

# THE ZOIST.

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## I. *Intellectual Freedom—its Advocates and Opponents.*

TEACH the people to think. How difficult the task! The mass of men are the slaves of prejudice; they are afraid to think. In these days of boasted intelligence and vaunted intellectual progress such a change may almost assume the nature of a paradox, but strange as it may appear to the superficial observer—it is nevertheless true. It is really lamentable to reflect on the ignorance which prevails on the most important topics. Few, indeed, recognize their own position in the scale of creation, or appreciate any of the objects which they ought to fulfil during their existence. The search after truth the majority neglect, and yet they suffer severely from the want of that knowledge which would result from free and accurate investigation.

We have said that men are afraid to think. Of what are they afraid? Afraid of the workings of their own cerebral organism—of the honest accumulation of facts, and of the conscientious conclusions to which they necessarily lead! Why do they fear? It is ignorance that makes cowards of them—it is ignorance that leads them to mistrust their own powers, and causes them to consider the honest investigator in the light of a criminal. No man is justified in neglecting the investigation of any subject bearing on his own or his neighbour's freedom and happiness. To teach the truth, meaning by that expression, not merely the fashionable sophisms and orthodox opinions of the fleeting moment, but that which a free, careful, and laborious research convinces us *is* truth, is the highest duty of man. Let reason on all occasions have full sway. "Truth *can* bear the light, and error *must learn* to bear it."

Man should investigate everything. He cannot err by prosecuting careful research, but he does err most seriously by neglecting it. He may arrive at irrational conclusions, but these are to be corrected by renewed research, by a larger collection of facts, and by a more cautious and philosophic generalization. He should place no barriers, for they do but mark the limits to which the abettors of sloth and cowardice would confine men. The pigmy in science may endeavour to check the career of the philosopher, by exclaiming, "Hitherto shalt thou go, but no farther;" and this motto men of confined views may adopt, but the achievements of the next day or the following year prove the folly of erecting an intellectual cordon, because one resting spot after another must be yielded to the steady and progressive advancement of thought. Reflect ye who would dictate the course which your neighbour should pursue,—ye, who consider your own narrow and ill-matured views as the standard to which all should conform,—ye, who, therefore, arrogate to yourselves that which ye refuse to others, and claim the power to do that which in the next breath ye state man cannot perform. What is the result of your efforts? What is the doctrine ye preach? Ye declare that the future is to be impregnated with the errors of the past,—that the follies and weaknesses of bygone days are to be esteemed and nurtured, and that the light of knowledge, which nature intends to shine with increasing effulgence, is to a certain extent to be extinguished by the dicta of antiquity and the ignorance and tyranny of authority. With ductile youth how commence ye your task? Ye teach opinions when ye should be engaged in teaching facts, and then ye practically say, "it is virtuous to believe this; it is impious to doubt that;" and thus the very portal through which all knowledge is said to creep, ye close, and guard by a band of beings who cry down the daring intruder, and yell forth epithets which too frequently scare even those who have ventured to stand erect. Thus ye cultivate fear; ye reduce men to the state of slaves; ye order them to bow down and tremble; whereas your duty is to call forth all their intellectual faculties and to bid them arise and examine. Does it not behove, then, the enlightened few to endeavour to remove the hood with which the many are enshrined,—to point out the incubus which is so oppressive and destructive, and to be always prepared by reason and argument to meet the enslaving cry, "Bow down, bow down," by the invigorating and humanity-stirring command, Awake! arise! examine! and claim your independence!

But those who advocate this right to investigate all things,

and to dare to grapple even with presumed "mysteries," are often met with a sneer, are told to "beware of reason," "the pride of intellect," &c., and rather to copy the example of the "faithful follower," who, with that meekness which is the usual characteristic of an imbecile, accepts other men's views and interpretations, and plumes himself on his humility. By this party, blind acquiescence is considered a virtue, honest and manly investigation is construed into a vice, and thus the philosophic doubter is made to rank in the estimation of the world far below the ignorant conformer. What perversion of principle! What disregard of justice! We can see no proof of humility in blindly bowing the head to the opinions of any party, and so far from considering this qualification a virtue, we hold it to be a vice which should be exposed and denounced whenever or wherever detected. But the weakness of this party is surpassed by the knavery of another; we refer to the expediency-mongers. There are many, who with the external demeanour of meekness and submission, merely pretend to embrace certain opinions and doctrines,—men, who take advantage of the intellectual feebleness of their neighbour to gain a certain end, and who willingly prostituted their birthright at the shrine of a pitiful, grovelling, and worldly expediency. Such examples are detestable and degrading. Yet such is the course too frequently pursued,—such, alas! is the pattern which our youth have constantly placed before them. A low morality is practically instilled into them, and consequently, precepts of the greatest beauty and purity exercise no beneficial influence.\* Fearless, honest inquiry, conviction, and the hardihood to assert it on all occasions, is not the plan to be followed by the place-seeker, or the popularity-hunter. Such a man must pretend to be humble and meek, timorous and yielding, in a word, unreflecting; and if he unite to these qualifications a little worldly shrewdness, he has entered the

\* The following is perhaps one of the most disgusting examples to be met with. Dr. Arnold, late Head Master of Rugby School, found his religious faith assailed by harassing doubts and difficulties. He communicated them to an orthodox friend, and *this teacher of moral truth* thus writes on the subject:—"The subject of them (Dr. Arnold's doubts) is that most awful one, on which all very inquisitive reasoning minds are, I believe, most liable to such temptations,—I mean the doctrine of the blessed Trinity. Do not start, my dear Coleridge; I do not believe that Arnold has any serious scruples of the understanding about it, *but it is a defect of his mind* that he cannot get rid of a certain feeling of objections,—and particularly when, as he fancies, the bias is so strong upon him to decide one way from interest; he scruples doing *what I advise him, which is to put down the objections by main force whenever they arise in his mind*, fearful that in so doing, he shall be violating his conscience for a maintenance sake."

path in which his desires may be satisfied,—amidst the deteriorating influences which will surround him he may reach the goal he seeks; but it is by the sacrifice of all that should render life dear—for he is become a slave.

Emerson says, “Man is timid and apologetic. He is no longer upright. He dares not say, ‘I think,’ ‘I am,’ but quotes some saint or sage.” This is true. This is the fault with the intellect of the day—it appears to be prostrated. On subjects of the greatest importance, men seem inclined to remain satisfied with the prevalent opinions,—they are afraid to individualize themselves by thought. We contend that there should be no limits to inquiry, but such as our organism imposes. And how are these limits to be ascertained? By the multiplicity and paucity of facts, and the strength or weakness of the arguments and conclusions founded on them, nature has given to every man a sure test of the extent to which he should or can proceed. All thoughts, then, should be freely disseminated, for no one can predict the effects they may exercise on the development of new truths, and the consequent advancement of human happiness and enjoyment. But how opposite is the course pursued. Let us inquire—let us doubt. Where is the educator of youth who ventures upon this path, and who, while training the juvenile brain, applies to *all* branches of knowledge, these two all-important preliminaries? The intellectual faculties, which are progressive in their attainments, are “cabin’d, cribb’d, confin’d;” they are surrounded by difficulties, the erections of arbitrary power and blind selfishness; and to overstep these is the sure precursor of ruin and worldly degradation. Let the attempt be made, and forthwith the conservators of morality, forgetting their first duty, the encouragement and enforcement of liberty of thought, denounce the intruder, and by their conservative and insane proceedings virtually declare, that men have no prejudices to uproot—no opinions to be investigated or changed—no moral or physical truths to receive; and that such attempts are dangerous to public morals and the popular weal.\* And the many yield—they declare the risk to be too great—they worship the great monster-evil, expediency; and amidst the host of imitators that surround them, they rush on, alike forgetting their own dignity and their neighbour’s welfare. We see, then, that fashion and self-interest prompt some to the course they pursue, but we are convinced that with a vast number, an original defect in their moral and in-

\* A clergyman lately denounced geological investigations as not “subjects of lawful inquiry”—“shrouded from us by a higher power”—“to be reckoned as a dark art, dangerous and disreputable.”

tellectual training, renders them predisposed to receive the opinions of their own time as a collection of truisms, which brighter intellects have propounded, which the lapse of time has encircled with an authority,—but with an inquiry into the truth of which they are not fitted to grapple. It is thus that the head settles down, and men degenerate and become mere automata. It is thus that the existence of many abuses is prolonged, and it is thus that the tameness, sameness, and want of originality, which is so often deplored, is to be explained. “There are a numerous class of people found playing the game of ‘follow the leader,’—men, who look not at principles, but persons; pinning their faith upon the sleeve of some individual who has managed to ingratiate himself with them; who denounce what he denounces, and praise what he praises; who look up to this one person *as a kind of fogleman*, by whom it must be determined whether they shall shout or remain silent, whether they shall clamour for this or that; who investigate not any principles upon which measures are founded by their consequences upon individuals and society, or the results to which they may tend, but who think it enough that *the master* has said that such measures must be adopted; thus making themselves the ‘tools’ in the very worst sense of that word,—following him wherever he may choose to lead, and elevating him upon their shoulders, it may be into the possession of an authority from which, when attained, he will look down with scorn upon those who have placed him there, and becoming a far greater tyrant than those whom they have enabled him to supersede and displace.”\*

In the middle of the nineteenth century it seems strange that we are compelled to discuss the question of intellectual freedom; but so long as persecution for opinion continues, it behoves the cerebral physiologist to declare the immorality and injustice of such proceedings. As regards the past, the most superficial reader of his country’s history—the most common observer of the facts which indicate the moral and intellectual advancement of his race, cannot avoid some reflections on the horrors which are so continuously chronicled. At one period a fierce and uncompromising animalism destroyed thousands and tens of thousands, because their opinions on disputed topics did not accord with the opinions of the dominant party. Tortures the most severe, and dungeons the most loathsome—constant suffering and continuous woe, such was the lot of those who dared to assert their intellectual

freedom and propound new truths. For nearly two thousand years the battle has been severe and bloody—the oppressors have been strong and the martyrs have been many; but the blood which was shed marked in fadeless characters the gradual transition from a barbarous and ruthless ignorance to a civilizing and humanizing knowledge.\* We will not, however, enter into historical detail, but we simply ask, in our own day, has persecution for opinion ceased? Is man's freedom clearly recognized, and authoritatively proclaimed? We should rejoice if we could say, yea; but alas! we must still consider it one of the blots on our civilization.

Recent events prove, that although a few individuals may be perfectly convinced of the injustice and irrational tendency of religious prosecutions, there are a vast number who still think that the treatment of the felon is the best prescription for a doubting brother, and who practically declare that the hypocrite and cringing slave is to be preferred to the sincere, upright, and honest thinker. What infatuation! They absolutely believe that they are promoting the advancement of truth, by preventing the free utterance of thought, and the certain result, interchange of knowledge. We refer more particularly to the cases which have lately occurred in the northern metropolis. Four numbers of the *Edinburgh Phrenological Journal* have appeared since two individuals were sentenced to imprisonment and the usual criminal routine, for promulgating opinions which did not square with the orthodox opinions of the day. This is a question which deeply concerns cerebral physiologists. If their science is capable of placing any question on a clear and satisfactory basis, it is this; and yet the journal published in the city where these iniquitous transactions occurred—the journal, whose editor must daily pass the court where these trials took place, and who is a member of the profession more particularly engaged in perpetrating these gross acts of injustice,—contains not one word which could authorize the belief that the proceedings were disapproved of—chronicles not one fact or argument which could lead one to suppose that the principles it

\* “The world has ever, we fear, shewn but small favour to its teachers: hunger and nakedness, perils and revilings, the prison, the cross, the poison-chalice, have, in most times and countries, been the market-price it has offered for wisdom—the welcome with which it has greeted those who have come to enlighten and purify it. Homer and Socrates, and the Christian apostles, belong to old days; but the world's martyrology was not completed with these; Roger Bacon and Galileo languish in priestly dungeons, Tasso pines in the cell of a madhouse, Camoens dies begging on the streets of Lisbon. So neglected, so ‘persecuted they the prophets,’ not in Judea only, but in all places where men have been.”—*Carlyle's Miscellanies*, vol. i., p. 341.

has been engaged in enforcing for the past twenty years, have in the slightest degree been infringed. Why is this? Is our science to continue a mere record of interesting physiological facts, and not to be made to impress on our laws a more just and humanizing spirit? Are the disciples of Gall still to continue to collect the proofs of natural signs and symbols, and not to insist with energy on the adoption of measures in accordance with man's nature? Is science to succumb at the bid of authority, and a blind conformity to take the place of rational conviction? Is this the morality which is to be shamelessly paraded by our judges, and the "magazine of moral science," published in modern Athens, not to record a single protest? Shame on the men who claim humanity for their theme, and who, when that humanity is crushed, quietly allow the injustice to be perpetrated without advancing to the rescue. Shame on the men who claim the title of philosophers, and are yet wanting the courage to meet the frown of power or the prejudices of the million. Shame, everlasting shame, on the men who know better, yet tremble to avow it—who privately raise their fronts and declaim on the humanizing and civilizing tendency of their principles, but who publicly permit these principles to be invaded, without uttering a sound which can support the dignity of reason or the right of freedom.

We are not about to discuss the doctrines for the promulgation of which these individuals were imprisoned, but we take our stand on this fundamental truism, *that opinions are not voluntary*, and therefore, that the entertainment of certain opinions cannot be considered a legal offence. We claim, moreover, the right which every individual naturally possesses, but which authority, supported by superstition and ignorance, has frequently endeavoured to alienate,—the right to discuss every question and every topic, and to support certain views by such arguments as may appear to be correct and forcible. We have frequently referred to this subject in an incidental manner, while contending for the recognition of those laws which govern man's actions; we wish now to enter more fully into its consideration.

The infliction of punishment for the possession of certain opinions, presupposes the belief that the opinions which the individual entertains are the result of his volition, and that by the dread of death, imprisonment, fine, &c., these opinions can be changed; in fact, that by the aid of fear the infidel can be metamorphosed into the saint. To this belief, in the voluntary reception and adoption of opinions, we are to attribute all the miseries of religious and political persecu-

tions, from the wholesale murders of bygone days, to the latest attempts of our own Attorney-General and of the Scottish judges to interfere with individual liberty. This subject has not been treated in a satisfactory manner by cerebral physiologists. It appears to us to be simple and capable of easy demonstration. We know that man cannot resist the necessity which governs all his functions. The formation of an opinion is one species of cerebation—it is the result of a compound movement, involving:—

1st. The presentation of certain facts or arguments to the intellectual faculties, and

2nd. The working of these faculties preparatory to the formation of the product, which is the opinion.

Now the effect produced by the first step in the process, and the result obtained in the second stage, depend entirely on certain combinations of cerebral structure, and it is not in the power of any individual *to will* a certain result—the whole process is presided over by invariable and immutable laws. Man is not free to think or not to think—he is not free to feel or not to feel—neither is he free *to believe or to disbelieve*. We observe, then, that the amount of belief or disbelief must depend on the amount of evidence produced, and also on the peculiar cerebral conformation of the individual receiving the evidence. Locke says, “It is impossible for you, or me, or any man to know whether another has done his duty in examining the evidence on both sides, when he embraces that side of the question, which we perhaps upon other views judge false; and therefore we can have no right to punish or persecute him for it.”

*An opinion is not a voluntary act, but an involuntary effect.* One man is satisfied with a certain amount of evidence, another will scrutinize much more rigidly, and will withhold his opinion for a much longer period, and perhaps come to an adverse conclusion: the very same arguments may produce different effects, or, in other words, different opinions; and thus, if the question under discussion be theological, we have the believer and the disbeliever, the Christian and the infidel. Can these two men resist the necessity which governs their proceedings? Can either *will* to be more or less satisfied? By the organic laws they were formed differently, and the processes which they individually adopt are the *necessary* result of such formation. The judges of our land, then, have just as much right to summon the halt, the lame, and the blind, and to imprison them for their physical imperfections, as they have to interfere with the peculiar views of certain individuals, and to punish them for the means they



adopt to ensure their promulgation ; or, as Mr. Bailey more tersely expresses it, "To apply rewards and punishments to opinion, is as absurd as to raise men to the peerage for their ruddy complexions—to whip them for the gout and hang them for the scrofula."

Punishment then is for the purpose of preventing men from professing certain opinions. We have seen that such a course is unphilosophical, that it is unjust, and we know that it has always failed. Thought cannot be fettered. The promulgation of an opinion can be prevented to a certain extent, and for a time, by resorting to brute force,—but to arrest the inward thought by the fear of pains and penalties, or indeed by any means, is quite impossible. An open encounter elicits truth. Oppose argument to argument, let opinions clash, and from the wordy turmoil good must result. Prevent the free expression of opinion—persecute the courageous and conscientious thinker, and the most dire results must ensue from the prevalence of hypocrisy, falsehood, and cowardice. Hypocritical professions and verbal renunciations, these are the necessary results of all attempts at interference with the freedom of thought. The public renunciation of Galileo in former days, and of Lawrence in modern times, are two of the most memorable examples.

Society encourages insincerity. We repeat society encourages it, for even now, a man may fulfil all his social duties,—he may be a pattern to the circle in which he moves,—he may be consistent and conscientious in all his actions, but if he dare to think, or rather to promulgate his thoughts on religious questions, if they should be heterodox,—he is denounced, the finger of scorn is pointed at him, he is avoided; and the many in their criticisms do not consider him an object for the exercise of that charity which they are for ever professing and disputantly enforcing, except in the most legitimate and powerful manner,—by example. A moral man, if he be not a believer, is outwardly pitied, but inwardly detested : notwithstanding his virtue he is persecuted,—but the believer, for his belief alone, is caressed and recompensed.

A man's opinions should be the result of conviction : that which he believes he should know and understand ; but we have already shewn that this conviction is not under his controul. The judge, punishing a man for his opinions, practically says, "You should believe what the laws of *your* country declare to be right and true," but the natural laws prevent this ; and the philosopher who attempts their interpretation, declares that such an object is irrational, unjust,

and consequently can never be attained. Truth, right, and justice, should be the presiding monitors of *every* country, and the latitude and longitude of a given spot should not be made the test of the value of a moral precept. But alas! how often does a lofty mountain ridge, or perchance, a purling stream, convert truth into falsehood, right into wrong, and banish the commands of justice from the moral code of a people! The recognition, as a truism, of the law as lately interpreted, would prevent these anomalies from ever being removed. The presumptive dicta of arbitrary power and unenlightened intellect, are productive of the most deplorable and ridiculous results. To command a man to believe, or to punish him for disbelieving, what the laws of his country "declare to be right and true," is on the one hand a direct infringement of the liberty of thought—a sure means to prevent the rapid progress of truth; and on the other hand, an act of injustice of the deepest dye. The laws of his country should simply decree him freedom, and leave him to decide by reason whether the enactments he is called upon to obey are in accordance with its dictates; and if he thinks a change is required, he should have free liberty to discuss the errors he has discovered, and to promulgate the remedies he would apply. Such, in our opinion, is the course which should be pursued; but if it were, even now it would have to be accomplished at great risk—it may be in fear and trembling, and too often has been under the infliction of pains and penalties. The original thinker—the moral innovator—and hitherto, for such has been the insanity of men, that we may add the discoverer in physical science, are sure to be martyred by the generation they enlighten; but the thoughts they have originated, and the views they have propounded, bear seed to the generations which succeed.

