

THE  
**STRAGGLING ASTROLOGER;**

OR,  
**MAGAZINE**  
OF  
**CELESTIAL INTELLIGENCES:**

BY  
**MINIME NOSTRA-NOSTRADAMUS:**

ASSISTED BY  
**Several Artists of First-rate Eminence:**

AMONG WHOM IS

**T. C. R.**

*A principal Calculator of the Predictions in that popular Work,*  
**THE PROPHETIC ALMANACK.**



**HIEROGLYPHIC—No. VI.**

**THE FIRMAMENT FORETOKENS WHAT TIME UNFOLDS.**

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AN  
EPITOME  
OF  
THE THEORY AND PRACTICE  
OF  
ASTROLOGY.

(Continued from p. 72.)

It will be necessary for the reader to bear in mind, that, according as the sum of its particles is greater or less, so is the action of a body impressed with greater or less effect; its distance also from the body acted upon being taken into consideration. For instance: The Sun is the largest body in nature that we are exposed to; and its effect on our Earth, and all contained within it, is, therefore, very great: but the Moon, being so much nearer the Earth than the Sun, although the sum of its particles of matter is as nothing compared to the sum of particles in the body of the Sun, yet its influence on the Earth, and all it contains, is considerably greater than that of the Sun.

It requires but few words to explain, that if the Sun do, as the Newtonian principles allege, attract the vast and solid body of the Earth, it must have a very powerful effect indeed on the more subtle matter which constitutes the bodies of animals: and if men were disposed to trace effects to their causes, there is not a rational man in the world who would not, at once, perceive, from the sensations he is constantly experiencing, that mutual action which is going on between insensible and sensible matter.

No author, that I am acquainted with, has yet attempted to refer the doctrines of astrology to Newtonian principles. Indeed, since the discovery of that inherent force by which all bodies in nature are urged to bear or press towards their respective centres, it has become a fashion to cry down astrology as a chimera; and though many individuals have continued to follow it up upon the principles of the Ptolemaic system, yet none, I believe, have ever given themselves the trouble to reduce it to the Copernican, and to shew how perfectly its laws are of a piece with that effort of nature which is called *gravitation*, in bodies that revolve; and *attraction*, in the centre round which their motions are described.



As the intention of this part of our work is to throw some new light on the *rationale* of this very interesting and sublime science, and to fairly rescue it from the degraded condition to which it has been reduced by the duplicity of quacks in religion, and the shameful prostitution of it by astrological impostors, the intelligent reader will see the necessity of bearing invariably in mind the philosophical rudiment deduced from the experimental process of Newton; namely, That every particle of matter in the universe is endued with a sympathetic energy or influence, by which it is capable of communicating imperceptibly with every other particle throughout the system of nature.

The next thing required, in order to apply the principles here proposed to the doctrines of astrology, is, to endeavour to acquire, by the best and most enlarged means of comparison that we can adopt, some notion of the innumerable, immense, and differently organized conglutations of particles which the suns and other mighty spheres of the universe severally contain. No mind, it is certain, can expand itself sufficiently to comprehend the mightiness and multiplicity of the orbs of heaven, and the variety of their qualities and structures; indeed, a profound capacity is necessary for contemplating, with any thing like an adequate view, that small portion of the world which is called *the solar system*; and of which the vast earth we live upon is but a comparatively small member.

#### THE PROPORTIONAL QUANTITIES OF MATTER COMBINED IN THE SEVERAL BODIES OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

In order to come towards some idea by which the astrological effects on one another, of the several bodies of matter constituting the chief planets of the solar system may be estimated, it will be necessary to compare them, in this respect, as to the proportion of particles, or material principles, contained in each. It has been before signified, how great a scope of mind this comparison requires. Large numbers, when they come to be applied to the measurement, as it were, of such vast magnitudes, are apt to bewilder the imagination, and confound the understanding. It is impossible to work the mind up to a sufficient pitch for the contemplation here necessary to be brought before it: however, we must do the best we can to assist in this mental speculation.

