

THE STRAGGLING ASTROLOGER,

Who, haps and mishaps, in this world below—
All freaks of love—all good—all ill, will show,
From stars and planets in their courses flow:

And whose name, if ye are at all uneasy and feverish to get hold of, is,

MINIME NOSTRAS-NOSTRADAMUS.



HIEROGLYPHIC—No. I.

THE FIRMAMENT FORETOKENS WHAT TIME UNFOLDS.

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♂ . . . ♀ . . . ♂ 6h. 40m. A.M.
 ♂ . . . ♀ . . . ♀ 1h. 0m. P.M.
 △ . . . ♂ . . . ♀ . . . et ♀ 1h. 10m. P.M.
 △ . . . ♀ . . . ♀ . . . ♂ . . . et ♀ . . . 0h. 30m. P.M.
 △ . . . ♀ . . . ♀ . . . ♂ . . . et ♀ . . . 1h. 0m. P.M.
 □ . . . ♀ . . . ♀ . . . ♂ . . . et ♀ . . . 1h. 10m. P.M.

Hence 'tis we wait the wondrous cause to find,
 How body acts upon impassive mind;
 How fumes of wine the thinking part can fire—
 Past hopes revive, and present joys inspire:
 Why our complexions oft our souls declare;
 And how the passions in the features are:
 How touch and harmony arise between
 Corporeal substances and things unseen.
 Hence mighty truths mysterious we descry,
 Which in the womb of distant causes lie.

SIR SAM. GARTH.

QUI sapit, in tacito gaudeat ille sinu.—Now, pray don't be afraid that you are going to be put to your wit's end with over-much Latin and Greek:—No—no—it could not be afforded: Latin and Greek are too dear commodities, as every one knows who has paid for 'em, to be dealt out at the same rate as one's mother tongue. Though I can hardly expect quite such luck, the fact is, that I wish to please all; and having heard in the course of my rambles of a countryman, who, one day going home from church, stepped up to the worthy gentleman in black, who had been giving his parishioners their weekly dressing in good plain English, and accosted him to the following effect—"Sare—Sare—what you praches be all very well, but you nare puts no Latin in yare sarments." The Reverend, somewhat surprised at such an unexpected complaint, says, "But surely, Farmer Killcouche, you don't understand any thing of Latin!"—"Why, no-a—no-a"—replies the farmer—"that be very true, I dinna no naethin o' what it me-uns—but"—continues he, shrugging up his shoulders, and fumbling out his words not over fluently, and with a knowing grin that you see put on by dealers when markets are rather *looking up*—"but," says farmer, "I thinks it but fair, Sare, if one pays for the best, that one should haw' the best—that all I thinks."—At the exposition of this simple reason, the good-natured parson smiled; and willing to prevent the farmer from farther grumbling on the same subject, consented to in-

dulge him with now and then a little Latin; upon which the honest husbandman made his best bow, and went home to dinner, not a little pleased at having gained his point.—Now, lest any upbraidings of a similar nature to those with which honest farmer Killcouche rebuked his spiritual pastor, should be cast against us at starting upon this series of very original and extraordinary documents, you see there was some reason for figuring off with a flourish of *hic, hæc, hoc*, to begin with, was n't there?

People are very apt to fancy to themselves that we, who profess to extract moral forebodings from the stars, and are called astrologers, are very quizzical sort of geniuses, having a grotesque wizard-like cut about us: but this is not the case with me, for I am as plain a straightforward sort of being as any of you, and despise those who put on the appearance of conjurers for the sake of gulling people out of their money by telling them, as they call it, their fortunes. I don't mean to say that fortunes cannot be told by men of science who cultivate an acquaintance with the starry influences, because I am sure they can; but for the most part these horary questions are attempted by ignorant pretenders; and for my own part I never meddle nor make with this most solemn branch of the science for conscientious reasons. It is true that I have often been tempted by large offers of money to give judgments on matters of importance, and have had sums of considerable amount privately enclosed, in order to induce me to satisfy individuals of consequence concerning their own *personal* fate; but I never failed to reject all overtures of the sort, and to return such sums as have been privately enclosed, together with such advice upon the matter, to those who have done me the honour to repose their faith in my knowledge on this subject, as would perhaps save them from becoming the dupes of fraud and ignorance, which are ever on the watch to seize the opportunity of drawing money by imposing upon the credulous. But I shall have occasion to say a few more words relative to this point anon, after I have worked round to the subject of my motto, which, you see, being in a *dead* language will want *reviving*.