If men cannot agree regarding the most common and simple features of social intercourse, how is it possible to produce uniformity of thought on a purely speculative subject? Man's cerebral conformation decrees an endless combination of ideas, and consequently a great diversity of opinion on every subject which cannot be brought to the rigid test of mathematical demonstration. When therefore we reflect on the varied structure of the brain, and the numerous, peculiar, rational and irrational ways in which that structure is trained, we can at once perceive the cause of the innumerable combinations of thought, and recognize the truism in all its important features, "that man is the compound of his organism and of the circumstances which surround him." A distinguished writer\* says, "In general, the casualty of being

\* Mr. Bailey.

brought into the world in a particular country inevitably determines the greater part of a man's opinions, and of the rest there are few which do not owe their origin to the rank and family in which he happens to be born, and to the characters of the other beings by whom he is surrounded. A great portion of the opinions of mankind are notoriously propagated by transmission from one generation to another, without any possible option on the part of those into whose minds they are instilled. A child regards as true whatever his teachers choose to inculcate, and whatever he discovers to be believed by those around him. His creed is thus insensibly formed, and he will continue in after life to believe the same things, without any proof, provided his knowledge and experience do not happen to infringe on their falsehood. Mere instillation is sufficient to make him believe any proposition, although he should be utterly ignorant of the foundation on which it rests, or the evidence by which it is supported. It may create in his mind a belief of the most palpable absurdities; things, as it appears to others, not only contradicted by his reason, but at variance with the testimony of his senses; and in the boundless field which the senses do not reach, there is nothing too preposterous to be palmed on his credulity. The religious opinions of the majority of mankind are necessarily acquired in this way; from the nature of the case they cannot be otherwise than derivative, and they are as firmly believed, without the least particle of evidence, as the theorems of Euclid by those who understand the demonstrations."

How is it possible then to produce uniformity of thought on religious questions?

"Thy creed, like country, is thy birth's, not thine;  
 The unconscious baptism of some frontier line;  
 Swathed round thee by yon sweep of mountain ridge,  
 Swerved by a rivulet, changing at a bridge.  
 On *this* side or on *that* by hazard thrown,  
 For regal rights we battle or our own;  
 And *here* or *there*, as first we draw our breath,  
 Theology decrees us Life or Death.  
 Such, where thou partest with thy ten-yards' span,  
 Of polity and faith the various man.  
 Such thoughts, St. Maurice! to thy bridge will cling  
 Around its antique arches clustering,  
 Calvin and Leo, Laudaman and King;  
 Or e'er old Pagan Jove, who first saw thrown  
 Those arches o'er thy waters, rapid Rhone.\*"

\* The gates on the bridge of St. Maurice was, a few years since, the meeting point of three forms of government,—the republic of the Valais, the oligarchy of Berne, and the despotism of Savoy; and of two religions,—a bigotted Popery, and a Calvinism, not, perhaps, less bigotted. Thus a few yards, here or there, made all the difference for life, and, as many no doubt believed and believe, for eternity!—*Rhymed Plea for Tolerance* by John Kenyon.

Even the presumed fountains of orthodoxy, our Universities, are the centres from which spread the most ridiculous and antique opinions, and at the present moment hundreds of the recognized guardians of morality, and even the Right Reverend Fathers of the people, are engaged in an attempt to prevent Reason from assuming her seat, and to excite the feelings, by the introduction of a formal and seductive mannerism. We cannot believe that this attempt will be successful,—we cannot have faith in the regenerating and vivifying power of education, and at the same time believe that the mummery of external forms, of fanciful decorations, and a return to the observance of superstitious rituals, can stop the progress of thought, or permanently enslave the intellect of a people. There will, there must, be a reaction, and it is not difficult to predict the direction which healthy and vigorous thought will take. At any rate, whatever may be the course of events, it behoves every enlightened man to speak out plainly and unreservedly regarding the freedom of thought, and to denounce all attempts at persecution.

Persecution is the offspring of ignorance and superstition. Liberality of sentiment and tolerance are the companions of knowledge and freedom. A persecutor is a man who has never inquired into the foundation of his own opinions; he invades the domain of thought with a club, and bids his neighbour conform to his views and embrace his doctrines, or dread the result. A liberal man, on the contrary, treats the opinions of his neighbour with respect, if they are the result of conviction; and if they arise from prejudice, although he cannot yield respect, he by rational arguments points out the cause of their difference, and the course which should be pursued to produce the desired uniformity. Erroneous opinions can only be uprooted by proving their fallacy, and this is an appeal to reason. Imprisonment and the felon's fare is an appeal to the passions, and can never produce conviction, or that equanimity of temper which is essential to impartial investigation. By bestowing judicious care on the training of the moral and intellectual faculties of youth, we enable them to curb their passions and to bring their opinions to the test of reason, and the natural result will be seen in their social career; they will adopt liberal and enlightened principles, and denounce all attempts at coercion, whether resulting from political or religious tyranny. This is the true course to pursue—this is the only course which can lead man to the enjoyment of that happiness, to which his moral and intellectual nature evidently tend.

L. E. G. E.

II. *Phrenological Society*, 17, *Edwards Street*, *Portman Square*.

*April 17th*, 1844.

DR. ELLIOTSON exhibited a cast of the head of John Lawrence, 21 years of age, lately executed at Horsham, Sussex, for the murder of a police officer, named Henry Solomans, on the 21st of March. "He had just been apprehended on a charge of felony—a robbery, and, in the station-house, struck Solomans, who had not captured him and was talking, on the head with the poker, and Solomans almost instantly died. No personal motive was therefore apparent. He immediately exclaimed that he hoped Solomans would die, was glad he had done it, and hoped he should be hanged. The act seemed the result of a sudden impulse. His counsel urged that he had not been responsible at the moment: but the Chief Justice assured the jury that there was no extenuating circumstance, and that he merited the highest punishment of the law. The poor creature was carried from the dock almost insensible.

"The cast presented a fair average development of the intellectual and moral regions. It was not the cast of the head of a being low in the human scale, with little intellect and ideality and moral feeling. But the sides at Covetiveness, or love of property, and at Destructiveness, or the disposition to violence, especially at the latter, were very large. A brain, so organized, must have been subject to fierce outbreaks of rage. Had this man been trained by a sound education, not by such as generally passes under that name, and been taught to abstain from fermented and distilled fluids, and had the regulations of society been such that every honestly-disposed person could gain a livelihood, or had he been placed in different circumstances, he might have been free from crime and respectable. If capital punishment is ever justifiable, it certainly is not in a case of sudden phrenzy, without premeditation or personal feeling; and though society has a right to security from every one who has thus acted, the destruction of life under such circumstances seems wrong.\*

\* The following extracts are from the *Sunday Times*, of last April 7th:—  
"Although the prisoner admitted the justice of his sentence, yet up to the very last moment he persisted in declaring that he was not actuated by any malicious feeling towards the unfortunate deceased; but he says that at the moment a sudden and uncontrollable impulse impelled him to seize the poker and give the deadly blow; and he said that if he had considered but one moment he should not have committed the act. He has all along declared that he could not tell what possessed him at the moment, but the thought to

Mr. Symes read the following letter, which he had received from Lieut. Colonel Davidson :—

“ 13, *Park Road, Stockwell.*

“ Dear Sir,—My object in now addressing you is to ascertain whether or not you could oblige me by inspecting the head of one of my sons, a boy of 10, who, from four years of age has shewn a most extraordinary talent, which continues to astonish those placed in contact with him.

“ I shall faithfully detail my opinions on his character, which from his infancy I have studied with great interest, and shall deliver it to you in writing in a sealed paper, to be opened and read by you when and where you may please ;

kill the deceased suddenly came across his mind, and he could not resist it. The Rev. Mr. Allen, the chaplain of the gaol, who has been constantly with the prisoner since he has been at Horsham, repeatedly asked him whether he was actuated by any feeling of malice towards the deceased, and the culprit in the most solemn manner always made the same statement relative to the melancholy transaction, and also said that at the time he struck the blow he could hardly tell whether it was aimed at Solomans or any other person.

“ Very shortly after the culprit’s condemnation his fortitude returned to him, and he expressed an anxious and apparently sincere desire to atone for his past crimes by a full and sincere repentance, and on Friday he expressed a strong wish to receive the holy sacrament. The chaplain at first rather dissuaded him from so doing, but at length, believing him to be sincere and truly penitent, he acceded to the prisoner’s desire. It was after this that the prisoner’s uncle and brother called, but the culprit not being then in a state of mind to receive them, requested, through the governor, that they should not disturb him at that moment, but come to him in the morning.

“ When not engaged with the chaplain, the culprit has almost incessantly occupied himself in writing, and he has sent letters to nearly all his old abandoned associates, earnestly entreating them to avoid their present course of life, and to refrain from the conduct that led to his destruction.

“ Yesterday morning the prisoner’s uncle and his brother came to take their last leave of him in this world. The culprit bore the scene with great firmness, and he appeared more concerned on account of his brother than for himself, and he entreated him in the most solemn manner to alter his course of life, and avoid the miserable condition to which he had reduced himself by his misconduct. The brother appeared very much affected, and he promised to reform his evil way of life and go home with his uncle, who, at the dying request of the culprit, promised to provide for him. From this time the culprit prepared himself for the fatal moment, and he repeatedly expressed his desire that it had arrived, as he said he was quite ready to die, and he trusted he should be forgiven his sins.

“ The officers of the sheriff arrived at the gaol soon after eleven o’clock, and about a quarter to twelve the culprit was pinioned, and he was shortly afterwards led along the passages of the gaol to the drop, which was erected upon the temporary platform made for that purpose. He walked with a firm step, and mounted the ladder leading to the scaffold without any assistance, and then gazed calmly round among the crowd. The Rev. Mr. Allen asked the miserable man whether he had anything he wished to say, and he replied that he had not, and at the same time again declared that although he suffered justly for killing a fellow-creature, that he had no enmity against the deceased, and that he was not conscious of what he was doing when he struck him with the poker.”

and I feel no doubt but that your judgment will furnish an additional proof of the truth of phrenological science, in which I have the firmest belief.

“Some time since I had a cast made of my own head, which is at your service if you think it could prove of the slightest use. &c. &c.

“I am, dear Sir,

“Yours faithfully,

“C. J. C. DAVIDSON.

“To E. S. SYMES, Esq.,

“Hon. Sec. Phren. Soc.”

Mr. Symes had replied, that if Colonel Davidson would have a cast taken of his son's head, he should be happy to draw up an estimate of the character from the cerebral organs, and to compare it with Col. Davidson's account. Col. Davidson having complied, he appointed to meet him and compare the two at this meeting of the Society. Mr. Symes now made some remarks upon the cast of the colonel's head, which was upon the table; and Col. D. having then handed to the President a sealed packet containing his own estimate of his son's character, Mr. Symes exhibited a cast of the boy's head, and read the following estimate of the cerebral development and character:—

“A large head, measuring 21½ inches in circumference. Temperament nervous.

Amativeness, may be estimated as . . . . .	5	Hope . . . . .	5
Love of Offspring . . . . .	3	Marvellousness . . . . .	5
Attachment . . . . .	5	Ideality . . . . .	5
Inhabitiveness . . . . .	5	Imitation . . . . .	5
Courage . . . . .	5	Sense of Things . . . . .	4
Disposition to Violence . . . . .	5	Form . . . . .	5
Cunning . . . . .	5	Size . . . . .	5
Love of Property . . . . .	4	Weight . . . . .	3
Constructiveness . . . . .	5	Colour . . . . .	3
Self-Esteem . . . . .	5	Number . . . . .	4
Love of Approbation . . . . .	5	Order . . . . .	3
Circumspection . . . . .	5	Time . . . . .	3
Benevolence . . . . .	5	Melody . . . . .	4
Veneration . . . . .	4	Language . . . . .	4
Firmness . . . . .	5	Comparison . . . . .	5
Conscientiousness . . . . .	5	Causality . . . . .	5
		Wit . . . . .	5

“The principal size is before and above the ears; it exhibits a fine broad coronal surface,—the moral region. The superior part of the forehead—the higher intellectual region is also particularly large.

“It is worthy of notice that the two hemispheres do not

quite correspond; there is a considerable difference in the development of some of the organs on the two sides; and moreover some of the organs are situated higher on the one side than the other, making the head what has been termed lop-sided.

“From this development,” Mr. Symes said, “there could be no difficulty in saying what such a head might be capable of, the difficulty would be rather to determine what it might not be capable of; and it would probably be rather a matter of chance than otherwise what particular faculty should predominate; that is to say, it might be decided in a great measure by extraneous adventitious circumstances.

“When a head is presented to a practical cerebral physiologist, with but a moderate organization generally, and some one faculty largely developed, he would readily discover the predominant faculty from the large relative size of the organ upon which it depends; but in this head nearly all of the intellectual organs are of the largest size; and with such an active temperament, and such a large development also of the organs of qualities which would impel the individual to seek distinction in some way, he must indeed be doing; but having so many faculties in nearly equal proportion, it would be impossible to predicate from the organization alone with any degree of certainty which he might adopt. Again, many of the faculties in so young a child could not of course be expected to have manifested themselves, but it is probable that he would be highly intelligent and acute, of a most kind-hearted and affectionate disposition, but bold and daring, mischievous, and passionate, by no means shy or retiring, but on the contrary, having a high opinion of himself and of everything belonging to him, and very desirous of the good opinion of others. The organ of Love of Approbation is indeed so predominant, that it would be likely to degenerate into vanity unless carefully repressed; and he might fall into a constant state of uneasiness unless when attracting notice, and be liable to take offence at the slightest apparent neglect. He might be cautious and cunning, (using the word cunning not in a bad sense, for with such a fine moral region he could not stoop to any baseness.) The French expression *savoir faire* perhaps best expresses the implied quality. Very firm, especially when any coercive measures were employed; these would probably render him violent; he would yield much more readily to reasoning or an appeal to his sense of justice, attachment, or benevolence, and above all to flattery. He would stand up firmly and boldly for his rights, or what he considered such; he might evince



a great love of the marvellous, and delight in poetry, mimicry, and sarcasm. It would be almost dangerous to hazard an opinion as to the talent more particularly manifested by him, but the Constructiveness is so large, and combined with such large Form and Imitation, that it is highly probable that he may have evinced great mechanical ingenuity of some kind; he might also be fond of drawing, but the deficiency of Colour would prevent his ever becoming a distinguished painter. Music also is rather large; Time moderate; Number and Language pretty large. The higher intellectual faculties may be expected to be of the very highest order, when their activity becomes fully developed; he would be always enquiring into the causes of things, very acute, and fond of argument and disputation, and abounding in ingenious speculations."

The President, then opened and read Colonel Davidson's communication as follows:—

"Character of Cyril Theodore Davidson by his father. Cyril is now nearly 10 years of age. Affectionate in a very high degree, speedily forgetting trifling chastisements, and returning to caress his mother.

"Has an excellent memory, and learns hymns to any number at a halfpenny a-piece.

"Strictly conscientious and considerate, and possessed of great courage and strong determination.

"Fond of music, and always endeavouring to sing what he hears; but seems unable to give utterance to his conceptions.

"From the early age of four, up to the present period, he has been almost incessantly occupied in modelling animals (and articles connected with them, such as carts, carriages, &c.) in wax, and has succeeded in a most astonishing manner.

"In like manner he draws, coarsely it is true, but with surprising effect and spirit, various animals, coaches and four at gallop, &c.

"A year ago, I saw him cast a horse on the ground with the most savage bitterness, exclaiming, 'I can't put any life into that brute.'

"Uses many phrases of artists that he has never heard, and speaks of his own performances with great jealousy.

"Has determined to become either a sculptor or a farmer, in the hope that he may always be associated with animals, and thus be able to model them from nature!

"Fond of praise and easily stimulated to exertion.

"*Exceedingly* jealous of ridicule, and very watchful to avoid incurring it.

“Occasionally irritable.

“Shows symptoms of personal vanity, but no meanness of spirit in any shape.

“C. J. C. DAVIDSON.”

“Mr. Atkinson remarked that from the very large size of the organs of muscular action, muscular power, and muscular sense, (organs which he had been fortunate enough to discover by means of mesmerism,) he should suppose the boy would be fond of great muscular exertion: to which Col. D. replied that he took extremely active exercise, so that it was difficult to restrain him; and in reply to different members, Col. D. added that the boy was remarkably facetious, but any attempt at mimicry was instantly checked by his parents; and that he was of a most enquiring mind, and would often keep up an argument with his mother for hours together.

“Col. D. also exhibited a horse beautifully modelled by the boy in wax.”

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*May 1st, 1844.*

Edmond S. Symes, Esq., exhibited a skull said to have been that of an “old miser.” The only remarkable points about it were, that while every other portion was particularly thick and dense, the inferior lateral region, and especially at the organ of Love of Property, was remarkably thin and translucent.

Mr. Symes afterwards read an address containing some strictures upon an article recently published in the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*, and copied into the last number of the *Edinburgh Phrenological Journal*, by J. Cowles Prichard, M.D., F.R.S.

The object of the article was to show, “that the principle and fundamental cause of insanity is in many instances to be sought not in the brain, but in some other region of the body;” the author arguing, that “effects produced upon the sensorium and the mind through the medium of the stomach, or any of the viscera of physical life, are not less immediately brought about by the action of the natural organism or the intellectual or sensitive power, than impressions produced in the mind by a blow on the head or by any powerful agency exerted immediately on the brain,” &c. &c. This position is attempted to be illustrated by what the author terms “a striking and decided example, that may carry strong conviction on the subject,” of a case of presumed insanity, in

which after death there were found the following morbid appearances.

The cranium remarkably light and thin and permeable to light.

Between the layers of the arachnoid was much fluid; this membrane was opaque where it covers the posterior lobes of the cerebrum, and raised by fluid effused between it and the pia mater separating the convolutions: ventricles full of perfectly colourless serum. The brain and dura mater were very exsanguinous. Altogether the fluid effused amounted to five ounces.

But because in addition to the above there were evidences of extensive disease in the lungs and intestinal canal, the author considered the "insanity mainly dependant on a diseased state of organs very remote from the brain."

Mr. Symes pointed out the fallacy of the author's position, arguing that disordered intellect is in truth an affection of the brain; that in the great majority of long-standing insanity we do find very palpable evidences of disease of the brain; and that if in some instances there are no evidences of morbid change so gross as to be appreciable to our unassisted senses, with our present knowledge and our present means of investigation, that is only what occurs in functional derangement of other organs, and should only stimulate us to improve our means of investigation.

Mr. Symes also made some remarks in opposition to the hypothesis incidentally introduced by Dr. Prichard, of the existence of mind as a separate something independently of matter: Mr. Symes arguing, that we have no more right to assume such a position to account for the phenomena of life and thought in man, than in brutes; and as regards certain phenomena of automatic life, than for analogous phenomena in the vegetable kingdom.

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*May 15th, 1844.*

Dr. Elliotson made the following observations on the case of William Crouch.

"I have, both in this society\* and in print,† expressed not only my horror of capital punishments in all cases, but my conviction of their inutility, and, what is more, their injurious tendency.

\* Nov. 21, 1842. See *Zoist*, No. I., pp. 49—54

† *Illustrations of Phrenology*, by G. R. Lewis. No. I. Courvoisier. pp. 42, 43. Highley, Fleet Street, 1841.

“Those who have not yet reflected enough upon the subject, and examined how far habit has blinded them to the savage and brutal character and ill effects of capital punishments, to condemn them universally, will still allow that they are utterly indefensible in cases of cerebral disease,—where insanity or fatuity exists, or where the brain labours under inflammation, acute or chronic, or any structural affection to which the other organs of the body are liable, or has suffered palpable injury from a known cause.

“My present purpose is to shew that William Crouch, who has been convicted of the murder of his wife in Marylebone Lane, on the 30th of last March, ought on account of cerebral injury not to be hanged.