We actually know the Earth on which we live to be nearly 25000 miles in circumference, and that the mass of matter of which it is composed is about 450 times as dense as water. The idea of the wonder-



ful extent of this body may be rather better assisted by conceiving the length of time occupied in going from kingdom to kingdom; or in sailing round it. A farther conception may be, also, derived from considering the great number of distinct nations on its surface, with many of which we are yet unacquainted; for there are yet many great regions that still remain unexplored. Having suffered the mind to enlarge itself, as far as it is able, by meditating on this mighty globe, with which we are most familiar, we become rather better able to draw inferences on comparing the proportion of matter in the body of the Earth, with the quantities contained in the various orbs with which ours is associated. To bring this point in as narrow a shape for consideration as possible, we shall here merely compare the proportions of matter contained in each planet, with that which is condensed in the body of the Earth; and then we shall, by a similar scale, shew the comparative masses of each planet with the solar mass. And first,

The Earth contains about 6 times more matter than Mercury.

- - - - -	1 and 1-10th	- - -	Venus.
- - - - -	$11\frac{1}{3}$	- - -	Mars.
- - - - -	312 times less	- - -	Jupiter.
- - - - -	98	- - -	Saturn.
- - - - -	17	- - -	Georgium Sidus.
- - - - -	40 times more	- - -	The Moon.

I would now recommend close attention to the wonderful aggregation of matter accumulated in the body of the sun; and this will be somewhat the more readily conceived from the bulk of the Earth and comparative bulk of the several planets having been just now examined.

The Sun contains about 2,000,000 times more matter than Mercury.

- - - - -	400,000	- - -	Venus.
- - - - -	334,000	- - -	The Earth.
- - - - -	4,000,000	- - -	Mars.
- - - - -	1,070	- - -	Saturn.
- - - - -	20,000	- - -	Geor. Sidus.
- - - - -	133,600,000	- - -	The Moon.

(To be continued.)



A  
CANDID SURVEY

OF

CERTAIN PASSING EVENTS, WITH THEIR ATTENDANT SIGNS,  
AND THE  
INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES TO MORAL SOCIETY.

THE passions of a nation may be compared to the ocean, which, without some cause of agitation, is disposed to calmness: but when ruffled to a state of violence by any sudden or provoking impulse, the effects are tremendous and overwhelming. In looking at the frenzies which occasionally seize upon the public mind, some may be satisfied with the fancy, that there is nothing farther to be apprehended than the merely momentary fit or panic; and that it loses all its fervour as soon as the temporary emergency which caused it is overpast. Those who think (I will not say *reason*) thus abstractedly, think erroneously; nor can such short-sighted mortals know much of the nature of the human heart. Every provocation which a rational body experiences has a concomitant origin, which is not visible to the purblind and precipitate. Every new insult adds fuel to fuel: and the fervour of indignation, when it has once glowed, never becomes extinct; but will, some time or other, as new combustibles are added, burst forth with quenchless fury. It is at these latent consequences that the moral philosopher looks with serious forebodings, and not at the mere occurrence which may happen to be coming to pass.

In a former number, some allusions have been made to the entrance of Saturn into Gemini, the ascendant of London, as well as observations relative to the sorrowful afflictions which have befallen Ireland during his sojourn in Taurus, the ascendant of that criminally-neglected island. Those remarks, it will be seen, relate to persons of various classes rather than to events; and it is a task of no very agreeable kind to which the pending signs now lead; namely, that of tracing the astrological significations which appertain to certain weighty subjects that have been recently making, and which ought to make, a serious impression on every virtuous and patriotic mind.

THE RAGE OF INFIDELITY IN ENGLAND, AND THE DEPLORABLE MEANS BY WHICH IT IS PROMOTED.

The first circumstance which affects the community at large upon the



ingress of Saturn into Gemini, the ruling sign of this vast metropolis, is the trial of eight men charged with selling blasphemous publications. It is well worthy of observation, that these trials, which will prove of more national importance than can be seen upon a hasty glance, commenced on the very day that the entrance of the malevolent planet into the ominous sign was taking place.