SOME PRELIMINARY REMARKS CONCERNING ASTROLOGY, &c.

Nothing would be more ridiculous and vain than an attempt to make the subject of astrology popular by the use of hard words, and by parading with Latin and Greek without explaining what it means. My design is not to puzzle my country neighbours, but to give them some

insight into a subject of all others the most curious, by putting it before them in as familiar and agreeable a manner as I am able, and thereby creating a more general liking for it.—Don't let any one suppose that my scrap of Latin is stuck where it is without some reason more than you yet have been told: neither let it be supposed that you are to be kept in the dark about the meaning of that or any thing else in my way; for I am setting to work for the very purpose of letting you into the light of things that, I'll be bound, will surprise you when they come to be unfolded. You are now looking over that part of my story which comes first, ar'n't you? Every thing ought to have some name, and I don't suppose you would be able to call what you are here reading by any express name unless you are told what name to call it by. You see plain enough that it is the forerunner of that which is coming behind it. Now Shakspeare had a knack of stamping the characters he drew with very pithy and significant names, so that the name itself was descriptive of the person or character which was to be represented; and Shakspeare called the forerunner he introduced *Prodromio*, which is made out of two Greek words, $\pi\rho\omicron$ before, and $\tau\rho\epsilon\chi\omega$ to run. A preamble would also signify *to walk before*: but I verily believe we must be content to plod along the old beaten track, and to call this our forerunner, or fore-walker, by its old-fashioned name; and what do you think that is—why, to make short, it's "the Preface." It is not very much like the breed of prefaces in general, and might therefore have been taken for something else if I had not told you what it was. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred your prefaces are apologies for that which follows them, though, at the same time, you will find your authors giving you good broad hints that they are by far wiser than any body that has preceded them on the same subject, which is the main thing I am now seeking to intimate concerning myself, only, as I am not expert at sidelong hints, I want so much understood without more words; and therefore, as you now know that this is my preface, and that *qui sapit, in tacito gaudeat ille sinu*, is my motto to it, it is time to tell you what the motto means; and I hope you'll remember it, and have it at your tongue's end on all occasions, for it is a very good and useful proverb: indeed, if more agreeable to yourselves, I have no objection for you to learn it, and repeat it in the *higher-prized* language as often as you please; but in your own mother tongue it means neither more nor less than, *It is good to be merry and wise*: and now I shall just tell you why I have fixed on it as my text, and then come to an end with my preface.

ON THE UNIVERSAL PREVALENCE OF ASTROLOGY,
AND STAR-WORSHIP.

If we take but a slight view of the state of mankind from one end of the earth to the other, it will in a moment shew us that there must be something solemnly impressive in the science of astrology. About one-fourth of the whole population of the world have embraced Christianity in some form or other, the other three-fourths confound their religions more or less with astrological truths and doctrines. Those which do not worship the stars as *the fountains* of good and evil, adore them as *intermediate agents*, and esteem those stars and aspects which afford benign effects as possessing a saint-like nature, while those which are malevolent are regarded as partaking of the nature of evil spirits.—All Africa, nearly all Asia, and all the uncivilized (as we very civilized folks call 'em) parts of Europe and of the two Americas, testify the prevalence of Sabaism, which is star-worship *direct*. The numerous followers of Mohammed amount to one-fourth of the population of the earth—their ensign is the lunar crescent, and they employ astrological emblems in their devotions—these are *indirect* star-worshippers.—We, whose minds have been thoroughly pervaded by the light of divine revelation, are, let us trust, under more happy influence; yet, I cannot help concluding my preface with a serious injunction concerning the manner in which I think astrology ought to be used by all of us who rest our faith on the promises of the Gospel.—We have seen its prevalence over the mind, by our view of the millions upon millions of people at this moment superstitiously devoted to its divine efficacy, and though it is perfectly consistent with the precepts of Christianity to consult the stars as *corporeal* omens, having each some specific influence implanted naturally, yet are they never to be regarded in a *spiritual* sense; nor, on any consideration, to be accounted as *the causes* of that which they severally or conjointly portend. Neither ought any but philosophers of the most refined tact to meddle or make with the special influences and sympathies that subsist between one star and another; for it has been in consequence of men of gross minds dabbling in the science that it has been brought rather into disrepute, while another set of men, not celebrated as lovers of philosophy, have branded themselves as dunces or something worse by seeking to confound the astrologer with the necromancer—the wizard—or the dealer with familiar spirits.—Astrology, practised as a recreation, is more rational and congenial than any other