“They had been married about two years, had a baby, and lived separate, but they habitually visited each other. “On the morning of the day of the murder, he said to a woman, named Mary Lynes, who resided in the same house with her, that his wife had not been to see him that morning, and he thought she had cut him. The woman replied that his wife was at work. The following is the rest of Mary Lynes’s deposition :—‘The same evening Mrs. Crouch was in my room suckling her baby, and I was cleaning the stairs. The prisoner came up. There was a little girl named Sarah Simpson in the room with Mrs. Crouch. He said, “Oh, is my missis above?” I said yes. He then passed me up. I noticed nothing particular about him. I heard his wife singing, “Fare thee well, love, I am going.” As soon as he got up to the room the song ceased, and the little girl cried out. I instantly went into the room. The prisoner was standing, with his left arm resting on my chest of drawers, wiping a razor. The woman was lying against the wainscoting, dead. She was bleeding from the neck. I took the prisoner by the shoulders and asked him how he dared to treat his wife in that manner? He made no answer. The child was, I believe, lying under the woman. The prisoner said, as I thought to the corpse, “If one man wasn’t enough, twenty was not too much.” He then walked as quick as he could down stairs. He was brought again to my room, in custody, and he said, “Is she dead?” I said, “Yes, she is, you villain.” He said, “Well, well, I did it, and I could not help it.’ Cross-examined: ‘The deceased was a woman of most excellent character and unexceptionable conduct. No words passed between the deceased and the prisoner before the child called out to me.’ After some immaterial evidence, Mr. Baron Alderson agreed with the learned counsel for the defence, that it was unnecessary to offer further evidence for

the prosecution. 'The facts were,' said his lordship, 'as clear as that two and two make four.'

"This couple lived apart simply because he was out of work, and they had not the means of support when living together: and she worked for her own and even for his living. He was fond of her, and had no reason to complain of her.

"Mr. T. J. Tuffnell, Assistant-Surgeon of the 3rd Dragoon Guards, deposed that in December, 1838, Crouch had been thrown from a horse in Devonshire, WITH HIS RIGHT TEMPLE AGAINST A STONE WALL, *so violently that he was perfectly senseless for several days, and confined to the hospital for a month; and Mr. Tuffnell had concluded that he would become of unsound mind.*

"This surgeon's opinion proved correct. Mr. Henry Sibley deposed that Crouch, after leaving the hospital, 'was quite a changed man—very dull and altogether different. His eyes were dull and his conversation strange. He would talk and laugh strangely without reason.' In fact, so soon as the following February (1840), he was obliged to be placed a second time under medical care; and Mr. W. Collins, his surgeon, deposed that he at that time was 'labouring under the effects of concussion of the brain, and shewed great weakness of mind:' and most justly said that he should never be surprised at hearing of a man who had suffered from such an injury committing a violent act.

"Crouch did not return to the service of Sir Lawrence Palk, with whom he was living at the time of the accident.

"Many other witnesses spoke to the altered demeanour of the prisoner after his accident. A valet in the service of Lord Falmouth, with whom the prisoner lived, said that *his strange conduct gained him the name of 'the half-cracked man.'*

"But the poor creature's brain was destined to receive farther injury; for a witness declared that *in 1840 he fell from a ladder and sustained a SEVERE injury in the TEMPLE.* The diseased state of his brain from the first injury possibly occasioned unsteadiness and this fall from the ladder and second injury to the head, and, as it appears, *to the temple again.*

"Afterwards, in the January of the present year, his cerebral faculties seem to have been greatly deteriorated. For the keeper of the *Crown and Thistle*, Thomas Street, Oxford Street, said: 'The prisoner came into my service last January. He engaged as waiter and potboy. He was quite unfit for that situation. I always took him to be a person *totally unfit for any situation.* I considered him a man of *weak intellect.*' Another person in the same line, named William White, said: 'The prisoner came to my service.

He stayed but a week with me, and I dismissed him. He was *incapable of understanding*. If one person gave him an order in the parlour, and another called him at the same time and gave him another, he would forget both.'

"Here is a case in which the brain had twice sustained mechanical injury enough to make the faulty performance of its functions a *probable* result: and the injury moreover on each occasion was about the part of the brain in which we know positively that the organ destined to the disposition to violence is placed. Here is a case in which the injuries *had produced* the faulty performance of function; so that the eyes became dull, the conduct strange,—that of a half-cracked man,—the intellect weak, and he was unfit for any situation.

"Can it be wondered that for no reason whatever, and in the midst of affection, he one day cut his wife's throat? While under sentence of death, he told the clergyman that he had murdered his wife because a woman named Cousins had said she was unfaithful. Supposing this had been said to him, he had no reason whatever to believe it, and does not seem to have inquired at all into its truth; but to have at once taken it for granted and cut his wife's throat, like an imbecile person, such as so many witnesses proved him to be. Could the interior of his head have been seen, I am certain there would have been descried the redness of inflammation or congestion, and adhesion, effusion, hardening, softening, or other such marks and results of slow inflammation.

"The publican who found him unfit for the office of pot-boy, farther deposed that, 'On the day of the murder he came to my house. I do not know what drink he had. He spoke affectionately that day about his wife and child. That was between two and three in the afternoon. He came to ask for a pint of porter, which he got, but I don't know what other drink. He was in the tap-room about an hour and a half.'

"A brain so injured would be upset in its functions by a quantity of fermented or distilled fluids which in health might have been taken with no obvious detriment. I have had many patients who were furiously delirious on taking a single glass of gin, one furiously delirious from common rheumatism of the side of the head, because they had years before sustained a severe injury of the head. If the man was at all irresponsible before, he certainly must have been completely so after alcoholic drink: and if it is contended that he was not irresponsible before, no medical man could doubt his irresponsibility then. The judge, one of the soundest lawyers,

I hear, and most humane men, of the many sound lawyers and humane men now upon the bench, Baron Alderson, 'summed up the evidence, premising, that when a plea of insanity was set up in defence of a crime, it was necessary to shew that the insanity was produced by a form of disease contained involuntarily within the afflicted person, and not produced by the voluntary act of the individual. If a person by drinking deprived himself of his senses, and whilst in that state committed a crime, he could not plead the insanity of drunkenness in justification, because he voluntarily deprived himself of the power over his own actions. In the present case, the jury should consider whether it had been proved that the prisoner committed the act with which he was charged, whilst under the influence of excitement produced by disease of his brain, and not voluntarily from other causes. His lordship then read over the entire of the evidence, commenting upon such parts as tended to shew an aberration of the prisoner's mind, and observing that there was no proof of his having drank anything more than a pint of beer on the day of the murder. He also remarked that it was proved by the evidence for the prosecution that the prisoner was in a state of stupor both before and immediately after the commission of the deed.'

"How contrary to all medical science are these observations. The diseased condition of the man's brain prevented him from possessing, or putting into practice, the wisdom of abstinence, so necessary to his welfare. His drinking was as venial as the murder.

"Instead of hanging this unfortunate fellow-creature, the Government should have him treated for chronic inflammation of his brain. He should be kept in repose and upon low diet, and leeches and other anti-inflammatory measures be steadily employed according to circumstances, till he is well: and then he should always be more or less looked after, because the morbid excitability once induced in the brain by a mechanical injury often lasts in some degree or other through a long life. I have known mischief take place at the very spot of an injury above thirty years after the accident. Persons, after an injury of the head, are seldom perfectly safe afterwards, unless they become rigid water-drinkers.

"I cannot bring myself to suppose that this patient will be executed for a deed resulting from the *chronic* inflammation of his brain. The punishment would be as unjustifiable as to hang a patient labouring under *acute* inflammation of his brain in fever for any fatal violence he may have committed upon his attendant: as irrational and cruel as to

punish a courtier for tumbling over the queen in a fit of giddiness occasioned by a previous injury of his skull, or a boy whose stomach is diseased from a blow for vomiting over his mother.

“It is gratifying to me to be able to communicate to the society at this moment the following case, which has just occurred to Dr. Engledue and been transmitted to me. It is in all respects parallel, even to the situation of the part of the skull struck.

“G. W., 12 years old, received a blow on the temple from a cricket-ball, on the 5th day of April last. He was knocked down and remained insensible for several hours, but, from the poverty of his parents, medical advice was not requested. Three weeks after the receipt of the injury he was brought to me, and his mother related the following history. For several days after the injury, he remained dull and stupid, manifesting a great disinclination to exert himself, or even to join in the usual games of play with his brothers. Slight spasmodic twitchings of the leg and arm were noticed on the opposite side to that injured, and at the same period a daily and increasing change of character. Before the accident he was kind and affectionate in his manner, and particularly attentive to the commands and wishes of his parents, but now he is spiteful, revengeful, and perfectly reckless. He is now constantly quarrelling with his brothers and sisters, and does not attend to the orders of his parents. If he is requested to perform a duty, he is impertinent, and if checked in the least, he swears and uses the grossest language. He was never known to swear before the accident, but now, his mother says that his language is very bad, and that he uses words which till now, she supposed he had never heard. He is extremely mischievous. He destroys the furniture whenever he has the opportunity, and does not confine himself to these actions, but annoys his younger brothers and sisters by spitting at them, throwing water at them, and breaking their playthings. He was detected in an attempt to fire a quantity of chips in the cellar of his father's house. He has attempted self-destruction by tying a piece of rope round his neck and fastening it to a nail in the wall of the garden. He speaks of butchering the whole of his family with a mallet as soon as he can obtain the opportunity, and seems to enjoy the terror of his mother and his relations, when they become alarmed at the destructive nature of his actions.

“He complains of no pain in his head, and states that he is quite well. He answers questions during his interviews with me with the greatest composure and intelligence, but



the moment he returns to his own house, and is left uncontrolled, his actions become violent in the extreme.'

"The only difference between these cases is, that Crouch has committed murder; the boy has not yet committed murder: that Crouch after leaving the hospital was abandoned to his own guidance; and the boy, because a child, has been placed by his mother under able medical care, and probably will be saved from crime and cruelty."

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There have been other differences in these two cases since Dr. Elliotson read his paper. *Crouch has been hanged*: the boy has gradually improved under Dr. Engledue's treatment.

Dr. Elliotson, we know, felt deeply in Crouch's fate; and sent his decided medical opinion, together with the details of Dr. Engledue's patient, to Sir James Graham. The letter was simply acknowledged, and the man was hanged immediately afterwards. For some years past the surgeon has examined the brains of those executed at Newgate, and casts have been taken of their heads; but neither cast nor anatomical examination was allowed in the present instance. Posterity will remark that all this was so late as 1844.—*Zoist*.

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### III. *Some particulars respecting Gall.*

The following letter appeared in the *Edinburgh Phrenological Journal* for last April:—

"Rosawitz, near Bodenbach, Bohemia,  
24th November, 1843.

DEAR SIR,—I forward you translations of extracts from two letters written by Dr. Gall. These extracts are in a book, now in my possession, which formerly belonged to the late celebrated archæologist Dr. Böttiger. It consists of the pamphlet by Von Selpert, *Gall's Lectures on the Functions of the Brain, &c.*, Berlin, 1805, bound up with writing paper between each leaf, on which Böttiger, who was well acquainted with Gall, and had attended a course of his lectures, has made numerous notes and remarks, many of them of much interest. Having mentioned these extracts from Gall's letters to Mr. Combe, during the visit I had the pleasure of receiving from him last August, I was asked by him to translate and send them to you for publication. The translation is as literal as possible, perhaps too much so to read well in English.

"I. Extract of a letter from Gall to the Oberhofprediger (the head court preacher) Reinhard; June 1st, 1805.—'At the Court of Vienna the suspicion of materialism has long been given up. All the publications on my science (*Lehre*) are allowed, if the authors abstain from all offensive insinuations against the court itself or the government. The only reason why public lectures are not allowed in Vienna, is because the Emperor has been made to look with suspicion on every public discussion of scientific subjects. It is on this account that extraordinary (extra) lectures, even

within the walls of the University, are extremely circumscribed, whilst they are forbidden altogether in private houses, as are likewise private theatricals. However, I know for certain, that the Emperor wishes he had not given out the celebrated "Hand Billet." I have nevertheless remained faithful to my investigations, and hope that you too will approve of my steadfastness. My course of lectures consists of 8 to 10; but each of two hours' duration, since it is not good to break off the connection. It will cause much pleasure to admit free all whose means are limited, young medical men, students, preachers, schoolmasters, &c. Nothing whatever takes place that can shock, in the least, the feelings of the female sex. I beg them only, in general, to slip away a quarter of an hour before the termination of my lectures. In fact, I wish everywhere to have many mothers amongst my auditors, since these have the most important influence on education in the earliest years, and my doctrines throw much light on this subject. However, I willingly accommodate myself to circumstances.'

"II. Extract of a letter from Gall to Geheim-Rath Loder; June 1st, 1805.—'It is of the highest importance to me to be able to enjoy the society of a man of your reputation, and, what is still more, of your noble character, to my heart's content, and as leisure will allow. Whatever I know more than you do, I will instruct you in. But how much will you not have to teach me? We will love one another, and be sincere in our devotion to science. If I can rejoice in your instruction and approbation, I shall in every case participate in your merits. What I particularly wish to learn and to see with you, is the spinal-marrow with all the nerves, which latter, however, must not be cut off too short. That which I imagined must be the case, according to the laws which I have pointed out in the structure of the brain, I have already found to be confirmed. We are now working at the spinal-marrow of several cats and dogs. These investigations are to give a clear view of the whole nerves (nervenlehre). In Halle I intend to act as I have done elsewhere; to admit poor students, young medical men, preachers, schoolmasters, &c., free of expense. At present the propagation of my science (Lehre) is my first object; but whenever I go into a foreign land, I shall endeavour to combine with it another. \* \* \* The 'pauper' Aristotle can have no attractions for a man who feels so little indemnification in so-styled philosophy.'

"The following remarks and anecdotes, by Dr. Böttiger, are taken from the same book:—

" 'Gall derives the greatest enjoyment from imparting his knowledge to others. He compares himself, when lecturing, to a girl who delights in singing or dancing. When a boy, he wished to become a clergyman, owing to the pleasure which it gave him to discourse before others.'

" 'Gall dreams incessantly and agreeably, and if he were to die to-day (he is 41 years of age) he might be said to have lived 80 years; for he never sleeps without dreaming. Disagreeable dreams he is able to banish; his plan is to think disagreeable subjects well over before going to sleep. This satisfies the mind.'

" 'Upon the burning down of the building appointed for the combat of wild animals, &c., in Vienna (der Hetzhof), the only animals which escaped were the bison, which ran into a butcher's yard, and a fox, which in all haste burrowed into the earth, and was dug out alive after the expiration of eight days. All the lions, bears, hyænas, &c., were burnt to death and cast into a deep pit, into which all the dead horses and dogs, and even many of the latter alive, which had been given to a veterinary surgeon to cure, were likewise thrown. Gall procured a ladder and descended into this pit, wandering about amidst the foul carrion, stirring up the bodies with a proper instrument, and cutting off the heads of the lions, bears, hyænas, &c., which he carried away.'

" 'Count Saurau enabled Gall to procure the head of Frère David. Gall descended the vault in which the corpse had been lying eight days. With the aid of his assistants, he moved the coffin into a draught of air,

and, half averting his face, he himself cut off the head from David's putrid body. Gall has never stolen a single head or skull.'

" 'Gall is of opinion, that in perfect dreamless sleep all is suspended, and that the thinking (power) in us ceases. This alone proves his materialism.\* He, therefore, considers the whole of what is taught about indistinct conceptions, whereby there is no 'apperception,' pure nonsense. Nevertheless, he cannot deny the free-will with which I change one conception for another—one impression on my senses for another. This is the *ἡγεμονικόν* of the ancient philosophers.'

" 'All popular orators, &c., speak in fables, parables, proverbs; and Gall himself, whose lectures are a pattern of a true popular style, immediately has recourse to examples, comparisons, &c. It is a good remark, why comparisons and proverbs are so generally liked: owing to their absence of precision, each person interprets them in a manner directly flattering to his own understanding.'

" 'I have particular pleasure in communicating this last memorandum of Böttiger's, as it may assist in removing an erroneous impression of Gall's powers as a teacher, which seems to have been formed by certain persons in England; for one instance, see *Phrenological Journal*, July 1842, vol. xv., p. 287. Since I have resided in Germany, I have had opportunities of conversing with many persons who were acquainted with Gall, and had attended his lectures in Vienna or Paris. I will only enumerate Princes Metternich and Drietrichestein, Professors or Drs. Froriep, Böttiger, Hammer, Seiler, Weigel, Herr Niklas, &c. From these persons I have never received but one, the most favourable, opinion of Gall's powers, both as regards his indefatigable search for facts, and his capacity to digest and arrange the knowledge which he acquired. Prince Metternich, in one of the numerous conversations I had with him in the winter 1834-5, on Gall and his doctrines, made the following remarks, which I noted at the time:—'Gall,' he said, 'was the greatest observer and thinker he had ever known, a most indefatigable investigator, and true philosophic mind.' On another occasion, he styled him 'a man of facts, and a lover of truth—a hater of all theories.' 'He (Gall) would never dispute with ideologians' (disciples of the transcendental schools). 'His views were always to the purpose, but his manner of expressing them not always good. He was deficient in *tact*,' and was often 'warned by the Prince to be more prudent in this respect.' The latter said it was Gall's want of tact (query, uncompromising love of truth?) which had drawn upon him the enmity of the priests in Vienna.

" 'The following is one of the anecdotes which the Prince related to me, as shewing Gall's deficiency in tact:—The Prince was present one day in Gall's house at Paris, when he had collected a large party of *savans* to witness the dissection of the brain of a girl just executed. Gall continued a long time regarding the head on the table before him, and calling the attention of the company

\* " 'We do not think that Böttiger's inferences here is warranted by the premises. Gall, who in his works strongly disclaims materialism, must have meant simply that in perfect sleep the *action* of the mind is suspended.—EDITOR.'

to the striking resemblance which he found between it and the features of Napoleon, although the physician of the latter was present. All the hints which the Prince gave him to put a stop to these remarks were in vain.

“Spurzheim, whom Prince Metternich had likewise known, he considered very inferior to Gall, though he granted that Spurzheim had improved the nomenclature and classification of the faculties. Indeed, amongst the considerable number of distinguished Germans with whom I have conversed on both Gall and Spurzheim, with the exception of Herr Von K. (mentioned by Mr. Combe in your Journal, vol. xvi. p. 351), who was acquainted with the latter in London, I have not met with one who had formed a favourable opinion of Spurzheim’s powers, either for original investigation or logical thinking. On this account, and more particularly in consequence of having studied attentively nearly all the writings which were published on Gall’s discoveries in Germany before the year 1807,—which have taught me how much Gall *alone* has done to establish the science of cerebral physiology,—I must consider that the merits of Spurzheim have been much overrated in England and America. On this head, I think at some future day to make a fuller communication to your Journal; for I have collected several facts which ought to be put on record, in case a biography of Gall should ever be undertaken. I confess I cannot now look into Spurzheim’s work, *Phrenology, or the Doctrine of the Mind*, or read his notes to Chenevix’s article in the *Foreign Quarterly Review*, without the disagreeable impression being made upon me, that Spurzheim, to say the very least, was not forward in acknowledging the genius of Gall, whilst he was always careful—sometimes, I have reason to believe, unduly—in putting forward his own merits as one of the founders of Phrenology. In fact, where is there one passage in Spurzheim’s writings expressive of a true and generous spirit of admiration of the genius and character of his great master? I trust you will not object to state the above anecdotes and this my mature opinion; for the exaggerated views of Mr. Carmichael and others of Spurzheim’s claims to rank high as a cerebral physiologist and psychologist, have been inserted in the *Phrenological Journal*.