The observations on this remarkable prosecution cannot be too minutely made; and I shall, therefore, feel myself excused for particularly pointing out some of the most striking matters by which this case, and the circumstances connected with it, are distinguished.

These eight persons, over whose fate the malign orb seems to have so especially predominated, were the agents, as we know, of a man who has voluntarily sacrificed his liberty and property in the cause of doctrines which oppose the truths of Christianity: and not only has he himself been long suffering the scourge of the law, but his wife, and other of his female kindred, have, by their own choice, rushed dauntlessly into the jaws of the judge and the jailor, and become the victims of the same fatal resolution.

The consequences of this apparently disinterested and determined conduct in the cause of free-thinking, has been to induce an endless succession of proselytes and propagators of the same Antichristian tenets; who, for the most part, meet the courts with a confidence that argues sincerity in the cause they have engaged in: and it is to be deplored deeply, that the want of theological understanding in those before whom they are brought never fails to be conspicuous upon all these trials. Thus, that which is meant to be suppressed by *the utmost rigours of the law*, only gains spiritual strength by the triumphant manner in which the disciples of the infidel, mean and uneducated as they are, face, grapple with, and floor, their antagonists in court, who dare never stir an inch from the technical verbiage of acts of parliament. As long as this unequal contest between the arm of the law and the arm of infidelity is impolitically kept up, so long must the latter gain strength; and true religion and morality grow weak and suffer abuse.

A WORD OR TWO FROM COUNSELLOR FRENCH, AND ONE OR TWO FROM FATHER JEROME.

A barrister, named French, conducted the defences set up by certain of these dealers in infidelity, and a few of the words which he used express very truly and very cogently the consequences which the nation



is suffering from the injudicious mode of suppression which has been hitherto adopted. "Piety," says he, "shudders at these prosecutions. True Christianity is every where scandalized from them. The dissemination of these books is most horrible, and the circulation is increased by tens of thousands by these prosecutions. Could the imprisonment of these poor, starved, ignorant creatures check them? No. The true cause of the frightful increase of infidelity was the vices and luxury of the higher classes—their deistical principles—and their unchristian conduct. He repeated it, that *the community was in peril from this source.*"—"He felt for those who were prosecuted; and he came to protest, as a Christian, against such a course of remedy as imprisonment. He wished them to make converts of these poor men rather than martyrs."

Now what is most wonderful to a bystander is, that, in an age which prides itself with being so luminous and refined, men of education, and who must be well acquainted with the results of nearly three centuries of persecution, should not pay some regard to what experience is ever teaching. Domitian, Adrian, and Antoninus, after sacrificing nearly a million of Jews, could not extinguish Judaism: nor could the millions on millions of martyrs to Christianity, from Nero down to Dioclesian, repress the progress of its doctrines. The same evidence is manifested in the whole history of the Reformation, from the early dissent of the *Waldenses* to the present time; that is to say, rigorous measures have ever tended to strengthen rather than suppress freedom of opinion upon topics of religion. Of this one thing we may all rest certain—that no set of persons can overthrow *the truth*. What, then, is the line of conduct which this axiom points out? Why obviously this—to employ the truth to *persuade and convince* those who are in error. It is, however, much to be feared, that the fact which St. Jerome advanced is but too well grounded: "After the church," says he, "had Christian magistrates, *she was fuller of riches, but emptier of virtue*; and when *she had golden chalices, she had wooden priests.*"\*

A COMPARISON OF CERTAIN CONFIGURATIONS, BY WHICH RECENT EVENTS, THAT MUCH AFFECT RELIGION AND MORALITY, HAVE BEEN MARKED.