pursuit of the mind that I know of, and is certain of producing much improvement and much pleasure. To this object will it be confined in the present publications; and thus you now fully see the application of my motto, as far as it reminds me *to be merry and wise* in reducing a science, so lofty in its nature, to the purposes of public recreation; which is all I have to say to ye by way of preface.

FIDELE'S FORTUNE;

OR, THE BENEVOLENT ASPECT.

SIGH not, sweet maid—thy sylph will soon,

In silken noose, thy swain decoy;

For I have watch'd *the lambent moon*,

And Venus in *her house of joy*.

I saw them both *the beam* receive,

Which thy *benignant star* transferr'd:

Then do not let thy bosom heave—

And heave so like a dying bird.

Not for a world would I mislead,

A maid as thee so good and true:—

Thy watchful sylph I saw, indeed,—

And saw her plant the love-web too:

O, with what care the silk she placed

And waited for the happy *trine*;

Then fondly urg'd *the stars* to haste,

Whose *beams*, dear maid—insure him thine!

The sparkling gem within that eye

Declares thy heart's belief of this—

Believe it may—for in *the sky*

Shine certain *tokens* of thy bliss.—

See—see—confirm'd *the heav'nly truth*—

Well watch'd thy sylph *the ray* benign—

Go, bless *the stars*—O maid, and youth,

That seal thee his—and seal him thine!

ON THE
ADVANTAGE OF CONSULTING CELESTIAL OMENS,

WHEN ANY GREAT ENTERPRISE IS ON FOOT ; AND THE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES THAT ATTEND A NEGLIGENCE OF THIS PRECAUTION.

THERE is a disposition, in almost every person of every class, to monopolize, as far as each is able, the good things of this world ; but in *the means* of effecting it, the richer have infinitely the best of it over the poorer. This would be all fair enough if they would practise their manœuvres more above-board : but they do things so studiously sly and artful, that it's scarcely possible for common folks to be any thing like even with them. The great complaint that I have against them is, that almost unexceptionably they are condemning publicly in others that which they are privately practising in their closets ; and by way of reconciling conscience to certain underhand practices, and to saying one thing and doing the contrary, they take care to call every thing they say and do, in over-reaching one another, by the cheat-devil term *policy* ; which word, though it covers almost every moral crime you can mention, does not happen, you see, to have been entered down in the black catalogue ; so that your political sinners are altogether exempt from the penalties of absolution. Suppose we put a case, by way of instancing the truth of the proposition which led me to these remarks, namely, the upper-hand which the great have of their inferiors in getting into their clutches the good things of this world.

BUONAPARTE CONSTANTLY CONSULTED PENDING OMENS.

The greatest rulers, and statesmen, and chiefs, and so on, of the present age, are unanimous in setting all their emissaries to cry down astrology as incompatible with sense and reason, and every thing else that is esteemed good. And what do you suppose the meaning of this dexterous, yet over-cunning game is ?—why, nothing, more nor less, to be sure, but to engross to themselves the advantages of exclusively consulting a science alone capable of instructing them when to bring forward their measures with the most certain prospect of success ; and when to forbear, and avoid precarious schemes and enterprises : and if those to whom such crafty wights are opposed happen not to be aware of the astrological advantage taken of them, they are as good as beaten

