276.)

TABLE III.

Places of Venus and Mercury for Jan. Feb. March, &amp; April, 1825.

1825.	♀		♁	
	deg.	min.	deg.	min.
Jan. 1.	18	51	0	15
7.	26	6	3	33
13.	3	18	2	53 R.
19.	10	27	23	8
25.	17	31	18	7
Feb. 1.	25	41	18	31
7.	2	35	22	39
13.	9	21	28	50
19.	16	0	6	16
25.	22	31	14	36
March 1.	26	44	20	33
7.	2	54	0	3
13.	8	49	10	13
19.	14	26	21	7
25.	19	42	2	45
April 1.	25	14	17	3
7.	29	21	29	14
13.	2	43	10	14
19.	5	10	18	55
25.	6	26	24	39

(To be continued.)

## ANECDOTE OF LUTHER.

LUTHER, after he had successfully opposed the Pope, and was admired by all the world as the invincible champion of the true Christian faith, not long before his death, sent a fair glass to Dr. Justus Jones, his friend, and therewith the following verses :—

Luther a glass, to Jonas Glass, a glass doth send,  
That both may know ourselves to be but *glass*, my friend.

## A VOLUMINOUS AUTHOR.

ST. JEROME saith that he himself had read six thousand books that were written by Origen, who daily wearied seven notaries, and as many boys, in writing after him.

Sabell. Ex. l. 1. c. 7. p. 45.



## Anecdotes of the Dead.

(Continued from p. 281.)

### Lord Mohun's Appearance to his Mistress on the Morning he was murdered.

LORD MOHUN was a fashionable young gentleman, in the days of king Charles the First. According to the custom of that time, his sense of honour led him to resent, in a serious manner, an affront, which had produced a quarrel between him and a person of the first quality, though a foreigner in this kingdom.

By appointment, they met in Chelsea Fields, near a place called Ebery farm, and where Lord Mohun was killed, but not without suspicions of foul play.

At the same time Lord Mohun kept company with a certain lady, whom he entertained in genteel lodgings in James Street, Covent Garden. Lord Mohun was murdered about ten o'clock in the morning; and *at that very time* his mistress, being in bed, saw him come to her bed-side, draw the curtains, look upon her, and go away. She called after him, but received no answer: she then rung for her maid, and asked her for Lord Mohun; but the woman replied, she did not see him, and had the key of the chamber door in her pocket. This account was attested by the lady and her maid to Mr. AUBREY, who relates it in his Miscellanies.

### Apparition of Lord Coningsby.

About the same time as the above circumstance happened, Mr. Brown; brother-in-law to Lord Coningsby, discovered his being murdered to several of his friends: and Mr. Glanville relates, that *his* apparition was seen by his sister and maid, then dwelling in Fleet Street, *at the very hour and minute that he was killed*, in Herefordshire; which happened in 1692.—This circumstance was much talked of at that time.

### Death in the Pot.

On the first sabbath-day in the year 1749, Mr. Thomas Lilly, the son of a farmer in the parish of Kelso, in Roxburghshire, a promising young man, intended for the church of Scotland, and who then had studied a considerable time at school, happening to be at home keeping the house, with only a shepherd's boy, all the rest of the family (excepting a maid-servant) being at sermon; the young student and the boy being seated by the fire, whilst the girl was gone to the well for some water, a venerable old gentleman, clad in an antique garb, presented himself, and after some little ceremony, desired the student to open the Bible which lay upon the table before him, and turn over to a certain chapter and verse in the Second Book of Kings! The student did so, and read, "**There is Death in the Pot.**"



On this the apparition, with much apparent agitation, pointed to the great family-pot boiling on the fire, declaring, that the maid had cast a great quantity of arsenic into it, with intent to poison the whole family, to the end she might rob the house of the hundred guineas which she knew her master had lately taken for sheep and grain which he had sold.

Just as he was so saying the maid came to the door, announcing her approach by the noise of the nails in her shoe heels. The apparition said to the student, "**Remember my warning, and save the lives of the family;**" and that instant disappeared.

The maid entered with a smiling countenance, emptied her pail, and returned to the well for a fresh supply. Meanwhile, young Lilly put some oatmeal into a wooden dish, skimmed the pot of the fat, and mixed it for what is called brose, or croudy; and when the girl returned, he, with the boy, appeared busily employed in eating the mixture.

"Come, Peggy," said the student, "here is enough left for you; are you not fond of croudy?" She smiled, took up the dish, and reaching a horn spoon, withdrew to the back room.

The shepherd's dog followed her, unseen by the boy; and the poor animal, on the croudy being put down by the maid, fell a victim to his voracious appetite; for before the return of the family from church, it was enormously swelled, and expired in great agony.

The student enjoined the boy to remain quite passive for the present; meanwhile he attempted to shew his ingenuity in resolving the cause of the canine catastrophe into insanity, in order to keep the girl in countenance, till a fit opportunity of discovering the plot should present itself.

Soon after, his father, mother, brothers, and sisters, with the other servants, returned from church, all hungering after the word, and eager to sit down round the rustic board.