To fill up the sheet, I add a translation of a passage from the text of Selpert’s book on Gall’s lectures, which the author affirms in the preface to be a faithful transcript of the words of Gall. On page 33, after valuable remarks on dreaming, somnambulency, clairvoyance, &c., is the following:—

“‘Can it not easily be imagined, that if there be a peculiar magnetic or galvanic essence (stoff) which could be discharged as something distinctly material on the separate organs of the brain, and could be so directed that one organ only at a time might be excited by it to the highest degree, whilst all the others remained in sleep,—persons thus excited would be able to discover things in nature (natürliche verhältnisse) otherwise unknown to us?’

“That Gall at this time (1805) did not disbelieve in Mesmerism or Animal Magnetism, clairvoyance, &c., Böttiger testifies in one of his notes. I am, &c.

R. R. NOEL.

“ *Additional Anecdotes communicated by Mr. GUSTAV VON STRUVE, Editor of the German Phrenological Journal.*

“Mannheim, 10th Feb., 1844.

“At Tiefenbrunn, where one of Gall’s brothers, and several nephews, grandnephews, and nieces are still living, they preserve some interesting memorials of their illustrious relation, such as medals presented to him in acknowledgment of cures which he effected, portraits, &c. The homely dwelling in which he was born still exists in its primeval state. I lately made a pilgrimage to the place, hoping to discover some letters of Gall to his parents and other relations, but all these precious papers seem to have been lost in the course of time. However, several little anecdotes that I heard from his relations rewarded me for the trouble I took in searching for memorials of our great discoverer. So early as at the age of six, he displayed a strong disposition to observe nature. He always wanted to see how things looked inside; and, to satisfy his curiosity, used to cut open everything, and especially all animals, he could get hold of—cats, mice, toads, and so on. He was often scolded for soiling the house by these operations, and for spending his money in that way. His mother gave him, on this account, the name of *Batzenschmelzer* (spendthrift). When on his travels through Germany, he was offered a large sum by the inhabitants of Pforzheim, five miles distant from Tiefenbrunn, to lecture there; but he declined, saying that the Pforzheim people might come to his native town, where he delivered gratis a course of lectures in the Rath-haus-Saale or town-hall, to which auditors flocked from all the neighbouring towns. He seems to have been a very dutiful son. When his mother was dangerously ill, he was called for, and immediately came from Vienna. He preserved her life; for if the medical course which had been resorted to had been continued one or two days longer, he declared she could not have been saved. In the year 1809, when his father became dangerously ill, he came from the metropolis of France to his little native town. He arrived, however, too late, and found only the corpse of his father.”

We have received the following note from Mr. Noel in reference to the remark of the Edinburgh editor at p. 456.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

“Dear Sir,—Understanding that the anecdotes, &c., of Dr. Gall, published in the *Phrenological Journal* of last April, are about to be printed in *The Zoist*, it may be interesting to you to know, in confirmation of Böttiger’s opinion of Gall’s materialism, that Prince Metternich, who was the early and intimate friend of Gall, stated to me in the conversation which I had with him the winter 1834-35, more than once most distinctly, his conviction that Gall was a materialist.

“I remain, yours most truly,

“R. R. NOEL.

“Rosawitz, Oct. 14th, 1844.”

All those who were acquainted with Gall, Drs. Fossati, Dannecy, Elliotson, &c., &c., know perfectly well that he was a materialist. And what is the disgrace of being a materialist? Dr. Elliotson years ago avowed himself in his *Physiology* to be a materialist. Most people imagine that a materialist must be a most abominable person; not only without moral principle, but believing in neither a future state nor a God. There is no more striking example of the power of a word to lead people away, and to enable the unprincipled to injure another, perhaps a very far superior being to themselves, by giving him a name.

A materialist is one who, on the evidence of experience,—of his external senses, from which he learns all he knows of nature, believes that the universe is matter and properties of matter. What matter is he pretends not to know: but what he touches and sees, he cannot help referring to real substance—to matter. There is no fancy or reasoning in this. He cannot help feeling certain that all which surrounds him, and that he himself, is material substance, possessed of certain properties, wonderful and various: he is satisfied with this positive fact, and does not childishly *fancy* the unprovable, improbable, and unintelligible existence of something else called spirit, in order to explain those properties,—he frames no *hypothesis* of spirit, which explains nothing that it is intended to explain.

The most wonderful form of matter is the brain, and he sees clearly that it possesses the properties of feeling and thinking. It is fruitless to say that matter cannot think: that it is brute and inert, and cannot, in any form of composition or organization, feel and think. He observes most certainly that it does. But this does not prevent him from believing in a future state, if he is satisfied that a revelation from a being beyond nature—a supernatural being,—declares that we shall live again. If satisfied of this, he does not attempt to make the announcement probable by fancying the existence of an airy nothing, a spirit, a soul,—but he firmly believes that the being which made him originally, will, how he knows not nor troubles himself to enquire, reproduce him and restore him to existence. He views a future existence as a miracle—an occurrence not in the order of nature; a supernatural occurrence, past discovery by investigating nature, but not the less certain, because revealed by God.

Should the materialist not be satisfied that there is such a revelation, still he may believe in the existence of God; of a mighty being beyond the universe—beyond nature; who has made and fashioned all, and disposes of all things at his

pleasure. He, however, has no opinion of the nature of this sovereign being, who is not a part of nature, but outside and beyond nature, and to whom he cannot compare his own nature. He enquires not whether God is matter or not matter: he says only that he considers that he beholds proofs of the existence of such a being; but that the essence of such a being is past finding out. He says that this being has created matter, and given it all the properties which we see in the inanimate kingdom and in the animate, including the vegetable, the brute, and the human kingdoms. He would consider it impious to suppose that this being—God—could not make matter think if he chose: and he does not revile and despise matter—the work of God, as a low contemptible thing. He asserts that he sees the universe with all its wonders and its glories to be matter and matter only, possessed of properties of which he yet knows but a few. Be it therefore remembered by all our readers, that a materialist may be an infidel:—may be an atheist, but not of necessity; may be a deist, but not of necessity: and that he may be a sincere Christian, and a trinitarian Christian too.

To those who immediately say that the word spirit is constantly employed in the Bible, and shews that we have a something distinct from body, the Christian materialist replies,—The whole of man's nature, intellectual and moral, as well as corporeal, is a part of natural knowledge; to be learnt, like everything else in nature, by observation, just as much as the nature of a mineral or of a plant: that the Scriptures are to supply us with knowledge supernatural,—knowledge of things not ascertainable by observation or reason: that human reason and observation are as little our own and as much the gift of God as revelation is: that if reason and observation are fallible, so is the interpretation of Scripture: and that where observation clearly shews a natural fact, any scriptural statement apparently in opposition to it must be received with limitation, because the words and the works of an almighty Creator are to be revered the one equally with the other, and cannot be in opposition to each other. Divines see that the earth must have existed for hundreds of thousands of years; that the sun does not go round the earth; that the earth is round, and has not four corners, &c., &c.; and they allow an interpretation of Scripture in conformity with these truths of science. So must it be in regard to the word soul, spirit, &c.

That we are quite safe in what we say, appears from the following passage:—

“Well indeed,” says the indisputably orthodox *Quarterly Review* on the subject of Geology, (April, 1823, p. 163), “Well indeed is it for us that the cause of revelation does not depend upon questions such as these: for it is remarkable that in every instance the controversy has ended in the gradual surrender of those very points which were at one time represented as involving the vital interests of religion. Truth, it is certain, cannot be opposed to truth. How inconsiderable a risk, then, do those adversaries run, who declare that the whole cause is at issue in a single dispute, and that the substance of our faith hangs upon a thread,—upon the literal interpretation of some word or phrase, against which fresh arguments are springing up from day to day.”

Those who have not thought upon these points (and we find few Christians who have) would do well to read Dr. Elliotson’s *Physiology*, p. 38—48, p. 360—366, p. 1104-5.

When Gall terms the brain the organ of the soul, he means only the organ of those properties which are termed mental. He was obliged to express himself very cautiously, for he lectured and wrote almost half a century ago, when bigotry was still more active than at present, and he was assailed on all sides for his discoveries. He could not have written with any chance of being listened to had he not used the language of his time, and hoped that the wiser part of mankind would understand a large number of his terms in a figurative or poetic sense. Those who were in the habit of free converse with him, knew how large was the number of such words. This was justifiable prudence; for no man is called upon to be a martyr, beyond the point he thinks proper, to the ignorance and bad feelings of his contemporaries.

Indeed, Gall’s materialism is plain enough in the first volume of his octavo work, p. 62—76, especially at p. 67; and vol. vi., p. 142, where is a facetious antispiritual bantering of Rudolphi, beginning, “*L’ame me paroît moins spiritualiste que les spiritualistes eux mêmes.*”

Prince Metternich and Gall were so intimate that they passed a great deal of time together, not only in conversation, but in visiting prisons and various other establishments; so that the Prince has for a great part of his life been a firm disciple of Gall,—a true cerebral physiologist.

Every one who knew Gall, is as certain as the Prince that Gall was an ardent lover of all truth, and for its own sake. Yet in Sir George Lefevre’s flippant and superficial *Life of a Travelling Physician*, published last year, we find the following passages:—

“As to the countenance of Gall, I should say that it indicated that feeling had been absorbed in interest, and that it betrayed a



disbelief in everything, and even in his own system; and if the world judges rightly, such was really the case. In conversing with several of the French professors upon this subject, I found them unanimously of this opinion.

“ ‘*Spurzheim croit au moins à tout ce qu’il dit, comme un bon enfant. Gall n’y croit pas un mot.*’ Such was the opinion in Paris.”

Now greater error was never penned. Gall’s expression of countenance was that of profound thought, the greatest calmness, sincerity, and benignity. We never heard any one doubt his sincerity; and, if any ever did, it must have been some of those shallow and conceited persons who abound in the medical profession, knowing nothing but the routine of ordering drugs and the way to do the little mechanical things of the humblest surgery, and as ignorant of cerebral physiology as they are of all novelties beyond the medical prattle of the moment, though wishing to pass for *savans*, oracularly giving their opinions in complete ignorance of the things they talk of, just as the mass of the English medical world do at this moment in respect of mesmerism.

Sir George Lefevre’s knowledge and wisdom shine forth remarkably in the following passages:—

“The tomb has now closed over both, and *their systems* will probably, ere long, find repose in the *vault\** of the *founders*.†

“When the pleasure of novelty has ceased, and when the enthusiasm which it inspires has sunk down into a calm: when moreover any personal feelings towards the founders of systems can have no more influence in biasing our judgments for or against the systems themselves; then we look upon things in a very different light. We sift the materials more and more, and often look in vain for those gems which seemed at first to spangle the surface of the mass.

“Such is now the case with that system which from its novelty and plausibility engrossed so much of the public attention and counted so many votaries. In spite of ridicule—the most deadly of all antagonists; in spite of facts—more stubborn even than ridicule, in opposing its claim to belief—still this system had many followers.

“The modern Athens boasted a Phrenological Society within her walls, which Athens would have repudiated even in her decline. One man, and he was of himself enough to save a city from disgrace, opposed with all his eloquence *this monstrous abortion of human conception*. . . . Dr. Gordon might, perhaps, had he lived, have prevented the disgrace which now sullies the once famed school of

\* Gall lies in Paris: Spurzheim in America.

† This is pardonable in Sir G. Lefevre, since Mr. Combe and Mr. Simpson as absurdly spoke of the *founders* of what Gall alone founded.

Edinburgh. Some few, indeed, have retraced their steps, nay, denounced a system *which is at variance with God's most inestimable gift, common sense; and the time, perhaps, is not far distant, when the bubble will burst and dissipate itself in air.*"

This knighted doctor is ever advertising a book to attract nervous ladies and gentlemen, under the title of *An Apology for the Nerves*. It would be well if he would write an apology for his own cerebrum. Can he, yes, we suppose his occupations are so great that he can, be ignorant that Gall's mighty discoveries are rapidly pervading the whole civilized world: and that, though the mass of medical men, educated fifteen and twenty years ago, are unacquainted with cerebral physiology, and endeavour to persuade the rising generation to be as ignorant as themselves, there are hundreds of thousands of phrenologists now in Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and America,—in truth, that except in medical schools it is a received science.

Every body is aware that long after Gall had made his great discoveries, and begun to write and lecture, Dr. Spurzheim became his pupil, learnt cerebral physiology from him, and worked under him: differing (separating) at length from his master in some few individual points. Yet so great is Sir G. L.'s ignorance of what he presumes to write, that he actually says:

"They (Gall and Spurzheim) *set to work at a distance, and pursued the same train of thought; they approached each other by degrees, till they came with their heads in actual contact, 'ex fumo dare lucem,'* and they commenced carefully examining each other's skulls, and they found that both possessed the organs of system in no inconsiderable degree."

The rest of the paragraph is too ridiculous for us to transcribe.

Sir G. L. would have been about as correct had he written that Galileo lived in America and invited Columbus to breakfast on his arrival in the new world.

We have an anecdote illustrative of Gall's want of tact to relate. Mr. H. Crabb Robinson, of Russell Square, related in our hearing that he attended Gall's lectures at Jena, in 1805, and that when Gall lectured at Weimar, the Grand Duchess and the rest of the court were present. Gall was in the habit of examining his auditors after lecture to ascertain whether they had understood him: and to the dismay of all the courtiers began to catechize the Grand Duchess. Signs of all kinds to desist were made to him in vain; and

her highness of course declined to answer. We confess this was ill judged: but we are such plain men as not to discern the impropriety of remarking the likeness of the executed girl to Napoleon before one of the imperial doctors.

Gall valued no one but for his intrinsic merits: and, though affable and elegant, did not study to conceal his opinion of any man. We fear that he was not remarkably struck with Sir G. Lefevre.

Mr. C. Robinson also stated that, so far from Dr. Spurzheim lecturing with Gall, he was only the *famulus*, handing the casts, skulls, &c., to Gall, without opening his mouth. It is usual for professors in Germany to be attended by a poor student, who perform the duties of an assistant for a small gratuity, and is termed *famulus*. When Gall had taught Dr. Spurzheim the anatomy of the brain sufficiently, he deputed to his pupil the task of demonstrating it to the audience.

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#### IV. *A case of Asthma cured with Mesmerism.*

Plymouth, November 6th, 1844,  
Octagon Place.

Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in sending you for *The Zoist* Mr. Holdsworth's notes on the cure of spasmodic asthma, having obtained permission to publish them, and I enclose the patient's statement of her case. Mr. H. is one of the prebends of Exeter and Vicar of Brixham in the same diocese, and it is presumed that the case is sufficiently authenticated. The patient is a female above the middle age of life, whose sufferings for many years have been intense, but by the simple application of mesmerism she was restored to perfect health in the course of five days. It should here be mentioned that about six weeks after the time of her mesmeric slumbers she caught cold and the symptoms of her disease made their appearance, but her altered constitution evidently did not seem to admit of any intrusion of her former complaint; in a letter to me respecting it she says,—“It came on in the morning, but I did not get ill until between 11 and 12 in the forenoon; in the evening there was preparations made as usual and a person sent for to stop the night, but to my great surprise and utter astonishment of all I got better before night, and did not require any as-

sistance during the night, but slept soundly, and had but one spasm during the day; before now in that time I may have had a dozen." About three weeks after this I saw her and mesmerised her for several days, during which time the faculty of clairvoyance was often spontaneously developed. A year has now elapsed, and she has uniformly enjoyed her existence. When seeing her lately, she said to me in her simplicity, that frequently when sitting by herself she would look back to former years and fancy she could not be the same person. A fact worthy of being stated for the information of those opponents who attribute all mesmeric phenomena and the cure of diseases to the influence of imagination, is, that this patient from beginning to end manifested a most extraordinary degree of scepticism; she never would believe that she had been to sleep; and when aware of her improved state of health, she constantly imagined she would have a return of her illness; and I strongly believe that, even at this moment, she is not free from that apprehension. But considering the time, and her having had some severe colds, which generally brought on violent attacks, reason and facts combine to decide in favor of the cure being a perfect one; and I have only to add had this been the only case in which I have been to accomplish a cure, I should consider myself amply rewarded for the leisure hours I have bestowed in the cultivation of mesmerism.

I remain, dear Sir, yours very faithfully,

J. ADOLPHE KISTE.

To John Elliotson, Esq., M.D.

Brixham Vicarage, Feb. 5, 1844.

Dear Sir,—According to your wish I send you a copy of the notes taken at the time when you favoured us with your company and mesmerised the wife of my footman—an operation which so far has been of most essential service to her. The asthma under which she has so long suffered was of a most distressing character; so much so, that her neighbour who inhabits a part of the house, I am informed, was afraid to remain with her alone in the house, unless her husband or some friend of her's was there also, so frightful was her appearance when under the attack. You know already that for six weeks after she was put under mesmeric influence she had no attack; then a slight one, brought on, she says, by her own imprudence, and from that time, now six weeks more, she has had no return of her complaint; her general health is improved, and she is gaining more solid flesh. I hope

that in time the beneficial effects arising from mesmerism will be better understood and better appreciated. Nothing can be more unphilosophical than the manner in which the faculty and others treat this subject, as well as the prejudices that have been evinced instead of the patient investigation which such a subject requires.

If doubt leads us to neglect investigation and prejudice prevents enquiry, how is knowledge in any new science or subject to be acquired?

Dear Sir, yours very truly,  
ROBERT HOLDSWORTH.

To Adolphe Kiste, Esq.,  
Octagon Place, Plymouth.

The following account is written to shew the beneficial effects arising from mesmerism (whatever it may be) and to describe some of the phenomena that occurred in the presence of the writer and fourteen members of his family.

The subject was a married woman, of weak habit, subject to asthma. She was the wife of the footman in the family, but had little or no communication with it, and was entirely ignorant of mesmerism and its effects.

It was in consequence of her distressing state being told to Mr. Kiste that he said he thought she might be benefitted by mesmerism, and that if she liked he would give up some days during his stay to try its effects.

The first day—November 2nd, 1843, Elizabeth Spurdens saw Mr. Kiste. She was thrown into a quiet mesmeric sleep for about two hours, and when awakened from it, she denied having been asleep, and was quite unconscious of all that had happened.

On the second day—November 3rd, she was more quickly affected, and when asked by Mr. K. how she felt, said she was very well,—very comfortable; she appeared not to hear any other person that spoke to her or that spoke in the room;—her eyes were fast closed, and when the lids were forcibly lifted the eyes appeared glazed and insensible to light or touch. Mr. K. mesmerised her right arm by drawing his fingers parallel with the nerves from the elbow to the fingers, when the arm became stiff as iron, and capable of bearing a heavy weight without giving way, although it was extended in a horizontal position. Mr. K. did not on the second day press her much to speak, as she answered reluctantly and desired to be left alone; and although she heard and replied to all Mr. Kiste said, she took no notice of what other persons said unless urged to do so by Mr. K. She remained in a trance nearly

three hours; and when demesmerised, which was done in less than a minute, as on the day before, she would not believe that she had been asleep.