before they meet their adversary. Buonaparte was famous in this sort of forehand advantage; and always took care to have at his elbow adepts of a first-rate order in the horoscopic principle: but though he was so addicted to chicanery, yet he is said to have been manly and honourable in his application of the occult sciences, compared to the low plottings practised by the conclave which has, with fatal presumption, dared to style itself, in the face of the moral and religious world, "The Holy Alliance."—The extraordinary strides of the Corsican Adventurer towards the summit of earthly fame, and his complete attainment of his ambitious object, was, as I am able to prove, more owing to the sage forecast of his chief astrologer than to the capacities of his own mind, or the wisdom of his administrations: and it was from acting in direct opposition to the adviser who had been the chief instrument of his elevation, that he, in the end, sunk beneath disasters.—Having surmounted with his throne the highest pinnacle of the world, at taking his seat upon it he saw himself so environed with vassal kingdoms, that he fancied *even fate* could not upset him; and growing giddy with the vanities that dazzled him on his lofty seat, he lost sight of his obligations to astrology, persisting in the pursuit of projects in downright defiance of the inauspicious posture of his stars, instead of waiting patiently in his palace, as warned by his discreet philosopher, until the virulence of the unfortunate aspects was abated; and we all know well enough what was the consequence.

SIGNS UNDER WHICH MR. HARRIS'S BALLOON ASCENDED.

But without going to times past and foreign countries for instances of the consequences of neglecting astrological precaution, scarcely a day passes over that does not furnish the observer of signs with some sorrowful case which a little foresight might serve to prevent: and it is with the most philanthropic sensibility that I advert to a circumstance with which the public mind is, at the present moment, much taken up. While I sympathize with his dearest friends in lamenting the untimely death of Mr. Harris, who, when he ascended into the clouds in his balloon, on Tuesday se'nnight, bade them, and the thousands whose cheers accompanied him, farewell for ever, I feel it necessary to say, for the good of other intrepid and enterprising candidates for popular applause, that no gallant adventurer should have exposed himself to a danger, that admitted of delay, under the fatal prognostics that were pending. The planet Jupiter came into the point of the Dra-

gon's tail in the ominous sign Cancer but a few hours preceding the ascent; the planet having been, at the precise moment of his baleful transit of the node, in a partil square with the moon. This any one, who understands the least of the science, will say is *enough*: for there are records of all ages to testify, that such an aspect could not be expected to pass by without leaving behind it many fresh examples of its fatality; and a forewarning which portends death, or indeed accidental mischance, should not be tempted, on any consideration, by those who embark in aërial expeditions.—The reason I give of the life of his fair companion having been so wonderfully preserved, is, that Venus, Georgium Sidus, and Mars, being mutually in trine with one another, was a most lucky aspect for her, as a female; and I shall quit these deplorable allusions with sincere hopes for her recovery, of which I have but little doubt if she survive the prognostics of Friday, which are critical.



I now come to say a few words as to the choice of a day for ushering “The Stragglings Astrologer” upon “the world’s wide stage.”

AUSPICIOUS ASPECTS UNDER WHICH THIS WORK COMMENCES.

It was, in the first instance, proposed to send abroad the precursory number on the festival of St. Barnaby Bright, but, upon reference to

my tables, I found that the aspects on that day were not favourable to the undertaking. Upon a little farther consultation, therefore, it was agreed, that all possible exertion should be made to commence the series of this original course of writings on the Eve of Whitsuntide: and the aspects, as they appear inserted at the head of the first article, will sufficiently explain, to those at all conversant in the nature of astrological signs, the peculiar sanction promised to the work at starting. Although Mercury in his diurnal house, at a trine with Juno, would send all enlightened, intelligent, sharp sort of persons, to stamp their approbation on the undertaking, yet it is not a little surprising that we should also bring over great numbers, who have never hitherto been at all friendly to science, to promote the popularity of our astrological perambulations, which extraordinary patronage is plainly and perfectly indicated by the trine of the two malevolents, and the conjoint and mutual aspect of the moon with both orbs. And, as if this apparent excess of sanction were not enough to give us courage to go on with spirit, we have every thing farther to hope for from the other liberal-hearted sex: for Venus in her mansion of joy, at a trine with Mars, and configured as they both are, at the moment, with Luna, tells us every thing we desire as to the good-will of our fair countrywomen, who will not find themselves deceived if they attend strictly to the hints dropped for their benefit, week by week, in these astrological tracts; for the keenest scrutiny of the signs will be made in order to point out to them the times and seasons favourable and unfavourable for conducting their attacks and defences; indeed, it will be one of the author's first objects to befriend the female cause, from beginning to end, to the utmost of his power.