The table was instantly replenished with wooden bowls and trenchers, while a heap of barley bannocks graced the top.

The kail, or broth, infused with leeks or winter cabbages, was poured forth in plenty; and Peggy, with a prodigal hand, filled all the dishes with the homely dainties of Tiviotdale. The master began grace, and all hats and bonnets were instantly off! "O Lord," prayed the farmer, "we have been hearing thy word from the mouth of thy aged servant, Mr. Ramsay; we have been alarmed by the awful famine in Samaria, and of death being in the pot!" Here the young scholar interrupted his father by exclaiming, "Yes, sir, there is death in the pot now *here*, as well as there was in Israel! Touch not, taste not! See the dog dead by the poisoned pot!"—"What!" cried the farmer, "have you been raising the devil by your conjuration? Is this the effect of your study, sir?"—"No, father," said the student, "I pretend to no such arts of magic or necromancy; but this day, as the boy can testify, I had a solemn warning from one whom I take to be no demon, but a good angel. To him we all owe our lives. As to Peggy, according to his intimation, she has put poison into the pot, for the purpose of destroying the whole family, root and branch!" Here the girl fell into a fit, from which being, with some difficulty recovered, she confessed the whole of her deadly design, and was suffered to withdraw



from the family and her native country. She was soon after executed at Newcastle-upon-Tyne for the murder of her illegitimate child, again making ample confession of the above diabolical design.

(To be continued.)

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INSTANCES OF  
SINGULAR FATALITY AND MISFORTUNES.

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**ANASTASIUS**, emperor of Constantinople, being greatly hated, and foreseeing he could not make much longer abode in the world, he began to reflect on his successors, desiring to transfer to the throne one of his three nephews, whom he had bred up; having no male issue to succeed him. There was difficulty in the choice, and he having a mind very enthusiastic, put that to the lot which he could not resolve by reason; for he caused three beds to be prepared in the royal chamber, and made his crown to be hanged within the tester of one of those beds; being resolved to give it to him who should, by lot, place himself under it. This done, he sent for his nephews, and after he had magnificently entertained them, commanded them to repose themselves, each one choosing one of the beds prepared for them; the eldest accommodated himself according to his fancy, and he hit upon nothing; the second did the same; he then expected the youngest should go directly to the crowned bed; but he prayed the emperor he might be permitted to lay with one of his brothers; and by this means not any of them took the way to the empire, which was so easy to be had, that it was not above a pace distant.

Anastasius, amazed, well saw God would transfer the diadem from his race; and indeed Justin succeeded to the crown, although a stranger to his blood.

*Wanley Wond.* vol. ii. p. 173.

**HELVIVS PERTINAX** (commonly, but corruptly, called *Ælius*) was so variously exercised with the chances of inconstant fortune, and so often from a good, thrust down into an adverse condition, that by reason thereof he was called Fortune's tennis-ball.

*Vos. Instit. Orator,* p. 97.

**A. MOMORANCY** was a man of an exquisite wit and mature wisdom, accompanied with a long experience in the changes of the world; by which arts he acquired, happily for himself and for his posterity, exceeding great wealth, and the chief dignities of the kingdom, himself having attained to be constable of France. But this man, in his military commands, had always such ill-fortune, that in all the wars of which he had the government, he ever remained either a loser, or grievously wounded, or a prisoner, which misfortunes were the occasion that many times his fidelity was questioned. Even in that last action, where fighting he lost his life, he wanted not accusers.

*Davil. Hist. of Civil Wars of France,* p. 239.



## THE SCIENTIFIC QUERIST.—No. V.

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Answer to Query 3, p. 222, by "X."

I THINK it is quite evident that there are eddies in the air similar to whirlpools at sea, which may be the primary cause of the rotatory motion of balloons.

New Query by "PHILOMATHOS."

As the whole of the authors who have treated of astrology have believed in the dignities of the planets, and more especially Lilly, Partridge (in his *Opus and Defectio*), and the immortal Ptolemy; and of late years the ingenious writers in the *Astrologers' Magazine*, Mr. Lambert, Mercurius, and William Elder, as also the celebrated Mr. Wright of Lambeth; there arises the following dilemma, which your ingenious correspondents may probably solve, viz. If the above famous astrologers were right in their belief and declarations, then the modern improvers of the present day, who deny these dignities, are essentially wrong. But if our modern sages are right in their opinions, then the whole of the above-mentioned artists, who were famous in their day and generation, have misled their readers, and been the willing unbiassed advocates of error. Which are we to believe?

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PUNISHMENT OF AN ATHEIST.

A YOUNG Florentine, anno 1527, esteemed a man very brave and valiant in arms, was to fight with another young man, who, because he was melancholy, and spoke little, was called Forchebene. They went together with a great company to the place appointed, which was without the port of St. Gal; whither, being come, a friend to the former went to him and said, "God give you the victory." The proud young man, adding blasphemy to his temerity, answered, "How shall he choose but give it me?" They came to use their weapons, and after many blows given and taken, both by the one and the other, Forchebene, as if the minister and instrument of God, gave him a thrust in the mouth with such force, that having fastened his tongue to the poll of his neck (where the sword went through above the length of a span), he made him fall down dead, the sword remaining in his mouth, to the end, that the tongue which had so grievously offended, might even, in this world, endure punishment for so horrible a sin.