On the third day—November 4th, she was much sooner affected, and allowed to remain in a trance for six hours; during which time her *state* frequently changed. Her limbs and body became heavy and listless; her arms, when lifted up or moved, falling heavily and swinging as if they did not belong to a living subject, and were subject to no sort of nervous volition or muscular control. They again became quite stiff like wood or iron, when mesmerised by Mr. K. passing his hand from the shoulder to the fingers two or three times. In this state, upon Mr. K. moderating the mesmeric influence by merely quickly moving his hand or fingers transversely, or across the nerves of the arm, it immediately relaxed and returned to its former state. On this day she spoke and answered more freely. Her eyes were closed, and a thick cotton handkerchief placed over her face; yet she named every person who was in the room: eleven, and sometimes twelve, persons came in to see her, and when any one touched her hand she told by name who touched her; and when spoken to, who it was that spoke. After three hours sleep, she was asked what time it was? She replied "*It struck two last, and it is now half-past two.*" which proved upon examination to be the exact time by the parish clock, by which she is always guided. Mr. Kiste mesmerised her right arm, when it was extended in a horizontal position, on which he placed a heavy music stool which it supported without giving way in the slightest degree. Mr. K. pricked her hand with a large gold breast pin, with great force, leaving punctured wounds and drawing blood, but she did not start or take the least notice of it, and said, when asked by Mr. K. how she felt, that she was very comfortable, but when Mr. K. pricked his own left hand, although less sharply, she started, and writhed her left hand, as if she acutely felt the pain. She was then moved into a large easy chair, where Mr. K. left her for an hour to take a walk, and during his absence she remained in a quiet composed state, and only once slightly moved. She was sitting in a room on the upper story, and the moment Mr. K. entered the house, on his return from his walk, she became restless and uneasy, and frequently yawned; when Mr. K. awoke her, at the end of six hours, it was dark and candle-light; she was astonished, and said she fancied she had come there in the morning, but was sure she must be mistaken, so unconscious was she of all that had passed. When only partially demesmerised, she answered questions

indistinctly; saying, when asked, she thought it might be dinner time; but during her trance, she had told the exact time to a minute—for just before, having been asked the time, she said it is *six*, then stopping a moment, as in thought, she eagerly said no, seven minutes past six, which was the time to a second.

On the fourth day—November 5th, she was sound asleep in a few minutes. She was sitting on the edge of her chair, and after she had remained quiet for a little time, Mr. K. caused her to straighten both her legs and arms in a horizontal position, her body and limbs appeared as stiff as iron, and in this extraordinary position on the edge of her chair she remained thirty-five minutes by watch; when she was slightly touched, she moved backwards and forwards like a rocking-horse. On this day she spoke much more freely; she was quite deaf to every one but to Mr. K.; her eyes were closed tightly, and when the lids were lifted and a candle placed as close to them as possible, without burning the eyelashes, she never moved them or blinked in the slightest degree. Mr. K. placed a small feather in her nostrils and tickled them, but it never occasioned the slightest sensation. In this state she told distinctly who was in the room, who besides was in the house; when asked who was in the kitchen, she said Ann (the house maid); when asked what she was doing, she said she is doing nothing. Upon sending immediately to ascertain the fact, Ann was found alone in the kitchen, as she had described her, standing still with her hand to her head or face, in an attitude of thought. A clergyman unconnected with the family came to the house during the time; he went up stairs to see her, and when he touched her hand, she immediately told Mr. K. who it was. She told where her little daughter had been, and what she had been doing during the day. When Mr. K. left the room to take some refreshments, three servants remained with her, and with great difficulty kept her on her seat; and although a very little woman of a thin light figure, they could with difficulty hold her; she was so strongly inclined to lean forward and follow Mr. K., that she sunk towards the floor. Mr. K. was immediately called, but before he could enter the room, she slipped from her chair towards him, so powerful appeared to be the attraction. If he walked round the chair on which she sat, or placed himself on the floor at some distance from her, she gradually inclined towards him, constantly moving her head and person slowly as he changed his position. When Mr. K. allowed her eyes to open, they assumed an earnest and peculiar expression not natural to her. She looked at no one but Mr. K., appeared

not to see any one else, or to hear any sound or voice but his. Mr. S—— clapped his hands and made the shrillest whistle in her ear, but she heard it not. The writer tried also to be heard by her, but in vain. When any one held her hand she could hear nothing they said, but the moment Mr. K. drew his hand two or three times across the hands and arms of the person and patient, she heard and replied; the moment he let go her hand she became completely deaf to all sounds or voices except the voice of Mr. K. On this evening the writer whilst sitting alone in his library down stairs, suddenly, without communicating his intention to any one, left the house to visit Mr. C——, who lives about a quarter of a mile from his house. It happened that Mr. K. desired he might be sent for to see the patient at that particular period, but the servant returned to the party and said, "Master could not be found." It was dark at the time. Mr. K. asked the patient where Mr. H. was, she replied, "He is gone out." "Where?" "Up the lane to a gentleman's house." "Whose house?" answer, "Mr. C——'s." "Is Mr. H. arrived at the house?" "Yes, but he has not yet sat down." "Do you see Mr. C—— with him?" "Yes I see him and now he is not looking very pleasant." (N.B. Mr. C—— and the writer were in a warm discussion about mesmerism! soon after the writer arrived). She then became excited and screamed, Mr. K. composed her and suffered her to remain silent ten minutes. He then asked her if she still saw them. "Yes! Mr. C—— is drinking tea; and I think he is sitting so." She then by an effort crossed her legs and placed herself in the chair precisely as Mr. C—— is in the habit of sitting, though she had never in her life seen him in a room. Mr. K. asked how Mr. H. was sitting, she replied, "*Straight in his chair.*" "Are they setting near the fire?" "Yes, but I dont think their feet are on the rug." She then started from her seat and screamed more violently, and the subject was not again recurred to, but it is omitted that after she had described how they were sitting, she was asked what they were talking about. Answer,—*"They are talking but not about reading."* (It was Sunday night, and probably this might refer to their reading the Bible on that night). Mr. K. then said, "Mr. C—— says mesmerism is all humbug." Answer,—*"Does he, Sir? He would not say so if he felt what I do."* Mr. K., "He says it is all trickery." Answer,—*"Then I must have had many lessons, Sir."* Many other curious facts were developed during the time the patient was under mesmeric influence. At one time Mr. K. with one hand mesmerised one eye, causing the right eye to continue



closed ; and by a different motion with his left hand he caused her to open the left eye. Mr. K. desired her to stand up and placed her on her feet ; in this position, as he receded from her, she followed and bent towards him, and would have fallen had he not supported her. She had been seven hours in the trance when she was awakened, and if it had been possible for her to doubt, what those around related to her, she would have denied that anything had happened to her.

On the following morning—November 6th, Mr. K. having an hour to spare previous to his departure, sent for his patient. In five minutes she was in a trance ; in which he allowed her to remain undisturbed, and no new feature was drawn forth. Before she left the room, after having been demesmerised, Mr. K. told her he would shew her what had been done to her ; he told her to extend her arm, which with two passes of his hand over it, became stiff in an horizontal position ; when the patient exclaimed, “I would rather be put to sleep, I cannot bear to look at it.” He then told her as she sat in her chair to place her hand on the table, which she did. He passed his hand over it, and it remained in appearance as fixed to the table, as if a large nail had been driven through it ; and although her body was at liberty, and she rose up and twisted about to liberate her hand, it remained immoveable until Mr. K. passed his hand transversely, when the arm and hand relaxed and she drew it to her side. The patient’s astonishment and alarm at seeing her hand and arm in that state, was a proof (if we were not certain of the fact from other reasons) that the patient was unacquainted with mesmerism, and had made no collusion with the operator.

Brixham, Nov. 17th, 43.

Sir,—Respecting my health, I was never strong, but not subject to any complaint till about sixteen years ago I had the small pox, ever since that time I have been subject to a stomach complaint ; at the least cold feel a very great oppression on my chest with great difficulty of breathing, and would frequently faint away. Should be obliged to sit for many days with a pillow on my lap to support my stomach ; it would generally leave a bad cough, but at times I should feel as well as any one. I had many medicinal men to see me, and went on just in one way for I think twelve years. The first medicinal man was the old Dr. Hunt ; he gave me good encouragement as I got so well between times ; he thought I should wear it out, and said I was not asthmatical. Some time after Dr. Shath attended me, and at one time the fit was so violent that he did not think I should recover, and

said he had lost a daughter in the same complaint; he considered it was on the lights. He cupped my back three times, and ordred a blister to be perpetual for many days, and medisien to be taken evry half hour whenever I was ill. It seemed the same thing, only much worse sometimes then at others; always a very bad pain on my chest with great difficulty of breathing. A year or two after this, Mr. H. Hunt attended me. I dont know his opinion: I took medisians from him, and he ordered a plaster between my shoulders down my back. Since that I have had differant surgeons—Mr. Calley for two years; and the last year he attended me it returned regularly every month, and the last three months he ordred a hot bath for me to be put into a week preceding each month, which was done six successive nights each month, but as soon as it was discontinued the fit came on each time. Mr. C. always said he was subject to the same complaint, but that I was a thousand times worse then he ever was, but from his being exposed to the night air he caught an inflammation on the lungs and died. I then had Mr. Underhay, successor to Mr. C. Soon after I had him I caught a fever and inflammation on my chest; this is about three years ago. Since that the returns of my old complaint have been much more frequent and much worse, particularly the last year the paroxysm have been so violent, that Ive been obliged to sit on the floor for four and twenty hours at a time. To describe half my sufferings is impossible; when the spasmodic breathing comes on, the spasms on my lungs are so violent that evry one around me gets alarmed, and think it impossible for me to breath another breath, the extremity I am in is past describing. Mr. Paul, successor to Mr. Underhay, now attends me, and they all say it is the most alarming case of spasmodic asthma they ever met with. I remarked to Mr. Paul, it was very strange every surgeon that had seen me said it was the worse case they had ever seen; and his reply was, that he would be bound if I had forty differant surgeons they would all say the same. As to comfortable sleep I had not known for years; at the best of times I never slept well, and can say with all propriety that I have not had three good nights in a month for years past: always starting, jumping, and moaning, and laying hours awaked. But now, sir, I am thankful to say, since I was fortunate enough to be mizmorized, I have had a fortnights good sound sleep,—so sound that I have known nothing of the nights, for I have not awaked either night from the time of going to bed till seven or eight in the morning, which is a most extraordinary change. For the last six months the

fits of spasms have returned every fortnight, and the time was up, and even the symptoms come of its returning, and I trembled to think when the mizmorizem was discontinued the spasms would come on as it did when the bath was discontinued; but, sir, I am truly grateful and thank to say it did not, or have I felt the slightest symptom since. And to you, sir, I must be indebted for this sudden change, now the second fortnight is up and I still feel well. My doctor has just called to see me, and said he was very happy to see me looking so well, and must say he had never seen me look so well since he knew me; he hoped it would continue, as he must say he really had no desire to visit me in the extremity he had seen me in. After some time I asked him if he knew I had been mizmorized: the reply was, "What?" "No." "When?" "Where?" I cannot write you, sir, how surprised he looked, and asked me many questions; I could not give him many direct answers, more than I had slept well, and felt quite well ever since; and the first time it was performed I had every symptom of its returning, but it completely passed off. He said he should much liked to have been witness to it, or to have seen you, sir; or he should like to see Mr. H. to know particulars. I do not think he feels as Mr. C. does, as he again said I must say you look much better; even your getting good rest must be a good thing for you, and then said how much I should like to know from Mr. H. the particulars, and I should also like Mr. Kiste to see you as I have seen you. I told him I only wished it had been performed years ago, I had every reason to believe I should not be what I now am, and he said he was affraid it was become to habitual for anything to do me good for any length of time. Now, sir, ever feeling grateful for your trouble and kindness to me,

I remain your very humble Servant,

E. SPURDENS.

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*V. Cures of various Diseases with Mesmerism.*

By T. B. BRINDLEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

Regent's Place, near Stourbridge,  
Oct. 17th, 1844.

Dear Sir,—In conclusion of the *series*, I beg to send you the following cases of cures with mesmerism, for insertion in your January number,

XXXI. *Cure of Chronic Rheumatism.*

Elizabeth Williams, Pensnett, *carried* to me to be mesmerised for chronic rheumatism in her legs and feet, which prevented her from walking, getting any rest, or obtaining a livelihood. Had been subject to it for many years, and was very much enervated and reduced in consequence. Mesmerised her every day for a fortnight, when *her pains were entirely removed; she could obtain her natural rest, and could walk to my house and back, a distance of 10 miles.* It is almost unnecessary to add, that the sittings were then discontinued, the patient being *completely cured.*

XXXII. *Cure of Dyspepsia and partial Cure of Deafness.*

Mr. Keeble, Halesowen, mesmerised for deafness, and dyspepsia, to which complaints he had been subject for several years. The sittings were continued for seven consecutive days, at the expiration of which period he was entirely cured of the latter, and his hearing was very considerably improved. The sittings were discontinued in consequence of his removal to a distance.

XXXIII. *Partial cure of an Inflamed Leg.*

James Walker, a little boy residing in Stourbridge, æt. 5 years, was mesmerised for a violently swelled and inflamed leg, the cause of which was unascertained. The skin was glazed, and distended almost to bursting, and the pain so great that he could obtain no rest. His medical attendant could not relieve him, and I was called in to mesmerise him. He was sent into the coma in a few minutes, and slept all night. Mesmerised the second day, and slept all night again. On the third day he was considerably improved, his leg being free from pain, the inflammation and swelling reduced, and his natural healthy appearance returned. He was then left to the medical attendant, who completed his cure in a few days.

XXXIV. *Attempt to mesmerise a person for Madness.*

William Cooper, Clent, who had been deranged for many years, and had been to several asylums without obtaining any relief, was operated upon by his father's desire. He sat in a large chair, dressed in a flannel suit, rolling his eyes wildly, howling, and swaying his head and body from side to side. As he had no lucid intervals, and in consequence of his almost incessant motion, I saw the necessity of employing something to effect his mesmerisation, beside the passes, and the fixed stare, I therefore gave him mesmerised water,

which he swallowed greedily. I then placed my hands on his shoulders, and gazed at him intensely for several minutes. His eyes at first rolled about fearfully, and he became very violent, howling, swearing, and moving about with great rapidity; but by blowing upon him, he became tranquillized and calm. Continuing the gaze, his eyes at length became fixed, his eyelids drooped and fell, and he dropped into the state of incipient coma, from which he awoke in about ten minutes spontaneously. I was never able to affect him subsequently, in consequence of his disease progressing rapidly, which finally terminated his life. His madness originated in the melancholy circumstance of the loss of his wife, who was burnt to death. He was a fine powerful young man, about 30 years of age.

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The following cases of idiocy, and peculiar cerebral development, which I met with in the course of my manipulating, may perhaps prove interesting to your readers.

I. William W——, a young man of healthy and robust appearance, and sanguine temperament with a dash of the bilious, though an idiot, has a very good development of the intellectual organs of the brain, and a well-formed, good-sized head, not at all deformed as in hydrocephalus. His head measures 23 inches in circumference, measuring under *Caution*, *Comparison*, and *Self-esteem*; and 14½ inches over *Firmness*, from the opening of one ear to the other. He has never been the subject of any *evident* disease; his parents move in a respectable sphere of life, have no hereditary disease in their family, have well-developed heads, are not of intemperate habits, and can assign no reason for their son's idiocy.

II. & III. Two idiot boys, the children of industrious and respectable, though poor parents, that inherit no hereditary disease, have not been given to habits of intemperance, and the conformation of whose heads is very favourable. The one boy has the animal region very largely developed, and is consequently violent, pugnacious, fond of low language and of gratifying his animal propensities. The other has a small posterior lobe, and a better developed moral region than his brother, and he is of a quiet, inoffensive, and mild disposition.

IV. A boy, that has had the left portion of his brain,

corresponding to the locality of the organ of Time injured and probed with the needle, but who has received no lasting injury, being a very good timist, and having a good knowledge and remembrance of periods of events, important epochs, &c. The right portion of the brain, and of the organ of course, remained uninjured.

V. A lad, 12 years of age, who received a kick from a horse, forming an indentation of that portion of the skull, where the left organ of *Combateness* is placed, that would have held three penny-pieces, laid flat upon each other. It produced insensibility for a time, but no serious injury. The brain gradually pushing out the skull, till the indentation is now, at 20 years of age, not large enough to contain a half-penny piece. His combative propensities have neither suffered diminution nor increase, by this accident, as he neither seeks occasion for quarrel, nor shrinks from defending himself when insulted.

With these cases, I beg to conclude, and to subscribe myself,

Dear Sir,

Yours very truly obliged,

T. B. BRINDLEY.

P.S. In Mr. Braid's work on hypnotism, he states, that the hypnotic sleep is produced by "a derangement of the state of the cerebro-spinal centres, and of the circulatory, and respiratory, and muscular systems, induced by a fixed stare, absolute repose of body, fixed attention, and suppressed respiration, concomitant with that fixity of attention." If, however, Dr. Playfair's theory be true, that natural sleep is produced, by the causes of waste being diminished, in consequence of the *deficient supply of oxygen*, or of arterial blood, to the brain, and the retarded circulation of that which exists in the cavity of the skull; I would suggest, that probably the cause of hypnotic sleep may be found in the diminished supply of oxygen, or imperfectly arterialized blood, to the brain, the retarded circulation, and the diminished action of the lungs in suppressed respiration, consequent on the fixity of attention, sitting posture, perfect repose, and intense expectation of the hypnotic patient submitting to the operation. If this be true, it will in no way militate against the idea of a specific power or influence in the production of mesmeric sleep; as persons may be mesmerised at a distance, without the passes, or their knowledge of the operation, while walking, and by simple volition. It will also shew the vast distinction between hypnotic and mesmeric sleep.

VI. *Reports of various trials of the Clairvoyance of Alexis Didier, last Summer, in London.*

COLLECTED BY DR. ELLIOTSON.

IN the fourth edition of my translation of *Blumenbach's Physiology*, published in 1828, I devoted three pages to a very faint sketch of mesmerism, not professing any belief in its wonders, but saying that some of the elementary results were very probable and supported by good testimony, but remarking that one would at once ascribe them to imagination, and, as to the higher phenomena, I must examine them myself before I believed, "Having never seen the magnetic phenomena, I have no right to pronounce judgment; but before I can believe these wonders, I must see them" (p. 292). Yet in a review of the work, I forget in what journal, but it was a monthly journal, and not medical, and I saw it at the United University Club, the writer expressed his surprise that a sensible man could *believe* such nonsense.

When I had seen enough of mesmerism to assert it was true, but up to 1837 not more than to speak of the production of sleep, sleep-waking, rigidity, &c., and the prediction of changes in the patient's own complaint,—the *Athenæum* asserted that I had jumped all at once to a belief in all the wondrous assertions of mesmerists. It was not till 1841, that I saw, or ventured to assert, the occurrence of vision with the eyes firmly closed: nor was it till the present year, 1844, that I witnessed, or ventured to assert, the fact of that highest degree of clairvoyance, in which a person knows, as by vision, what is going on at a great distance, or can tell what has taken place or will take place in matters not relating to his own health or own affairs, but to various events in the lives of others.

In my *Physiology* in 1838, I said that "I should despise myself if I hesitated to declare my decided conviction of the truth of mesmerism," meaning the more elementary phenomena; and that I would stand ridicule with firmness and silent pity or contempt, till I should see, as I should, the truth of mesmerism established, p. 656.

In the same work at p. 1633, in 1840, my words were, "I not only repeat my firm conviction of the truth of mesmerism, but of the truth of many facts in it upon which I formerly gave no opinion, because I had not then witnessed them, and was determined to remain neutral upon any point upon which I myself did not witness facts."

This year I have met with exquisite clairvoyance of the highest kind for the first time, and its truth I will now as fearlessly maintain as I originally did the production of simple sleep.

For six years I have made repeated trials with numerous patients of my own: but never have found one who I was satisfied could even see the objects about them with the eyes closed, or look into the interior of the bodies of others and state their condition and prescribe for them. But among my searches after clairvoyance I have at length found one example of the highest kind, just mentioned in the last paragraph, though she disclaims all clairvoyance of the inferior kind mentioned in the present paragraph. This patient is the perfection of integrity and every other moral excellence. Her word is a fact: and her truth is not less absolute than her freedom from vanity. She dislikes to exert her clairvoyance, and though, I have no doubt, long possessed of it, never mentioned it till I tried and urged her to exert it: nor would she ever exert it but from a desire to oblige me, nor does she if aware of the presence of others.