When any powerful influence is exerted from either Gemini or Sagittarius, some circumstance unfavourable to religion is commonly seen

\* Bennet's Memorial, p. 18.



to be the result. I have already sufficiently remarked upon the increasing spirit of opposition to the established religion of the country, as evinced in the conduct of Carlile's agents; and there can be no question, but the notorious profligacy of those to whose care the superintendence of religion is committed, has been a chief cause of the successful career of these emissaries of infidelity. Precept without practice is but the smoke of a dunghill, which every one is desirous to shun even the side-wind of. Indeed, to persons in the least degree conversant with astrology, I shall be able to afford full proof that the disgrace which has fallen on the church through the infamy of certain of the clergy, is connected with the active propagation of blasphemous doctrines, and of more efficacy in promoting the circulation of the Carlile publications, than all the energies of an open antichristian host could have ever effected.

In order to bring forward my astrological evidence on this great national subject, I must reluctantly advert to that fatal day for the established church, the 19th of July, 1822: and by comparing the signs which predominated over the horrid deed committed by a dignitary of the highest rank on that day, with those which prevailed on the 8th of June, 1824, when the trials of Carlile's shopmen commenced, a singular correspondence in the planetary positions will be detected, which will speak volumes in favour of the authenticity of astrology, and of the connexion above signified.

July 19 <sup>th</sup> 1822.	☉ 26.10	♂ 8.26	♃ 4.29 R	♄ 9.9	♅ 29.46	♆ 2.7	♁ 18.8	♂ 18.0 R
June 8 <sup>th</sup> 1824.	☉ 17.33	♂ 10.14	♃ 14.50 R	♄ 29.57	♅ 24.32	♆ 0.44	♁ 3.35	♂ 10.6 R

Upon comparing this scale of the relative positions of the planets, the reader will observe, that, on the 19th of July, 1822, the day on which the execrable Bishop polluted what is termed the *Establishment* with a stain of the foulest and most indelible nature, the planet Jupiter was just quitting Taurus—that Mars had just entered Libra, and was applying to a quartile of the Georgium Sidus, the latter being retrograde, and beholding one another from cardinal signs—Mercury, also, being retrograde, in Cancer, in a state of combustion—and the Moon in Leo, just separated from her conjunction, being afflicted by a quartile of Saturn, emitted from Taurus.

Now upon the 8th of June, 1824, when the agents of Carlile are put



upon trial for the act to which the former may be regarded as a grand inducement, we find Saturn in the posture in which Jupiter was seen in the former case, namely, just ready to transit into Gemini—Mars, also, has just ingressed, as before, into Libra, and, as in the former instance, is applying to a quartile with Georgium Sidus, the latter now retrograde as before; and the aspect still being from the same cardinal signs—Mercury, likewise, retrograde, as in the former aspects—Venus, in both instances, in the ascendant of London—and the Moon in Scorpio, just separated from affliction by conjunction with Mars—to which may be added, the quartile of the Sun and Georgium Sidus, on both days within orbs, and from the same cardinal signs.

Having shewn the remarkable coincidence on these two occasions, which both so materially concern the religion of the country, I shall only farther state, on this point of my question, that Saturn has a strong sympathy with subtle-minded persons; and, in exciting them to action, he is very powerful. Carline's connexions are no doubt of the class on which he, at this time, is very forcibly operating; and, as his motion is heavy, his effects may be expected to be lasting, and to increase in importance, for some time to come, relative to the affairs of the British metropolis.

AN ASTROLOGICAL VIEW OF THE CASE OF CAPTAIN  
O'CALLAGHAN.





This is a case which connects itself with the two former, inasmuch as we here find the religion of the country involved, and which seems to have been, as in one of the foregoing instances, brought into contempt by a functionary intrusted with the administration and guardianship of it. Yet, although a clergyman had been guilty of gross impropriety, and which gave rise to a *little fracas*, there was nothing in the simple affair to have agitated the public mind, had this, like questions of a similar nature, been suffered to pass off in the common way. The manner in which Mr. O'Callaghan has, however, been dealt with, will not be readily forgotten; nor will the blow given to religion and justice be easily remedied. It is curious to observe the astrological significations appertaining to this most unaccountable piece of bad policy on the part of those who ought, certainly, to have hushed up the thing as quietly as possible, rather than have managed so clumsily as to let it become the theme of every mouth, to the utter disgrace of one party, and those who have been his kind friends; and to the other, a triumphant sort of popularity, which will make him ample amends for the persecution he has suffered. I shall, here, briefly allude to the narrative of this business, and then shew, how it is astrologically associated with the current events of the year: and, what is still more wonderful, that the consequences were pointed out nearly twelve months beforehand.