From what has been stated concerning the positions of the heavens at the moment of this astrological bantling coming into the world, it will be seen that its "*nativity*" is so fortunate, that years might have rolled away without producing such an association of beneficent omens; so that there is every reason to anticipate its becoming the most acceptable offspring of the press that has been brought forth for ages. Thus, the advantage, or upper-hand, which a preconsideration of the state of the Zodiac gives, having been, it is hoped, sufficiently shewn, we proceed to the next part of our duty, which is a most important one.

FRIENDLY WHISPERS :

TO THOSE OF BOTH SEXES TO WHOM IT MAY BE USEFUL TO
KNOW THE MOST PROPER TIMES TO BE RESERVED AND COY;
AND ON THE OTHER HAND, WHEN SUITS OF LOVE MAY BE
ADVANCED AND PUSHED WITH THE BEST CHANCE OF SUCCESS:
TOGETHER WITH OTHER GENERAL PRECEPTS.

THE LOVELY MISS C. G. AND THE BARONET.

IT would have been very fortunate for the highly accomplished and very lovely Miss C—— G——, had she been in possession of a few rudimental points in astrology, such as will be occasionally inserted in this work, before her *debut* into the fashionable world at the Countess of A——'s great *to-do*, the other evening, which would have been every thing in guiding her through the *rencontre* she had planned, and have prevented her returning home under disappointment and mortification. A divinely graceful figure—eyes the most animated and expressive—an exquisite complexion, with perfect harmony and loveliness of features—indeed, all the captivating charms that constitute the perfection of female elegance and beauty, may, as that exquisite young lady now finds, to her deep regret, be displayed with all their winning fascinations, without effecting the hoped-for purpose, if the celestial influences happen to be thwarting. Had she but been previously aware, poor girl, that the fine symmetry of body—the five feet nine inches stature—the intelligent countenance—and the gentlemanlike manners all combined to declare the young Baronet, who had unconsciously made the impression upon her susceptible heart, a native of Mercury in Gemini, and that this planet was *retrograde* in his ascendant at the time she was palpitating to engross his attentions, and to excite similar emotions in his bosom to those which had stirred up such a tumult in her own, she would not have rested her hopes of success upon a moment so unpropitious; but let her endeavour to recover her composure—to keep up her natural spirits—and not, on any account lay it closely to her too warm heart; for a time will be coming round in about three weeks hence, when a like opportunity will present itself; and when, if she does not seem dejected, and can summon resolution to go through a scene of such a nature without confusion, and the conflict of passions that too often defeat one's self on such occasions—in short, if she can manage to keep up her natural self-pos-

session, it will be as easy for the moon to fly from the centre of gravity of her orbit, as for him to withstand her power of attraction, and she will have made a great step towards accomplishing the dear anticipations of her soul.

WHAT SORT OF FEMALES THE COMING SIGNS WILL FAVOUR.