She will accurately describe who are in a particular room at her father's house at a particular moment, and the arrangement of the furniture, &c.—a distance of above fifty miles: or she will search for and see a member of her family, and describe the place in which he or she is, and the others also present. I at length succeeded in prevailing upon her to see some others, not members of her family, or known to them or to herself, and whose names even I did not mention, but only a very few particulars about them. She has described their persons most accurately, the places in which they were, their occupations at the moment; and told what others were in the same room with them: and all this when I knew nothing of the truth at the time, and had to verify it afterwards. Far more than this she would tell: and tell with perfect accuracy: and predict numerous things relating to others which have since exactly taken place. But I will not venture to add more at present. I am anything but superstitious; am indeed very sceptical of human testimony on all matters of a wonderful nature: but these points I have laboriously and rigidly looked into, and can speak positively. In exerting this power, she knits her brows and wrinkles her forehead vertically, evidently making a great *cerebral* exertion. The part at which she says she *sees*, so to speak, clairvoyantly, is the centre of the forehead, midway between the temples, but a little lower than half-way between the root of the nose and the top of the forehead,—exactly at



the spot called by some cerebral physiologists the organ of Eventuality. Gall discovered an organ about this part, the function of which he termed the *Sense of Things*: Dr. Spurzheim split it into two horizontally; the lower for the knowledge of individual existences, calling it Individuality: the other for occurrences, calling it Eventuality. Whether *eventuality* is legitimately made from *event*, and not rather from *eventual*, which refers not to bare events, but ultimate results, I will not now enquire: his sesquipedalian coinage of *Philoprogenitiveness* certainly does not signify love of offspring, as he intended, but the love of begetting offspring. But I have never seen any grounds for his division of Gall's organ of the Sense of Things into a faculty for individual existences and another for occurrences, any more than I have seen reason for some other of his alleged discoveries, although most of those who adopt phrenology from observing its general truth and some particular truths, adopt all the organs and faculties talked of by the book-makers and bust-makers, who all follow him: just as most persons who adopt the Bible from being satisfied of its general truth, would adopt a few more chapters or verses here and there, if they were interpolated, without ever thinking to doubt. The fact of this patient seeing all the things which she inwardly sees at the higher part of the organ of the Sense of Things adds to my doubts of the accuracy of the lower part of the organ being destined for the knowledge of individual existences as distinct from occurrences. She describes the representation of objects to be mainly at the seat of the so-called Eventuality; but as faintly running a little upward and a little to each side beyond its admitted seat: and indeed nothing can be more absurd than to draw lines round the seats of the organs. The centre only of each organ should be marked, and its general course or shape may be shadowed out: but lines of demarcation are calculated to give very wrong ideas of limit. Though I could excite the organ of Friendship in her by touching over it, even when she was in attacks of insensibility and perfect ignorance of my person, I never could in any circumstances affect any other organ: and never assisted her Clairvoyance by placing my finger upon any part of the organ of the Sense of Things: nor could I enable her to perceive absent persons when the power was inactive, or increase its strength when active, by putting the point of a finger upon the Sense of Persons: nor enable her to judge better of the period at which the events she predicted would come to pass, or those which she stated to have happened had taken place, by placing my

finger upon Time. Her power of judging of the period of the various results is slight.

I need hardly say that in perceiving absent and distant persons and things, it makes no difference what may be the direction of her face. Her seat may be placed against any of the walls of the room without altering her ability.

A remarkable peculiarity in this case is, that the perception of absent objects scarcely occurs unless I hold her hands in mine. If I hold but one hand in one of mine, the faculty is by no means so strong as if I hold one in each of mine. This I discovered accidentally. Sometimes while distinctly seeing a person in a distant county, her father for instance, she suddenly would cry out, "Oh papa's gone; I can't see him now." On taking hold of her hands again, merely with the view of encouraging her, she would say, "There now I see him again." It was some time before the real fact struck me. But I was so often in the habit of holding her hands, one in each of mine, to encourage her to exert the power and to increase her general mesmeric state, that at length the vanishing of the objects when I let go her hands, and their returning on my holding her hands again, struck me: and I proved the thing fully and made further experiments. The difference between holding one or both hands I have mentioned. But I further found that I must hold her right in my right and her left in my left. If I hold her right in my left, or her left in my right, she sees objects double: if I hold her right in my left, and her left in my right, at the same time, objects are quadrupled; and this terrifies her exceedingly. These observations and experiments I made in silence, without a single remark to her; and she was long in ignorance of them; nor did she know them till after satisfying myself of their truth I mentioned them to her. She was surprised, and observed for herself and found my observations true.

Even the power of telling past and future events in reference to others, is greatly increased by my holding her hands each in the corresponding one of my own.

Whether from her being in a very delicate state of health or not, she exerts the power with great effort, and often requires repeated efforts in the same direction at successive sittings before she sees what I desire her to see. Any temporary increase of debility, any headache, or other distressing sensation, or the slightest uncomfortable emotion, prevents its exertion to much purpose or altogether. Before she could discern persons who are strangers to her, many attempts for very many days were required. She then saw them more

clearly every day. Sometimes she can see persons but for an instant at a time : and sometimes not more than once in this momentary manner during my visit. She seldom saw the the whole of a room at once.

All this shews how unreasonable it was to suppose Alexis could succeed on every occasion and off hand. He was in good health and strong : but his master worked him two, three, and even four times a day, in spite of the remonstrances of those who understood mesmerism, of which he, like too many exhibitors, knew but little. People expected that this delicate and exquisite power was always present in the same full force, and he could do all at command as a boy can tumble over head and ears or make a somerset. They forgot that far less delicate powers are disturbed and annulled by annoyances. A fine vocal or instrumental performer, an actor, or orator, is likely to fail, if persons surround him who let him know by their remarks and treatment that they consider him a fool or impudent pretender and worry him. Can a mathematician calculate, or a poet compose, amidst persons worrying and disgusting him? These things should be shewn only to a few at a time, and in a private room ; and the least signs of such discreditable and inexcusable conduct, as that to which poor Alexis was often exposed, should be firmly suppressed by the sensible and right-minded of the party. At the house of Mr. Robinson, and at the British Institute, and some other places, I am informed that a medical man treated him very improperly : but other persons, and even ladies, behaved as shamefully sometimes. A large number of persons, on the occasion of mesmeric experiments, consider it a privileged time for the exhibition of their own ignorance, folly, and unfairness. If Alexis on his return is to be exhibited in public, as some English individuals were exhibited in London last summer, I trust that the friends of mesmerism will stand aloof from him and M. Marcillet.

The wonder is that Alexis did not fail far more frequently than he did : and not that he latterly began to fail very much. He became more and more exhausted, and more and more felt the unfairness which accumulated towards him.

The first I heard of Alexis was Colonel Gurwood's interviews with him at Paris. The Colonel at his own house one day read to me his notes of various interviews with Alexis, written the same evening or the next morning after each interview. If the Colonel was astounded and satisfied so was I : because he is known to all the world as a man of perfect probity, a plain and straightforward soldier and gentleman, without any freaks of fancy or hastiness of opinion. He had never

accompanied his family to my house to witness my mesmeric experiments, and he doubted the truth of mesmerism altogether, when he at length gave way to the entreaties of a friend in Paris to visit Alexis. I do not hesitate to mention briefly some particulars of the many he read to me, because the reports are in the mouth of all the fashionable world, and I heard nothing from him that I have not since heard from others in general society. Alexis was led by him to his house in Lowndes Square; and the character of the roads and houses on landing in England, the statue at Charing Cross, the Queen's palace, and the situation and number of the Colonel's house, then the interior, the stairs, landing-place, drawing rooms, and the persons actually in it at the time, as was proved afterwards by a letter received from Mrs. Gurwood, he described admirably. He described the Colonel's own room, the number of engravings hanging on the wall, maintaining there were seven, whereas the Colonel declared they were but six and found himself wrong on returning to England: the subject of the engraving over the fire-place: a box in the room, and a very handsomely-bound volume in it, wrapped up, with French words upon the cover—(a volume of the *Duke's Despatches*, bound in green morocco and gilt, with the garter and French motto on the cover): the book closets on each side of the fire-place, and the very confused state of the books in one: an inner room, with a closet at the further end, and two swords hanging in it, one from a very distant country, the point of one rusty: an eastern inscription upon one (a Damascus blade with Persian or Arabic characters): the relation of the Colonel's apartment in the Tower to other rooms: a Hebrew inscription on one of the walls of one of the rooms: the relations between the Duke and the Colonel, and many particulars respecting them and others, which could not be generally known, and which he of course did not read to me, were exact. He was taken to periods of the Colonel's life in the Peninsula: and saw him save a Frenchman's life after battle; saw him disinterring the corpse of a friend; and enabled him to trace out persons afterwards, who supplied him with testimony which he had long been in want of. The Colonel had prevented the murder of a French officer after battle: and, on a subsequent visit to Spain, disinterred the body of a dear friend who had been thrown into the earth with others, and given him honourable burial. I cannot remember half or a quarter: nor do I pretend to perfect accuracy. He told the Colonel that the latter was going to dine in such a street and would go to the opera in the evening. The Colonel was going to dine in that street with Lord Cow-

ley; but had no idea of going to the opera: however in the evening Lord Cowley proposed their going, and they went.

The Colonel promised to furnish me with the whole account for *The Zoist*, except what related to private matters, but he afterwards declined, writing to me that "the publicity already given to these communications had given him much trouble and subjected him to much misrepresentation, and that an authorized publication would add to both." I thought of Lady Macbeth's words—"A soldier, and afeard!" I find an excuse for some medical men who have families dependent for bread upon their professional success, and conceal their belief in mesmerism: but when mere bantering and jeering can be the utmost mischief, I think every person is bound to come forward and declare the truth, for the good of science, the good of the afflicted, and the support of those whom the world persecute. Misrepresentation would be at an end if the precise truth were published.

A gentleman, who was a member of the last House of Commons, and was at the University of Cambridge at the same time with myself, and had been converted in my house to the belief in mesmerism by the case of Rosina and Miss Critchly (described in Nos. V. and VI. of *The Zoist*) called upon me, and, after hearing what Colonel Gurwood had related to me, related in his turn the following particulars of some interviews he had just had in Paris with Alexis:—

"Every one knows, I presume, that the *Memnon* steamer bringing mails from India was wrecked off Cape Guardaful, on the African coast of the Red Sea. If the reader does not know, perhaps the shareholders in the great Royal Steam Packet Company *will have the pleasure* to inform him. Was there ever any sentence comprising so many magical romantic ideas as are conveyed by Memnon (an enchanted musical statue), India, Africa, lands of magic, and the Red Sea, where, I believe, uneasy demons are or used to be laid. Mrs. B. had been in India, at Madras, some years with her husband, who holds an official situation there; but her own health, and that of her children, induced her, two or three years since, to return to Europe, and she resided at Paris with her father-in-law. She received a letter there from Mr. B., saying that he should *take the steamer* to Suez, pass from Alexandria by Gibraltar by sea, to Southampton, where he fixed to meet her in September. She had no reason to doubt, and prepared to join him as appointed. Previous to leaving Paris she determined to see a certain lad, by name ALEXIS DIDIER, who was reported to her to be a wonderful person, a real demon for knowing "what should ne'er be

known;" and she went with a friend, and found him entranced, surrounded with twenty persons, all asking questions. His eyes were bandaged, and yet he answered them, read, played at cards, and did many feats. She approached him, holding out her hand which had a glove on. "Alexis," she said, "what is under my glove?" "There is a ring on the third finger." "Describe the ring, and its materials and shape." Alexis did so, rapidly and accurately. "What is written on it inside?" He told her precisely. "Now I wish," said she, "you would travel with me in idea." "Whither?" "To India, to the part I landed at. What sort of a ship did I go in?" He described it, her getting into the boat; he made out the letters *h o m a s* perfectly, but not much more, out of the "*Thomas Coutts*;" the view of the place, and the catamarans the natives use, although he could not give them a name. (They are three logs of wood fastened together, on which they brave the highest waves.) "Describe my husband." He did so. "Where is he now?" After some pause he said, "I see him; he is on board a ship; the ship is under full sail." "Stop," said Mrs. B., "you are mistaken; Alexis, look again." "I do," said Alexis, "I repeat it." "Oh, surely," exclaimed Mrs. B., who had Mr. B.'s letter stating his return *in a steamer*, "you have perhaps mistaken the chimney for a mast." Alexis replied, "There is *a mast*, but there is *no chimney*. It is a sailing vessel." Mrs. B. left Alexis, certain he was wrong. Her anxiety was great when the *Memnon* was lost. *Within the last month she has received a letter from Mr. B., stating that he had altered his mind, and was coming home in a SAILING VESSEL*, by the Cape of Good Hope; and is at this moment in England, arrived in a sailing vessel. Alexis *persisted* that the vessel had only *two* masts. Truth compels me to say it had *three*.

"Mrs. B. wrote this to her sister, and *recited it herself to me in London on the 3rd of this month* (November). I went to Paris next day, and before a week had passed, got a card of the mesmeriser, Mons. Marcillet, who has a large Office de Roulage (Waggons), but lives at No. 21, Rue Neuve Coquenard. Thither I repaired about two o'clock, p.m., was admitted, and ushered into a small drawing-room, in which might be assembled some twenty or thirty ladies and gentlemen, and several of the labouring class. They were crowding round a small round card-table. I could not for some time see the chief actor. At length I made my way round, and managed to get *so near as to touch the table*. Here I found a lad of about seventeen or eighteen, with his eyes

very thickly bandaged, sitting and talking shortly and nervously, rather low sometimes. He seemed oppressed from the heat of the room, and every one talking to him at once. At length a sort of order was restored, and a window opened. I saw a lady present him a letter, very closely written, in an envelope. He took it. "I want to know," said she, "what are the *four* words at the top of the *third* page?" He twisted the letter between his thumbs, applied it *to his stomach*, put it down on the table, and in a minute said, "*Decidedly!* The four first words at the top of the third page are ——— ——— ——— ———." The lady opened the letter, unfolded it, and read the VERY FOUR WORDS he had mentioned! Another lady then said, "Alexis, will you travel with me?" "Yes; give me your hand." She did. He then just passed his own over it, slightly clasping it, but let it go immediately. "Well, I am ready; which way do you go?" "Towards Fontainebleau, (forty miles from Paris); are you there?" "Yes." "Pray describe my house near there." Alexis then rapidly described the approach, the appearance, the number of stories, and the windows, very minutely, and, as the lady allowed, very correctly. She then proposed to him to go indoors, to tell her the plan of the house, &c., and then her room, and the windows, &c., and furniture, and how arranged. This he did as perfectly! She then said, "You have told us, Alexis, that there is a secretaire, and which wall of the room it is placed against; is there anything upon it?" After a pause, "Yes there is; I see something." "What is it?" "I can't tell;" and after a moment, "It is something which is not natural." The lady nodded assent. "But what is it?" "Oh! I don't know; I can't say; I give it up; I can't tell you," said he, in an irritated tone. "Courage, courage, Alexis!" cried Mons. Marcillet, the mesmeriser, who came near him, and threw his hands and fingers at him as if sprinkling water, "Madame is anxious to know; you must try and tell her." A pause. "But I can't tell Madame." "Well then," cried the mesmeriser, "touch it, as you see it; feel it." On this he passed his fingers very very rapidly on the green cloth half a dozen times. "Oh!" said he, "I feel it; it is full of small holes." "True," said the lady. "Courage, Alexis!" We were all in wonder. "It lies," said Alexis, "in a slanting position, thus," describing with his hand an angle. Presently, "Oh! it is horrible to look at," with a shrinking action. The lady assented. "Oh!" said Alexis, "there is a large hole in it. I can put my fingers in, and I feel, I feel—oh! it is teeth I feel." The lady nodded assent, expressing wonder, and im-

mediately Alexis shewed great terror, and trembling, cried, "Oh, mon Dieu! c'est la tête a'un mort."—"It is the head of a dead man!" "Alexis is quite right," said the lady; "it is so, and lying just as he describes it." The confusion was so great at this moment that I could not make out, among the chattering, whether it was a skull, or the head of a mummy, or New Zealander, but it was as he said, *la tête d'un mort*, and a curiosity. A gentleman close to me, handed from a lady across the table a card-case of green velvet, very richly filagreed with gold. "This lady," said he to Alexis, "wants to know what is inside this case." "Oh!" said Alexis, handling it; "that is difficult; there is so much gold about it, I can't do it." "Pray try." Well, after a minute, and putting it to his stomach, and smelling at it: "In this card-case there are three visiting cards. On one are such letters," giving letter by letter very slowly, and apparently stumbling, as if they were in a mist; but at length he mentioned the letters composing the names and address on each card. Alexis then gave the case back. He appeared fatigued with this exertion.

"I addressed myself to his mesmeriser, Mons. Marcillet, to know what I had to pay. He replied, nothing. I then asked if he came to private parties, and the price. He replied, "Yes, with pleasure, on payment of thirty francs," about 24s.

"Such was my first interview with a *clairvoyant*. I was petrified with astonishment. Two or three days after I called on M. Marcillet, who was then shaving, but nevertheless kindly asked me to come in, and gave me a variety of papers to read. He showed me several of Colonel Gurwood's letters, who can better than any one, perhaps, attest the wonder of Alexis' power, with regard to himself and Colonel Husson, of the French artillery, &c. They were thrown about at random, but I entreated Mons. Marcillet to preserve them carefully. He told me many curious anecdotes of Alexis. That he (M. M.) himself had no idea how he had the power to mesmerise, and never felt the worse for doing it. He told me that he mesmerised Alexis's brother, who was also a good *clairvoyant*, but that his stupid country *bonne* (or housekeeper) was the most wonderful of all, and *predicted*, with awful accuracy, when in a mesmerised trance. I saw neither of these, as the younger Didier went to Orleans and Bordeaux next day.

"Next day came to my hotel Mons. Marcillet and Alexis, in the morning, and stayed two or three hours. Alexis looked at the prints in *Punch* of the Queen's trip to Cambridge with pleasure. He seemed modest, unassuming, like



any other lad of that age. He did not seem to relish being interrupted by Marcillet's summons to sit down, and resolutely persisted in taking his time, and finishing the prints in *Punch*. I mention this as it contrasts so completely with his spaniel-like affection to his mesmeriser, when entranced, when he did nothing but write over a sheet of paper, now by me,—“Marcillet, Marcillet, Marcillet.” He seemed heart and soul occupied by him. When unmesmerised, Marcillet laments that he is obstinate, and will not follow good advice. At length Alexis sat himself down in a chair, looking steadfastly in the mesmeriser's eyes, who sat opposite, and after a time passed his hands as usual. In three minutes he dropped off. His face seemed to be drawn together convulsively. He yawned, and occasionally shivered. *We now bandaged his eyes three times over.* We were three gentlemen and four ladies. *We sent to buy a pack of cards.* He is always most eagerly impetuous to play at *écarté*. He told every card, *before turned*, in his own, and all those of his adversary. He was delighted, but excessively impatient. He was very rarely wrong in naming the cards. After several games he played with his back to the table, bandaged, but as easily as if he were wide awake. After twenty minutes' play, a lady asked him where a certain book was, which she had purposely concealed before he arrived. “It is under that sofa cushion;” it is on such and such a subject. He was right, and he was as merry as possible. You could not go fast enough for him. He could see everything, and seemed to answer before you could get the question uttered.