The merits of this parsonic adventure lie in the following narrow compass. Three ladies taking a sort of airing in the vicinity of town, in a private carriage, on the dicky of which sat Captain O'Callaghan, under whose protection they were, attracted the attention of a reverend orthodox, who was riding on horseback along the same road. As the story goes, one of the said three ladies was marvellously handsome; and though there is not much doubt but that the saint-like gentleman strove to renounce the devil and all his works, *and that*, as much as ever he could, yet in the present war between flesh and spirit, the former had the mastership, and the latter was absolutely obliged to knock under. So, what could the man do with that which would not be controlled? And what did he do? Why nothing more than poke his holy nose into the carriage window, once, twice, thrice or so, to gratify his refractory and carnal senses, which, as you find, would have their way in spite of every thing. I don't believe he was guilty of doing any thing more than thus intruding his sanctified proboscis into the handsome lady's face, before her protector became so enraged as to



jump down from the dicky, and with his own divine bit of a twig, to dust the canonical jacket of the gentleman in black. Thus ended act the first.

After this, Clericus preferred, as a man of peace ought to do, an appeal to *Justice* rather than to *Honour*: the flogger and the flogged had, therefore, a time appointed for them to meet, according to law, before certain functionaries, whose business it is to take the trouble off their hands of deciding the affair between themselves. Without entering into the particulars of the ceremonies, *pro* and *con*, which this scene presented, we need only say, that the authorities, satisfied that the peace of the nation had been violated by the man of war, referred the *spiritual pastor* to that tribunal where petty judgments are, in such cases, given against those who wilfully commit trespasses on the peace of society.

#### THE REDRESS OBTAINED PROVES A THREE-FOLD DRESSING.

As the particulars of this appeal are already so notorious, it would be as ridiculous as sending "coals to Newcastle," to detail them here; but there are some consequences arising out of this judicial proceeding, which, viewed astrologically, demand attention. The writer of this has had interviews with some of the jurymen before whom the cause was brought: and not one of the twelve is there who does not declare that a most gross insult was committed by the clergyman: and that, in their unanimous opinions, he richly deserved the chastisement he received. This, then, being the conscientious opinion of them, one and all; and this having been, as it since has, publicly set on record, is a circumstance of extraordinary import: nor will the *second verdict* of these twelve honest jurymen be ever blotted out from the catalogue of clerical delinquencies. It is a flagellation that will wound much deeper than that which was received, in the moment of exasperation, from the hand of the females' protector. But this is not all; for there is left upon record *some words* applicable to religion and morality, as they both stand affected by this new parsonic breach, which it would be well for every one who has the good of society really at heart, to weigh with the deepest consideration. I mean what was said on the trial, in justification of the defendant, by that incorruptible and inspired champion of *moral right* and *true piety*, Mr. Charles Phillips, barrister. I place this as the *third dressing* that the candidate for a bishopric got on this occasion; and which was by far the most sorely



inflicted of the three. It is too long to be inserted here ; but the matter which that eminent speech contains is of such national importance, that it should be studied with the gravest solicitude.

THE SENTENCE ON CAPTAIN O'CALLAGHAN, AND THE EXTREMITY TO WHICH THE EXECUTION OF IT WAS CARRIED.