*Lord Remy's Civil Considerations, c. 59, p. 152.*

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CURIOUS ANECDOTE OF KING HEROD, AND PUNISHMENT OF HIS  
EGREGIOUS COVETOUSNESS.

HEROD the Ascalonite, after his vast expenses, grew to such a covetous humour, that having heard that Hyrcanus, his predecessor, had opened the monument of king David, and carried thence three thousand talents of silver, he, taking along with him a party of his choice friends (lest the design should get wind), went in the night-time, opened, and entered the same monument; and though he found nothing of silver, as Hyrcanus had before done, yet he found there much furniture, and several utensils of gold, all which he caused to be carried away; which done, he passed on to the more inward cells and repositories, where the bodies of the two kings, David and Solomon, lay embalmed; endeavouring to enter there, two of his courtiers were struck dead; and, as it is constantly affirmed, he himself (frightened with the eruption of fire and flame from those apartments) went his way. After this deed of his, it was observed, that his affairs succeeded not with their usual prosperity; and in his family there was a kind of continual civil war, which did not end without the blood of many persons.

*Zonar. Ann. tom. i. fol. 42.*

## INSTANCE OF A COMPREHENSIVE AND RETENTIVE MEMORY.

THEODORUS METOCHITES, who, in the reign of Andronicus Paleologus, was an eminent person, by the excellency of his memory, had attained to the very height of learning. If you asked him of any thing that was new, or of antiquity, he would so recount it as if he recited it out of some book; so that, in his discourses, there was little need of books, for he was a living library, and, as it were, an oracle, where a man might know all he desired.

*Gregor. l. 7. p. 30.*

## THE FAMOUS BRIDGE OF CALIGULA.

THE bridge of Caligula was a new and unheard-of spectacle; it reached from Putzal to Bauli, three miles and a quarter; he built it upon ships in a few days, and, in emulation of Xerxes, over this he marched with his senate and soldiery in a triumphant manner, and in view of the people. Upon this he feasted, and passed the night in dalliance and gaming.

A marvellous and great work indeed, but such as the vanity thereof deprived of commendation; for what end was it raised but to be demolished? "Thus sported he," saith Seneca, "with the power of the empire, and all in imitation of a foreign, frantic, unfortunate, and proud king."

*Suetonius, l. 4. c. 19.*



## REMARKABLE VERIFICATION OF A PREDICTION

RELATIVE TO THE

**Death of Mr. Sadler, the Aeronaut.***To the Editors of "The STRAGGLING ASTROLOGER."*

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING been a constant reader of your valuable work, ever since its commencement, and being much pleased with that part which you title "The Weekly Astrological Calendar," I cannot but notice your remark for the 29th ult. wherein you state that "accidents (on that day) are likely to the traveller or voyager." It proved but too true for the unfortunate Mr. W. Sadler, who ascended in his balloon on Wednesday last, from Bolton-le-Moor, at 5 minutes past 2 o'clock, P. M. and was killed by the balloon coming in contact with a chimney.

I shall be glad if some of your correspondents will give their judgment upon this unfortunate event.

It would oblige a few of your readers here, as well as myself, if you will extend your Calendar for two days farther in the week, viz. Sunday and Monday, for living near two hundred miles from the metropolis, it is always the evening of the latter day before it can be received.

I shall feel myself obliged if you will, through the medium of your invaluable work, state the most approved method of finding a star's true pole of position—and by so doing, you will oblige,

Yours, respectfully,

T. R.

*Chatham Hill, near Manchester,**October 2, 1824.*

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THOSE of our readers who have any scarce books or MSS. relative to Occult Science, which they may wish to dispose of, may hear of a publisher, by addressing a note to "H. W." at the publisher's.

"AGRIPPA" is desired to read our title-page with attention, where he will find that it expresses the invocations of spirits, &c. to be "the ancient practice," which we intend to insert occasionally, and which will be collected from valuable MSS. in order to render this part of the work complete, and to give a general idea of Occult Philosophy. And although we will not exactly avouch for the truth of the whole that will be advanced, yet we certainly could bring forward evidence, on oath, of facts the most strange and extraordinary, that took place in our presence, upon trying similar experiments; facts that would eternally puzzle the most clever of the cleverest free-thinkers to account for, in any possible way, or by any theory of philosophical investigation.

RAPHAEL desires "Sir L. G." to avoid travelling under the present aspects; the ascendant to the Sesquiquadrate of Mercury is certainly unpropitious for either journeys or voyages.

The letter from "PHILADELPHUS" has been received; we are sorry the engraver should have mistaken the signature. The extracts, &c. will be inserted the first opportunity; in the mean time we beg the above gentleman to accept our sincerest thanks for his valuable communications.

Several other communications have been received, which we will notice hereafter.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY WILLIAM CHARLTON WRIGHT,  
65, PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON.

Printed by A. SWEETING, 21, Aldersgate Street.