“I had a few days before bought at a bookseller's the suspension-bridge of Roche Bernard, in Bretagne, (for they have many of them as wide as Clifton erected in every direction on the continent, *of wire*, without three Acts of Parliament, and for less than 70,000*l.*, which *do stand*, and answer *perfectly well*), with its description, and the description of the Friburg one,—in all three books, for which I had paid the bill. They were sent packed up in a large paper, tied with string, and knowing their contents (as I thought) I did not undo it, but placed it on the top of a bureau. I took the parcel down, exactly as it was, and laying it before Alexis,—“What is in this?” “Books.” “On what subject?” “Oh, there are subjects with scales and measurements; it is something—*quelque chose aerienn*e.” Thinking he alluded to the aerial machine, I said, “No,” but he was positive, and though I did not yield, I must admit that a suspension-bridge is aerial, and that he was therefore right. He was evidently annoyed, but his politeness seemed to restrain further comment. “How

many books are there in this parcel?" "Four." "No, Alexis, there are assuredly but three." "But *there are four.*" "I think," replied I, "I ought to know, as I ordered them, and paid for them. Here is the bill, and there are but three." He then, in a nervous agitation, pounced upon the parcel, trying to tear the books out, crying "There are four," to prove what he said. I said "Patience," and untied it, and, *lo! there were four!* The bookseller had, unknown to me, enclosed "a catalogue of works sold by him!" This triumph put him in high force. "Now, Alexis, let us travel. Whither? To England. First, we will go to London." "Well where then?" "Towards the West by railway." Ah! there we are. "It is a city," said I, "about forty leagues west of London. There is a river near it, and something I want you to describe near the city." "It is," he said, "three leagues (about nine miles) from the mouth of the river." "Yes, here it is," said I, putting the print of the Clifton Suspension Bridge, as represented in cruel mockery *finished*. My hand covered the word Clifton. "What is the name of the place?" "It is CLIFTON—Clivdon." Placing his finger on the *middle part* of the bridge, he said, "There *is nothing here, here; the two sides are there.*" "Yes; but look again, Alexis. Are you sure there is nothing there?" "Oh! yes; there are two ropes—I see them now quite distinctly: and I see, I see a basket. Oh! there it goes," and he made the motion and the noise of the basket rushing down, and then imitated the slow motion of winding it up on the other side most admirably. Well, Alexis, you must really come and see it when awake. "I will tell you, then," said he, "how far you live from it. Aye," said he, perceiving the doubt in my mind, "I will tell you, and tell you *precisely.*" "How far then?" "Why nine kilometres." That is English measure in a straight line five-and-a-half miles as near as possible. He told me my house was on a hill, the staircase opposite the door, the billiard table and the piece of wood on one end of it. But he got very confused after, although he told what I believed the number of horses in the stable.

"Let us travel again, Alexis." "Where? To England?" "No." "To Scotland?" "Oh, but that is England." "I beg your pardon, Alexis, it is not." "Oh, but all beyond the sea is England to me." "Well I have a friend there in the North, near ——." "Oh! I know." "Well, if you do, tell me about him." "He is in a country house." "I believe so. What age?" *Instantly* "Twenty-eight—he is tolerably tall—he is very pale—he has dark brown hair." He then described the face and colour of the eye perfectly. "He can

sing—has not a bass, but a baritone voice—he has *mal de poitrine*, illness of the chest—he coughs.” “What is he doing?” “He is reading a newspaper.” “What paper?” “*The Edinburg Journal*.” “Is it this size?” said I taking a large *Morning Chronicle*, and giving it to him. He burst out laughing, saying, “Oh, what immense newspapers your English ones are.” No, it is this sort of size, folding the *Chronicle* neatly up on both sides lengthways and breadthways to shew the size. A person present observed Alexis was right as to the size of *The Edinburgh Journal*. He said lightly, “This is your *second* English Journal, the *Morning Chronicle*.”

“Look again, Alexis, at my friend’s face; do you observe anything?” Pausing a little, “No, I do not:” then instantly, “Yes, I do; over his eye is a scar, thus—and, stop—oh, yes, I see he has lost the sight of it.” “Which eye, Alexis?” “The right eye.” My friend had had it blown by gunpowder when a boy, and it is very difficult to find out that he has lost it. “What is good for his complaint?” “I know, and could tell you.” “Are you not interested in him very deeply?” “Yes, I know it,” said he, “I could tell you now, but might make a mistake. Write to him for a lock of his hair; let me have that, and I shall be able to tell you to a certainty!” “Where is it to be cut from!” “Oh, anywhere; but if you please, to take it from the back of the head.” The kindness of heart he displayed was quite affecting; and in another case also of health he entered into it with intense feeling. He certainly is a very benevolent Demon! At our request, he eagerly complied with our wishes that he should write down what he had so astonishingly told us about our friend in the North; he seized a pen and wrote down vigorously (as follows) and rapidly. Here it lies by me now and I copy it:—

“ ‘28 ans., brune, pâle, grand, assez mal à la poitrine, Œil Droit, il tousse a une très belle voix barritone.’ ”

“A lady had a particular question to ask, which she had determined upon when first she heard of Alexis, and had never imparted to any one. He was withdrawn a little from the table; he was in high spirits, chuckling away as she wrote on a bit of paper concealed from him these words—“He always manages best with women interrogators. Let me ask him?” “Oh! that I do,” he said, and they sat apart. What the question was we know not, but the lady asserted that as she was preparing to put it, before she had uttered two words, as if seeing into her mind, he told her exactly what she was going to ask, and answered it in a moment. He now jumps up, and going to the piano-forte, stand and plays a tune

upon it, rather in a thumping stuccato style, and no very good music, but it was a tune both bass and treble. One can hardly believe he is asleep, but he is completely so. Well he sits down again. "I feel tired," he said. "Will you have anything?" "Yes, a glass of wine?" "Yes. "Well here's a glass of sherry." "Well, pour it out." He drinks it, and a second. "Will you eat?" "If you please." "There is hardly anything but the remains of what is in this round deal case." "What is in it, Alexis?" *Pâté de foie gras,* (a liver pie.) True. It was put before him. "See," said he, gravely thrusting the fork among the truffles, "how well a man asleep can find them out." He helped himself largely and ate with a good appetite. I turned to a lady who sat near, and inquired of her whether she would eat anything? I could not finish this short question, before, like lightning, he addressed her, saying, "You breakfasted at twenty-five minutes past ten o'clock, and I see you do not want anything! You are not hungry, I am sure." The lady acknowledged he was quite right, but we enjoyed a hearty laugh at his penetration. I may add that the lady had breakfasted in a house several streets off. He seemed to see my mind, and the lady's appetite at the same glance. "Well now, Alexis, as you have done justice to this pie, pray let us know where it came from." We supposed he might have said Strasburg, so famous for them, or at least Paris, where we were sitting. Who would have guessed going out of Paris, to purchase such a delicacy in a country place? to bring it into Paris? But Alexis instantly answered, "You bought it at St. Germain two days ago! at such a shop, in such a place!" "But you do not describe it sufficiently, Alexis." "Oh, I see, it is near the prison." He was quite right. While he was talking to us, the footman came in and said, "There is a person, Sir, in the next room waiting for you?" "Who is it?" I said, or rather would have said, for Alexis instantly imitated the action of a woman who sews, a little exaggerated, and said, "*qui coude*" without other interruption of his sentence or tone. "Open the door," said I, "of the bedroom," and lo! there stood the sempstress. In the course of the visit he would take a dozen letters, and reject all but that you desired to find, but without seeing the name of the writer, and in the most rapid and decided manner. Now and then he made a mistake in other points. The mesmeriser treated him as a pointer, with "Have a care there! So! so!" Courage! applauding him warmly when he did well. He told a lady all about her brother in India, what he was doing in many respects, but when he touched upon his native female ac-

quaintances he shewed the greatest tact and delicacy in dealing with them.

“Well, at length, after nearly three hours’ trance, he was unmesmerised, and awoke with very little difficulty. All his liveliness and freedom and laughter was gone. He was very civil and rather shy, bowing, amazed at our questions. “Well, how do you feel Alexis?” “Hungry?” “Rather.” “And yet you made a good inroad in the *Pâté de foie gras* just now.” “What *pâté*?” “When?” with the most *naïvé* simplicity. “Why, Alexis, don’t you see it and the plates, and knives and forks.” “Mons. Marcillet,” said he, in a plaintive tone, “have I been eating?” “To be sure you have,” and we could not help laughing. Poor youth! whatever his sleeping moments may be to them, his waking ones cannot be the most agreeable to himself. For all his knowledge he gets sadly laughed at.

“I had them a second time in private. He did some wonderful things, but as we did not begin with cards and get well into train, he made many mistakes. He told me he saw from his stomach and from his great toe, and certainly every thing he was in doubt about he applied to his stomach, as he did to his eyes when awake! Mons. Marcillet told me he shot well putting his gun to his stomach, while mesmerised and his eyes bandaged, and in that manner played very well at billiards.

“I saw him at a public *séance* again with Mr. P., on his way to Italy. Mr. P. was a member for the borough, where M. Marcillet’s son was staying with a private tutor for three months in England, and Mr. P. was most anxious to see Alexis. On the way there he told me that he had heard of him in England, from a gentleman resident near T—n, whose son had written to him from Paris, stating that Alexis had given him a complete description of his country-house, and particularly of the library. That there were two prints, one of Napoleon, the other of the Queen, hung up, and between them an oil painting of a lady, with a fan, which was correct.

“At the very opening of this public sitting, however, an English medical man avowed openly his strong disbelief of Alexis’ powers, and seemed embittered with a hostile spirit. If he could do this, why not that? If he could see through paper, why not through metals? Why make any mistake, &c., &c. Mons. Marcillet immediately predicted that Alexis, with such a person at hand, would not succeed. Such his invariable experience shewed, although he allowed he could not account for it. Alexis was mesmerised. He was still wonderful in his play, but still he was very often wrong, and

he seemed chilled and disgusted. He described tolerably well to a gentleman his family circle at dinner, but saw nothing remarkable about one daughter who was said to have a tumor on her neck, and wore a large white bandage over it. Our sceptic chuckled, and Alexis bungled and was mortified. I felt for Alexis, having seen him so splendid and joyous, and knowing what he could do: but there was our sceptic like an iceberg, "chilling the genial current of the soul." At last he gives him, after a little skirmish between himself and Marcillet, a packet, sealed. "What is inside, Alexis?" "Writing." "Is it a name or a word?" asks Alexis. Sceptic—"If you can read it, Alexis, what is that to either of us? tell *me* what it is." Alexis turning it in vain, at last tears the seal. "That is not fair," quoth sceptic: and in that we agreed with him. However, it was rescued in time: Marcillet mesmerises with all his might. At last Alexis says, "It is not French or English: it is Latin." "No," says sceptic, "it is not Latin." "I cannot do it," says Alexis, "I give it up. What is it, Sir?" "The word is written by myself: it is French; it is *cadavre*, a corpse." Alexis certainly failed; and yet *cadaver*, a corpse, the Latin, is with the transposition of one vowel only, and the identical pronunciation certainly not very distant from the French *cadavre*. Alexis, however repulsed, was not subdued. Marcillet fluidised him

"With might and main,  
Till the toil drops fell from his brows like rain."

Seven of us encircled the devoted youth. "Tell us," we cried, "the exact time *each of our* watches *now in our* pockets is." He did: one after another, as he spoke the time, took out his watch, and as he spoke so it was, to the *minute*, and sometimes to the second! Before I took out mine, I said, "What is there about my watch?" "The glass is broken," he said, "and you have lost the little hand that goes tic tac, tic tac, in a little circle." I knew it was so. I drew it out, and the time was right to a minute: the glass was broken, and the second-hand gone. There was a universal applause, but sceptic had crossed the room, and was standing in the further window, "chewing the cud of his bitter fancy," and his "*cadavre au suprême*." I could not help thinking, by Alexis's manner, that the sceptic's proximity to him felt, like the magic book of Michael Scott to William of Deloraine, "a load upon his breast;" and when sceptic moved a few yards, Alexis, like the moss-trooper, "breathed free in the morning wind, and strove his hardihood to find." "And pray, Alexis, now," said a gentleman, "what time is my

watch." "You, Sir, stopped your watch exactly twenty minutes after twelve, and on purpose, too." You are quite right there, Alexis; and so saying, he drew it out and shewed it to us,—twenty minutes after twelve, and *no go*. I left Alexis in glee, as it was growing dusk.

"I observed to Monsieur Marcillet that Alexis had done wonders, but that the last two sittings were very inferior to the first, and that Alexis was very unequal. He agreed to it. I conjured him to keep his subject under good government when awake, as his health, perhaps, suffered from his gaieties in Paris. I inquired how Alexis was first found, and learnt that he was attending a chanee meeting, when the mesmeriser requested any one present to mount the platform. Alexis did so, and being mesmerised turned out so *clairvoyant* as to induce Monsieur Mareillet to take him in hand. He observed Alexis had always been a walker in his sleep before he was mesmerised.

"M. Marcillet alluded to a similar failure after similar triumph at Rouen. The account of it had struck me also very forcibly; on going away I crossed the sceptic, and we had some conversation. I wished to refer to the Rouen failure of Brache, but he exclaimed, "Sir," in a way *un peu brusque*, considering we were unknown to each other, "what care I for the statement in the Rouen Journal? I have been here five times: I believe nothing. Monsieur Leeomte, at the theatre, does every night as extraordinary things, conveying pieces of money into people's pockets. Why should my presence affect him? What has my belief or disbelief to do with the matter?" I replied, Sir, you preclude my troubling you with the proceedings at Rouen, as you refuse to hear it; although it might assist your argument as shewing *another failure of Alexis*. But why it is or is not so, who can tell? but so it is, and it would be just as easy to tell why he can tell me what time my watch is when you are away, as that he cannot when you are near. I have seen him four times, and *do believe* he possesses wonderful *clairvoyance*, in spite of mistakes, and very *unequal* powers.

"I have now mentioned some of Alexis's doings; his name is most renowned in Paris, and spreading over the whole world. I have to thank him for clearing up to me many a puzzled, obscure suspicion, many an historic doubt. In 1843, Alexis can eat his *pâté de foie gras*, drink his *sherry*, play at *écarté* or billiards, and knock down his pheasants, nay, even play and waltz awake or asleep with his eyes bandaged; and Mons. Marcillet roll his heavy waggons along the French roads, and mesmerise in the interval, without being

poisoned, impaled, crucified, or burnt. I hope ere long to go shooting with this demon; but poor Socrates could not do so with his, without a potage of hemlock; nor Apollonius Tyanæus see Domitian killed by Stephanus from Ephesus to Rome, without suddenly disappearing himself, and being called an impudent fellow, because he said *he could tell languages and the very thoughts of persons*; nor poor Joan of Arc, that simple, that patriotic, that atrociously used girl, with her "voices" point out her king at once, notwithstanding his denial, at Chinon Castle Hall, and strike terror into her and her country's enemies, and crown him at Rheims, and be *clairvoyante*, without being burnt as a witch in A.D. 1431. Let us be thankful that we live in times when we can speak freely, and when the progress of science enables us to remove the veil of what have been hitherto deemed super-human mysteries.

"Mons. M. confirmed the following history to me, which having heard from another quarter, I questioned him about:—A medical man, in the neighbourhood of Paris, was sent for *some years* ago by a patient who required immediate attention. By mistake he went into the court-yard of another house, where a very large dog fell upon him, and bit him severely near the hip. He escaped, and found the house of the patient he was sent for to. As he returned home he foresaw the grief and alarm his wife and family would experience if he told them that he had been bitten by a dog, and he determined never to communicate the fact to any one. In time he got well; the scar still remained, but he was not the worse for it. Years past away, when a few months since a neighbour of his a military man, called upon him, and proposed to take a run up to Paris, to see Alexis Didier. "I think," said the soldier, "he will be puzzled to find out where I have been wounded." It was agreed to. They arrive, and find Alexis sitting in due, blind bandaged state. "I have a question to put to you, Alexis." "Give me your hand, Sir." He felt it a moment. "I am a military man." "I know that." "Have I been ever wounded?" "You have." "How often?" "Three times." "Where?" "There, there, and there" touching the three wounds. "Were they made by ball or by sword?" "This was by sword, those two by musket balls," fixing his fingers on them! "Pardieu, Mons. Alexis," cried the astonished soldier; "you are quite right. It is as you say!"

"On this our medical man thought he might puzzle him. Have *I* ever been wounded, Alexis? A long pause. "Yes, you have." "Where?" Upon this Alexis touches HIS OWN



BODY rapidly all over, and pointing on the hip, exclaims, "Here, exactly here." "By ball or by sword?" "By neither." "By bayonet?" "No, but it is not unlike; it is thus, >," describing its shape with his thumb nail. "If not by ball, sword, or bayonet, how was it done?" A long, very long pause. At length a sudden light appears to stream in upon him. He begins in a low tone, as if muttering to himself. "Oh, I see; yes, you get off your horse; you open the yard gate; the house is so and so; you cross the yard; you go to ring at the bell—(he becomes quite excited)—Oh! there it is. *It* comes jumping and barking towards you; *it* is such a colour; *it* jumps on you; *it* seizes you; *it* bites you here," pointing to the hip! imitating the dog and all its movements; "it is, it is, (he is so agitated with the vivid scene that he cannot get at the word, or he sees obscurely, at last he gets out) it is a great dog!"

And must I pass over Colonel G.'s sword, described as hanging in his room in England, covered with rust, and the inscription on it, *totidem verbis*;—his describing the room in the Tower of London;—his describing him entering the Thames in a calm, at a certain hour, and all the *minutiæ* of his whole journey;—his opening and writing his letters; the hotel, and its room he went into: which was confirmed by the Colonel; the observation made by Col. G. at the moment being that, the sea was as smooth as oil, &c. &c.

P.S. Nov. 27.—I have this moment received a letter from Paris, dated Nov. 24.—"As Alexis is evidently no prophet *as to time*, I doubt his being so in anything relating to *the future*. I received an account of a private *séance*, yesterday, at Mons. Charles Ledru (a great friend of Lord Brougham's), a celebrated French lawyer. An English lady travelled Alexis to her house in idea. He said I see a locket lying on your table; it contains the hair of three persons—one is of Napoleon, the other of Wellington, and then added, the other person's name I do not know. He was even greater than Wellington, but not so highly in rank (situated.) The lady confessed it was the hair of Nelson.

"There were two priests present, one a Cardinal from Rome, and to him Alexis described his own apartments at Rome, and then the various beauties of the Vatican."