The jury necessarily found the soldier guilty of inflicting stripes ; but on the ground of provocation recommended a lenient punishment. A fine of twenty pounds, and imprisonment in the county jail for a month, is the penalty awarded. Mr. O'Callaghan is taken accordingly to prison, and treated as a felon. His ordinary food is refused, and the jail-bread and water only supplied. The jury, one and all, publicly expostulate on this excessive rigour ; but without producing any effect. A magistrate interferes to order his usual diet to be allowed, as far as eating, *not drinking*, goes : and to be permitted to speak to his friends through one iron grating, instead of through the double separation of two.—A stir is made among his friends, and a petition to the House of Commons from the prisoner is preferred. The presiding *puisne* who had become the organ of the *quorum*, declared his ignorance of the prison regulations ; and consequently of the fate to which he consigned the prisoner.—The sentence, and mode of inflicting it, approved of by the higher powers.—A revision of the issue, and of the rigorous punishment which the Captain was undergoing, was entered into by a police conclave, which confirmed the whole severities inflicted.—Some qualms arising from the public disgust expressed at such unnecessary and unusual dispensations of the law, is at last manifested by the publication of a document, purporting to be the official notes taken upon the trial.—Effects produced on the public mind by this paper, not the expiation of the abettors of the severity ; but cause of deeper reproach.—Every newspaper in town and country, of a disinterested character, circulating its comments on the odium thus brought upon religion, law, and justice.—No circumstance, since the persecution of the late queen, so calculated to bring contempt on the sacred institutions of the country.—A partial rigour, for the sake of gratifying mean minds, will never fail to extend disaffection ; and to leave a permanent and fatal epidemic behind it.



CELESTIAL OMENS COINCIDING WITH THE TIME OF TRIAL; ALSO, A PREDICTION IN THE PROPHETICAL ALMANACK FOR 1824, DEDUCED FROM THE RADIX OF THE YEAR, WHICH POINTS OUT THE PRECISE TIME WHEN THE CHURCH WOULD HAVE TO UNDERGO THE EVIL DEPLORED IN THE PRESENT NUMBER OF "THE STRAGGLING ASTROLOGER."

The time at which the trial of Captain O'Callaghan came on was the 14th of June, at which time the planet Saturn had attained forty-nine minutes in the sign Gemini, the ascendant of London; while Mercury was just finishing his retrogradation from his inferior conjunction, and was becoming *direct* in the same sign, subsequent to a conjunction with Venus, recently vitiated by a conjunction with Saturn; the Sun being also in the said sign. Mars, it will be moreover noted, was in two degrees, fifty-one minutes, of the equinoctial sign Libra, just separated from a trine aspect with Saturn. Jupiter at the same time, also, beholding Georgium Sidus from the cardinal signs Cancer and Capricorn, the latter planet being retrograde, and separating from a quartile aspect with Jupiter. The position of the Moon is also remarkable, her conjunction with Georgium Sidus and quartile with Jupiter having been completed the day previous to the trial.

Now the conjoint force, in Gemini, of Sol, Mercury, Venus, and the greater malignant, Saturn, could not be looked forward to without anticipating some unusual sensation calculated to disturb the public mind in and around London; and the aspect of Saturn and Mars would tend to increase the agitation and virulence of that which might happen to provoke. But I consider the relative postures of Jupiter, Georgium Sidus, and the Moon, to have greatly contributed to bring about this extraordinary and very unexpected dissatisfaction; for, from a number of observations on the effects of Georgium Sidus, on public bodies, I am convinced that murmuring and discontent are among the effects of his influence. He is excessively morose and sullen; and his conjunction with the Moon, on the present occasion, will account for the extended and almost general impulse which has been given to popular irritation. We should recollect, too, that Mars is intimately concerned in all those broils which relate to military people; and his being in a platique trine with Venus, may signify the origin of the quarrel.

The foregoing signs and observations relate wholly to the moment



at which Mr. O'Callaghan is about to be consigned to the custody of a jailor, for that which every man on earth is called upon by every feeling of nature, and every principle of reason, to do, were he placed in the particular situation in which the Captain stood at the moment. Debating, therefore, as men, we naturally expect that discretionary power which the dispensers of the law possess to be exercised in favour of such a defendant. There is, however, another light in which this strange business presents itself; and which is alone able to account for such anomalous and unprecedented proceedings. Every man among those who have caused this *hub-bub* was evidently under certain planetary influences which operated at the time; and, unconscious of the fatuity which possessed him, he becomes involuntarily the instrument of bringing about the course of fate. No rational beings would plunge religion, morality, justice, honour, and humanity, into so deplorable a state, were it not for some infatuation which they are not at the time aware of: and that this consequence was foreseen, and was to come to pass, at this precise time, will be evident from the following extract from "*the Prophetic Almanack*," for 1824.