With a view to save the cords of the female heart from these painful lacerations, it is, that I have thought proper to whisper weekly, a few useful instructions as to the most lucky moments for improving opportunities, and for making the best of all advantages, relative to overtures between affectionate belles and beaux. We frequently see those of both sexes who are by no means remarkable for personal beauty or engaging manners, making lasting impressions on those who possess peculiar charms of person, and agreeable deportment; and the world is continually wondering how it can be. Wonder or wonder not, this is to be accounted for among the secret and mysterious consequences that result from the ever-varying influence of the planetary bodies; for it matters little or nothing whether a person be tall or squat—pretty or ugly—agreeable or disagreeable, if the hit happen to be made under a lucky aspect; for therein lieth the whole art and mystery of courtship. Now, for instance, young lasses partaking somewhat of the shape of a claret bottle, having, at the same time, what may be termed rather a good face; also, your little dumpling-fashioned girls with lightish lemon complexions, and hair between flaxen and tawny-brown; no matter whether their faces are pretty or not, so that the visage be rather round than oval, and which, when it wears its courteous looks, presents a pair of nice little dimples in its two chubby cheeks—why girls coming under this description will, for the next fortnight or three weeks, be accomplishing extraordinary wonders among the young men. The rotation of the planets has not brought such a prime trine for them for a great while past, and I would recommend them to make the best of it, for it will be a good while, if they let it slip, before another chance like it will happen. What they ought most particularly to attend to under such a favourable state of the stars is this---if girls of either of the sorts just pointed out, or if they come pretty near what we have sought to describe, for it would be impossible, without being too minute in our representations, to say exactly what every one must be that will partake of the beneficial aspects that are coming on—they must judge for themselves after seeing

FIXED DECISIONS IN COURTSHIP ESSENTIAL.

what has been said. And if they think themselves at all approaching to the kind of lass that is meant, let them, if they have any doubts of the honourable intentions or fidelity of those of our sex, who have made declarations of love to them, resolve to prove their integrity by bringing them not only to the determinate point of *yes* or *no*, but to the *when* and *where*; and to mind that this be done within three weeks at the outside from the date of this paper; for if they drive it off to past that time, it's a hundred to one but they get shuffled off with some unmeaning answer, and they may dally on, for one can't say how long, without getting a bit the forwarder; and will most likely be left in the lurch after all. They need not be afraid of affronting while the stars are right for them, for it can't be: though, perhaps, if the intentions of the young men are not what they ought to be, when they come to be pressed closely for a *yes* or *no*, and so forth, they will evade an answer direct by trying to stop a poor faithful girl's mouth with a kiss, which has not a very good look with it, for all kisses do not mean love, but a very different thing; so that I would have 'em be upon their guard, and mind my former words.

CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUNG MEN TO WHOM THE STARS ARE NOW BENEVOLENT.

The sort of young men who will have the lead among the girls for the next fortnight, the male and female orbs nearly corresponding in their aspects with respect to time in this instance, will be those with rather long faces, darkish skin and hair, not very full whiskered, and rather above the middle stature: and if one of this character happen to have been rather crop-sick at his addresses having been unfavourably received by a girl similar to either of those which have been just sketched, let him press his suit again with redoubled ardour, and I will be bound for his gaining his point if he take advantage of the favourable state of the heavens; and if his nose incline rather towards the shape of a parrot's beak it will make his conquest so much the more certain:

For fortune at some hours to all is kind:

The lucky have whole days, which still they choose;

Th' unlucky have but hours, and those they lose.*

It may be well to just say that marriages contracted between persons

* Dryden's *Tyr. Love*.

of the figure and temperament we have been alluding to will prove prolific as to offspring, and the general remark of physiologists, experienced in these matters, is, that the offspring generally turns out to be very improved editions of the parents; for the reason of which we shall not attempt to account, but refer the reader to the philosophical lines of Garth at the beginning of this Number in verification of the general facts.

A SALUTARY PRECAUTION.

As some persons might rashly embark in speculations from its having been signified that aspects singularly fortunate for adventure prevail on the day this Number is dated, it becomes proper to throw in a salutary precaution. It is chiefly on the friendly configurations of Venus, Saturn, and Mars, each mutually and fortunately associated with the moon, that the propitious nature of the indication depends; and the velocity of the lunar motion causes the duration of the index to be very transient; so that if not snapped at while it prevails, it is soon gone by, and lost. If, therefore, property were embarked when the separation is taking place, a fortunate, by the rapidity of the moon's pace, is changed into an unfortunate aspect in a few hours, and ruin might be the consequence.

SOME DISORDERS PORTENDED.