In his "timely warnings and wholesome precepts" for June, the author says, "Were I to declare all I foresee concerning the danger in which our national church is placed, it might seem censorious without effecting any good purpose. I have not forgotten the old adage, that says, *a nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse*."—Now were not the cases of Carlile's deputies, and of Captain O'Callaghan, such as affect the whole body-politic, and the whole frame of institutions by which it is held together, they would not have been pointed out in the radix of the year: and were not these the events to which the sign and the prediction most especially relate, they would not have occurred at the precise time of the year at which some evil to the ecclesiastical establishments of the country was foreshewn to be portended. Let those who may affect to deride the warnings of astrology, mark this coincidence: and let them bear in mind, that many a superb edifice has been burnt to the ground by sparks which, in themselves, are but minute and inconsiderable. Guicciardini, in his aphorisms, says truly, "it is in nature as in governments; nothing is permanent that is violent."—A spark of a violent and destructive nature has been very unnecessarily struck; and let those who amuse themselves with flint and steel beware of combustibles.



## A VERY PUZZLING QUESTION.

SOME people have a knack of telling stories,

And interlarding all they say with mirth,

Because, d'y'e see, the Moon in Cancer glories,

And happens to be joyous at their birth.

As to myself, I feel that I'm deficient

At doing this in style, because, at mine,

Her beam to other arts was more allicient;

For she was seated in another sign.

In that which now I'm at, the lack is very

Perplexing—for I'm trying to compose

A rhyme or two, which being rather merry,

Might make amends for sober sort of prose.

O—nothing's worse than getting drowsy, poring

Over a heap of stupid words, fine-drawn

Without a meaning—and which set one snoring ;

Or, at each barren period make one yawn.

I scarce know how I feel myself, when most I've

My tushes sharpen'd for a little wit,

And find my author's brains so very costive,

Squeeze how he will, he can't squeeze out a bit.

From pity I, for half a dozen pages,

Hoping 'twill come at last, don't even frown :

Six more, and none—so work'd up, then, my rage is,

*Fungus*, I cry—and dash the rascal down,

That which is coming now needs some apology ;

For, you must know, it oft has been my lot,

Especially when he lugs in astrology

In an unmeaning way, to dash down Scott.

But yet, I own, he sometimes is amusing ;

And wish he'd use less paper, and not trick

So many nothings up for their perusing,

Of tinsel who are fond—it makes one sick.



But what does he care—his emetic tartar

Works glibly downwards with most stomachs—which,  
With him, is reason good the stuff to barter—

For he has set his mind on growing rich.  
Not satisfied is he with mere Sir Walter—

At least—so, by the buzz, it is declared:—

To raise a family, that is, to alter

The simple *Sir*, he bent is, to *My Laird*.

Dear me---I pardon crave---why, this suggestion

Is a digression---for I first set out,

As I remember, of a puzzling question

To tell a story---what am I about?---

Forgive me---but, I'm proud, and can't ask pity,

Though forced to leave my story till next time---

All I can say is, if you spurn my ditty,

Cry *fungus*---rascal---and dash down my rhyme.

This week, for want of room, I must forego it---

Perhaps it is because the dog-star reigns,

And may be making me a better poet,

By cracking more effectually my brains.

Great help that star imparts to poets' fancies,

So that each luckily born under it,

Will be the man to scare you with romances---

The true *Poeta nascitur, non fit*.

As sure as summer follows after winter---

Or, sure as the next week will follow this,

So sure, the Fates permitting, to the Printer,

To send the story promised I'll not miss:

And, if I'm in the tune to give it humour,

The subject is a good one, and quite new:

I'll do the best I can---and who can do more?

So, with this pledge, I bid you now adieu.