Some of the signs before us indicate that nervous complaints, with excessive debility and langour—also affections of the stomach and bowels, are disorders that will be likely to come on during the ensuing week; and if they are accompanied with changes of the body from heat to shivering, and alternately from flushings to paleness, these attacks should be treated with the greatest skill and attention; as various humours of the system are shewn to be increasing, and if not speedily removed a long state of disease is likely to ensue in cases where the constitution is delicate.

A COMMENTARY
ON THE
CELEBRATED PROPHECY OF NOSTRADAMUS,
RELATIVE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF LONDON BY FIRE, IN 1666.

ORIGINAL PROPHECY.

Le sang du juste a *Londres* fera faute
Bruslez par feu, de vingt et trois, les six,
La Dame antique cherra de place haute,
De mesme secte plusieurs seront occis.

TRANSLATION.

The blood o' th' just requires,
Which out of London reeks,
That it be raz'd with fires,
In year threescore and six;
The ancient Dame shall fall
Down from her place on high,
And of the same sect shall
Many another die.

As though human greatness consisted in nothing but in rapine and bloodshed, history has been very careful in treasuring up the memories of the most rapacious spoilers and bloodthirsty murderers that ever existed on the earth; and, for the sake of setting them up as worthy patterns for posterity, we behold them, above all men, dubbed with the dazzling title of *The Great*. Your Alexanders, and all monsters of his kidney, I care not who they are, deserve to be looked on as nothing better than as plunderers and butchers of the human race. To whom can tributes of honour be more justly due than to men who have cultivated their intellectual faculties to the highest pitch, and excelled in sifting science to its very bottom? Since that glory which the world is madly running after is of such a bastard breed, perhaps we ought not to feel surprise that so illustrious a name as that of Nostradamus should have almost sunk into oblivion; but whom, nevertheless, all admirers of mental superiority qualified to discern his profundity of intellect will rank as next, among mankind, to the holy apostles and prophets. But to speak of him in common terms, he was not only the most learned man, and most eminent physician of his age, but unquestionably the most extraordinary *philosophical prophet* that ever lived on the earth. I call him a philosophical prophet because it is quite necessary that a proper distinction should be kept between men who, by philosophical studies, arrive at a wonderful height in foresight, and those whose foreknowledge has been attained by the peculiar light of divine inspiration.

The versions of Nostradamus that have been attempted in our own language have been such uncouth productions, that they certainly could not be expected to tickle the fancy of fashionable readers who are dainty in their style: and many reasons may be given for the fustian-like diction in which they have appeared. In the first place, the writer himself says, that he has declared future events "in dark and abstruse sentences"—"all under dark figures more than prophetic." Thus, the obscure language in which they are dressed—deficiency in the science of astrology—and ignorance of the meaning of prophetic symbols, would all contribute to furnish us with unpalatable translations: I hope, therefore, without the imputation of vanity, that I shall be able to afford my readers an opportunity of more fairly appreciating Nostradamus than any preceding commentator has yet given them, by occasionally inserting his most striking predictions, and accompanying each with a translation in plain literal English.

MEMORY OF NOSTRADAMUS.

If I thought it possible that any of my readers had never heard before of this my assumed and very renowned great-great-grandsire, I would tell them that he was a Frenchman, of the province of Provence, and born Dec. 14th, 1503, old style, which, according to the same mode of reckoning time, would, singular as it seems, be my own birth-day!—I would mention moreover, that so high was his reputation in his profession, that he was successively physician to Henry II., Francis II., and Charles IX., Kings of France. But, supposing that they know all this, and that he began his prophecies, which consist of more than 1000 doggrels, such as that which I have Englished, in 1555, and which include prophecies from his own time till the end of the world, and many of which have been and are still fulfilling—supposing them, I say, to know all about this, and that he lived to the age of sixty-two years, six months, and ten days, I shall not say any thing about it, but proceed to examine his celebrated prophecy concerning the conflagration of this city in which I am writing, and which exhibits monuments of his fame in all its windings and purlieus. [To be continued.]

Note.—We shall endeavour in our subsequent numbers to give a greater variety of matter, and to make it universally interesting. The indispensable introductory essays, and arrangement of a first sheet, preclude the possibility of adopting that attracting system of arrangement and diversification which will generally characterize our work.