After this Alexis made his appearance in London at my house, and an account of the sitting was printed in No. VI. of *The Zoist*. He next appeared at Lord Adare's, and in the same number is an account of that sitting. He came a second time to my house, and the following is the account, drawn up for a newspaper:—

Sir,—Since the account of the phenomena of clairvoyance, exhibited by Mr. Alexis, appeared in your columns of last week, another private party have witnessed a similar exhibition at the house of Dr. Elliotson, at which I had the honour of being present ; and the following plain statement of what I then saw will, I think, be interesting to your readers. I must premise, that I had never before seen any experiments whatever in animal magnetism, &c. ; that I was totally unacquainted with Dr. Elliotson, Mr. Marcillet, and Mr. Alexis ; and that I went, note-book in hand, prepared to watch and observe as accurately as possible, and that this account is drawn up from the notes I then made. Alexis having seated himself in a large easy chair, Mr. Marcillet stood in front of him, and after fixing his eyes upon him for about four minutes, the magnetic sleep was produced. During this operation there were convulsive motions of the limbs and muscles of the face, and every now and then Alexis turned his eyes towards the operator, as it seemed to me, with an expression of pain, and almost entreaty to desist. The convulsive motions subsided after a few passes by the operator, and then the phenomena of catalepsy were shewn. His hands were extended, and became quite rigid, and were again relaxed by Mr. Marcillet passing his hand once or twice over them. His legs were then stretched out, and, to test their rigidity, a gentleman, weighing at least 14 stone, stood upright upon them, Alexis' body being kept balanced by two gentlemen pressing on his shoulders. Alexis is by no means strong in appearance ; but I apprehend the strongest man would find the above feat difficult. It was then proposed to bandage his eyes. A quantity of cotton wool was placed over them, and kept down by three handkerchiefs, one encircling the head, the other two placed diagonally. The gentleman—a visitor, like myself—who undertook the tying, did not seem to do it to Alexis' satisfaction, for he said, "*Serrez fort, serrez fort*" (tie it tight), and, still being dissatisfied, he seized the ends of the handkerchief, and tied them himself. The visitors were then asked to examine the handkerchiefs, and each person who did so was satisfied that vision was impossible. A pack of cards was then brought, which, it should be remarked, had glazed and ornamented backs, so that it would have been more than ordinarily difficult to see through them, even with a strong light behind. A visitor came forward to play, and Alexis seated himself at the table which was in the middle of the room, so that there was a cross light. He seized the cards, a full pack, in a quick, hurried manner, and sorted them for *écarté*. He did this with great rapidity, and made but one mistake. Several games were played, during

which he frequently told his adversary what cards he had in his hand, as on one occasion that he had three tens, on another that he had four trumps; and again he called for the cards seriatim which his adversary was to play. Once or twice he made mistakes, as saying the nine of hearts instead of the seven, but in the great majority of instances was right. Another person then took the cards, and the same wonders were repeated. He then moved away from the table, and played at a distance of about four yards from his adversary, but he still told the cards as before, and played his own frequently without looking at their faces. During the whole of this time Mr. Marcillet stood at some little distance, and from time to time repeated the passes. Dr. Elliotson took no part in the proceedings. Alexis was then asked to read, and a volume of *Le Moyen, Aye Pittoresque*, was placed before him. The wool and bandages were still unmoved, but he read off from the page wherever he was told by any of the visitors, and by myself amongst the rest. On one occasion he continued to do so, although two hands were placed before his face and the type. He seemed, however, to find this somewhat more difficult. He was very animated, and talked rapidly as he turned over the pages, as if pleased with his own exploits. Whilst doing this, and just as he had said, in answer to a question, that the picture was a cathedral, I interrupted him hastily with, "*Mais quelle cathedrale?*" He replied, "*C'est une bonne question,*" and, placing his hand upon the letter-press, instantly said, "*Notre Dame de Chalon,*" which was quite correct. He also accurately described some figures in armour. He then, of his own accord, offered to read a line five pages off; but in this he failed. A volume of Bossuet was then brought from Dr. Elliotson's library, no visitor having brought one. He took my hand and asked me to shew him what to read, and read several times correctly. In one instance he read the two following lines,—"*C'est encore pour eux un grand embarras de voir que (le) prophète fasse aller le temps du Christ (Jesus).*" He however insisted that it was "*le*" and not "*ce,*" and read "*Jesus Christ*" instead of "*Christ*" only. On this part of the experiments no great stress can be laid, as after the Bossuet was brought he complained of the great heat and threw off the handkerchiefs, so that his eyes were only closed as in sleep. He then said, separating about 150 pages of the volume, and holding them firmly together, that he would read some words on whichever side and whatever part of the page I pleased, but would not undertake to say how far off the words were. I then pointed out the side and part of the page that I wished, and he gave

the words "*Tite-Livè*" and "*Romulus*;" saying that each commenced a paragraph. This was not done immediately, but the leaves were not opened at all. I examined the book, and found about 80 pages on the words "*Tite-Livè*," and about 150 the word "*Romulus*," each in the place and position required by me, and each commencing a paragraph. He then seated himself in the large chair once more, and a stranger (I believe, Dr. Castle of Milan) sat down by him, and put himself *en rapport* with him. I did not hear the conversation, but Dr. Castle afterwards stated to those present, that Alexis had described to him accurately how he (Dr. Castle) had passed the preceding night, and the nature and seat of the pain that he had suffered from. But further and more satisfactory proofs of clairvoyance were given. Alexis read a word (content) that was enclosed in a card-board box, and presented to him for that purpose by a visitor. He made out the letters *o n* first, and the others after some difficulty. But in a case of this kind, every one naturally distrusts every experiment not made by himself. I therefore took out my pocket-book and wrote three words; but being asked to put one only, I wrote in another place "*ami*." I shewed this to no one, but turning a leaf over it, said I had written a word which I wished him to read. It was one of Penny's metallic pocket-books, so that any of your readers may test the practicability of seeing a light pencil-mark through. I kept the leaf pressed firmly over the word, and upon the body of the book, and held it in his hand. Directly he placed his hand in my other hand, he said, merrily, "*Que vous êtes bon ! Il n'y a que trois lettres*" (How kind you are—there are but three letters). I assented. He then wrote nearly, but not exactly, over it, the letter *a*, then turned to me, and said, "That is right." I assented. He then wrote *m*, and inquired in the same way. I said nothing. He repeated the question. I remained silent. He then said in a jocose half-bantering tone—(to this effect)—"You may just as well say so, because you know it is." I then said, "*Oui*." He repeated it after me in high glee, and added instantly the *i*, scratching a fine flourish underneath to shew that he had succeeded. I shewed the pocket-book to those present, and all were satisfied that they could not have read it. It is now in my possession, and I would shew it to any one who might wish to see it.

I make no comments on the above facts, I attempt no explanation; but it is right to add, that all present, and among them were several medical men, were perfectly satisfied of the fairness of the experiments. No one would suggest any pos-

sible plan of collusion. I can be surprised at no one being incredulous until he has seen the experiments with his own eyes. For even now, without again scrutinizing another series of experiments, I could not honestly say that I was altogether convinced. I only say, that if there be deception, the deception would be almost more wonderful than the reality. I send you my name and address, and remain,

Sir, your obedient servant,

AN INQUIRER AFTER TRUTH.

P.S. After having drawn up the above, I read the article in the *Chronicle* of this day (July 2). I certainly regret that the reporter did not remain when asked to do so by Dr. Elliotson, although I cannot but say that the impression of all who heard what passed was anything but favourable to the gentlemanly feeling and conduct of the reporter; and also that Dr. Elliotson could hardly have acted otherwise. I regret the absence of the reporter, because the one word written by me, and in almost exact accordance with the requisitions made in the article above mentioned, was read fairly and honestly by Mr. Alexis, without having been seen by any one else. I may further add, that the following gentlemen, having witnessed—some, indeed, having tested—the above experiments, voluntarily subscribed their names to a paper expressive of their conviction of the integrity of this extraordinary exhibition:—

The Viscount Adare, 76, Eaton-square.

John Elliotson, M.D., Conduit-street.

John Ashburner, M.D., 55, Wimpole-street.

H. Storer, M.D., Granville-street, Brunswick-square.

James George Davey, M.D., Hanwell Asylum.

W. C. Engledue, M.D., Portsmouth.

M. Castle, M.D., Milan.

Dr. Ritterbandt.

Edmond Sheppard Symes, 38, Hill-street, Berkeley-sq.

T. G. Margary.

Nathaniel Ogle.

Daniel Thomas Evans, Temple.

John James, Captain, Dover.

Henry U. Janson, President of the Exeter Literary and Philosophical Society.

W. Topham, Temple.

Henry G. Atkinson, G.S., 18, Upper Gloucester-place.

Edward Wise, Temple.

H. Baillièrè, 219, Regent-street.

John Hulme, Exeter.

— Thompson, H. S., Fairfield.

LORD ADARE has permitted me to publish the following particulars of a second visit to Eaton Square, from his lordship's note-book:—

Alexis' eyes were bandaged. Lord L. took up a card, and Alexis told it after thinking a few seconds. He then extracted one from the pack; and after one mistake Alexis told it correctly.

Lord Adare then gave him Villemain's *Cours de Literature* to read, (opening a page;) he held it nearly on a level with his eyes; so that it was impossible for ordinary vision to act; there being an inch thick of cotton and three handkerchiefs between his eyes and the object. He began by spelling the first word: and then read more easily, reading a line or two. He then turned to another page, and read quite rapidly, the book being about *twenty degrees* below the level of his eyes. Lord Adare asked him to read through several pages; and turned to another place and pointed to the right side, in which he had seen nothing: he told three words. The party looked over the pages, but could not find the words. The same happened again. We tried again: he said, "I see two lines—on one *Francais*, and below *Albigeois*." This was right, four leaves off, and near the inside of the page. We turned to another place, and he read, "*descendants les antiquités mysterieux*:" which was right. He was asked to read at four pages; and this was four pages. Again, he said, "I see a curious word—'tis my own name:" and so it was, and four pages off. He had no opportunity of turning over a leaf of this book. Lord L. put a small box into his hand. He was puzzled; but said it was something wrapped up in grey paper, and was a black thing like gum. He had no help or encouragement: he could make out no more. It was Indian rubber. Some one gave him a folded paper with a word. He made it out with only one or two mistakes. It was "Horacie." Lady P. was put in *rapport* with him, and asked him to go to a house in the country. He said he saw water near the house, (yes): a *riviere*, (no): a large pond, (yes): to the left, (yes): five steps to the house, (no). She then said, "Describe the room I am thinking of." "It has two windows, (yes): books, (no): a bed, (yes); two doors, (yes): chimney to the left of the bed, (yes)."

In answer to one question, in which he made a mistake, he said, "but it may be differently arranged since you were there—it is some time since you were there." "Not long," she replied. "About three weeks" (yes). She then asked him to tell her who lived in the room. "A child" (yes): "a boy" (yes): "a relation and a near one" (yes). He was

then wrong about age; and he said that some how he had become confused. We were going to try something else, when, after two or three minutes, he said. "Ah, he is nine years old, (yes): son of the owner of the house, (yes)." She then asked him to describe another room. I only heard part of the description. "Three windows, (yes). Near the window a piano, (yes). A portrait opposite the chimney-piece, (yes). A full-length one, (no). Well, nearly so, (yes). Something on it—not a coat, (yes). To the right a picture of a lady, (yes). Not a portrait, (yes). In white, (the lady seemed doubtful). Pale, and curious looking, (yes). I have seen it often, have I not? (yes). The Virgin, (yes). With the child, (yes). The paper of the room is *rouge foncé*, (yes). The pond is to the right; but there is a wall between, which prevents you seeing it, (yes)."

Lord L. gave him a word folded up in paper. He seemed tired. I knew the word and gave him my hand, which helped him to make it out thus,—“Second letter *o*, (yes); end *ne*, (yes); *i* before *n*, (yes).” The *l* puzzled him a little: the *j* more. He made but few guesses, however, and got them all out right. The word was Joceline.

Miss —— placed herself *en rapport*. “How many brothers have I?” “Three” (yes). Alexis had complained of fatigue before this began. “One older and two younger than you, (yes). The eldest handsome, (yes). In London, (no). Not in London, *c’est curieux*.” He then said he was tired: and being engaged to another *séance*, he was not pressed.

Dr. Costello it appears was present on this occasion, and he sent the following account to the *Medical Times*:—

Sir,—Presenting myself with Mr. Marcillet’s card, I was admitted to a private *séance* in a house in Eaton Square; I had never till this morning seen either M. M., or his subject, M. Alexis. My introduction, through his means, into an exalted private circle, (unfortunately I could not obtain any other,) had, I soon felt, produced an unfavourable impression. Alexis was on my arrival in a state of catalepsy—the inferior extremities, completely rigid, were stretched out and raised a foot or more from the ground. At the mesmeriser’s request, I got up and stood upon the shins of the sleeper without producing any change beyond that of forcing the limbs down a little by my weight (13 stone).

The *rigidity* was removed by a few passes, when a bandage was applied over his eyes, and a pack of cards was given him; he began as for the game of *écarté*, by culling out the lower cards rapidly until the pack was reduced. He made no mistake in this process; but in once throwing over a

seven, and, subsequently, an ace, both of which he recalled immediately. He played a few games, in which he exhibited very great mastery, I had almost said, a perfect knowledge of the cards in his hand. He did not always take the cards in his hand, but sometimes played them from the table on which they lay, backs upwards.

He announced his having the king, proposed for cards also without disturbing them from the position in which the dealer had put them out; once or twice he was asked what cards his adversary had? On one occasion he said the adversary held four red cards; but he failed to name them correctly; but he was right as to the number of red cards. Having mentioned in the house of a gentleman where I had been spending the previous evening, that it was probable I should have an opportunity of being present next day at one of M. Alexis' mesmeric sittings, my friend left the room, and soon returned with a sealed packet, which he delivered to me, in order that I should try if he could describe its contents, and authorized me to open it only after the description was given. He abstained from making me acquainted with its contents. I was thus prepared with an experiment of my own, which I proposed to the gentleman of the house. The proposition was at once refused, and I think properly so, as it was open to the suspicion of collusion. The lady of the mansion now placing herself near Alexis, and informing him that she had passed five or six years in the neighbourhood of Geneva, asked him to describe the house in which she had resided. This he did in the main correctly, stating that there was a garden with flowers, and another with vines, and that it was near water, not a lake, but a river falling into a lake—that she lived with two other persons, and also in another house for a shorter period. But in this description the gentleman affirmed, that there were some mistakes, and continuing to question him, the answers of Alexis did not seem to give him more satisfaction. Mr. Marcillet seemed a good deal chagrined at this, and declared that the gentleman's incredulity had a disturbing influence, which greatly impaired the powers of his subject.

Another gentleman now put himself *en rapport* with Alexis. He wished him to follow him in mind into Lincolnshire, and describe the house he lived in there. Alexis said, "I am with you: but this house is too large for me to describe. Let us fix on some of its rooms." He then described a library—a small room in which there was a bust—not marble, but plaster on a pedestal; and lastly, a very large room, lighted by a dome raised from the centre of the ceiling; he



said there were two fire-places with white marble chimney-pieces, and spoke in terms of admiration of the varied colours of the light admitted into this noble apartment. All these points were assented to as correct. He then followed the questioner, and described a terrace upon which the last room opened. The gentleman of the house then put some questions as to the terrace, and the objects adjacent, the answers to which he stated were incorrect. He next tried to declare the objects contained in a bracelet handed to him by the lady—his efforts were unsatisfactory.

The sitting was now drawing to a close, and having been denied the opportunity of satisfying myself in regard to my friend's sealed packet, I asked permission of M. Marcillet to put a question as to a fact in which I was engaged early on Monday morning. I said I was aware that coming there under the auspices of the mesmeriser, and, moreover, labouring under the disadvantage of not being known to himself, I could well understand that if the answer was satisfactory, it could be so only to myself; but if it were otherwise, I should state it to be so without hesitation. Permission having been courteously granted, I took Alexis by the hand, and asked him to describe the persons, the room, and the act in which I was engaged on Monday morning. He answered, after brief musing, "you are in a room with a person, not on a bed, but a couchette; this person has suffered a great deal; you have been doing something to his head—there is another person also—there are instruments with screws laid out on the table (*des objets mecaniques et á vis*).” While speaking, he kept moving his hands over the front of his person, till he reached the lower part of the abdomen, when he exclaimed suddenly, "*Tiens, vous l'operez aussi au bas ventre, vous operez pour la pierre.*" I was astonished at the minuteness and truthfulness of his description. I asked him if the patient was old or young? he answered, young. The truth was, that I was performing the operation of lithotomy on a gentleman—not young, but 80 years of age,—at Clifton, on the morning of that day, and the room, sofa, and position of the table on which my instruments lay, were as correctly described as if he had been present. It is moreover not a little singular that the patient has an ulceration behind the ear, which his servant dresses for him. This closed the sitting. Of course the correctness of Alexis' answers to me had no influence on the mind of Mr. ——. It might, however, have puzzled him, as it has me, had I been known to him as I trust I am to the members of my own profession.

I remain, &c.,

W. B. COSTELLO.

Golden Square, July 24.

The *Medical Times* contains an account also of an interview ordered by Lord Adare at Mr. Baillièrè's, at which I was present.

Sir,—I take leave to submit to your readers an outline of some extraordinary mesmeric proceedings, which took place on Monday last at a *séance* in the drawing-room of Mr. Baillièrè, the medical publisher. The principal *performer* was the celebrated youth Alexis. The reunion was private, formed at the instance of a noble lord, and composed of some members of his family, with a few visitors, members of the three learned professions.

The magnetic sleep was induced in about five minutes. M. Marcillet operated. The process was simply a fixed gaze of much earnestness. A few convulsive movements of the youth's face were the only phenomena, preceding sleep, which excited my notice. After a moment's repose, he appeared to recover himself; and, though I thought I saw a changed expression of countenance, his appearance by no means indicated that he was not in a natural state: but his eyelids were closed. The task of bandaging his eyes was mine. I first fitted small layers of wadding exactly over the eyelids—successively overlaid these with larger—covered all over with two thick blankets of wadding:—finally, fastened three silk handkerchiefs in a way likely to make vision impossible. Alexis, far from "hesitating dislike," or suggesting objections, as I have seen others who have endeavoured to sustain similar pretensions, shewed an apparent anxiety for every precaution. The day was warm, and the room of not large proportions; but he assured me he did not care for the heat caused by the wadding, desired me to add more, and insisted on drawing the handkerchiefs tighter than I had deemed necessary; allowed me again to add wadding by the side of the nose, to close any possible channel of sight. He advanced in high spirits to a card-table to play *écarté*. This game requires the small cards to be picked out and thrown aside: Alexis accomplished this with all the rapidity, and almost all the accuracy, of a skilled player unbandaged. When he made a blunder, he usually at once corrected it; he never failed to do so when his attention was thither directed. At times he made the most extraordinary discoveries or *guesses*. Thus, with the backs of the cards turned towards him, he would single one almost in the centre of the pack, correctly naming and discarding it before the card's face could have come in contact with ocular vision, supposing him to have after all enjoyed it. He more than once distinctly named the cards in his opponent's hand, and seemed to play throughout with a tolerably correct sense of the cards he had dealt both sides.

He occasionally mistook—but speedily saw his error; and though bandaged, as I have said, he saw his opponent's cards *when played*, and his own *when in hand*, with exactly the same ease and unvarying accuracy as would be possible with his eyes entirely free. There was no straining of the face; no attempt to see from any point above, below, or beside the bandage. He is one of the most expeditious players I have seen. Whatever the secret of his astonishing readiness with the cards, I am quite sure it was no ordinary ocular vision.

The marvels did not end here: he desired the table to be removed to the furthest part of the dining-room, remaining himself in his old position. There was the same clairvoyance and success. He suddenly took off the bandages and wadding, offered to do the same thing with his back turned, and still there was the same result. His explanation was, that there was a general power of sight about his body, and that distant objects appeared close to him. During these experiments he seemed in a state of extreme nervous excitement, evidenced at times by much oscillation of the body, accompanied by short exhibitions of impatience. There was no trace of anxiety; there was mental exaltation to excess; yet apparently pleasurable.

A book was brought: the *Regne Animale* of Cuvier. He spelt slowly and with difficulty a word in the page *below* that which was open before him. The paper was equal to *very* stout letter-paper. Though but the *first*, he supposed it to have been the fifth page below. He took about ten pages between his hands: holding them up perpendicularly, under his eyes, he spelt a word in the centre of one of the central pages,—on reference, correctly. He was taken to the title-page, between which and sight three pages of thick paper interposed: he described an engraving, and fixed the date printed as 1842. On reference, a medallion portrait of Cuvier was there, *but no date*. The nervous excitement I had noticed, while he was card-playing, seemed about this time much lessened.

A card pill-box, enclosing some writing, was given. He made several attempts to decipher the MS., but was declared to have failed. The word written was "*Rouen*," given in a pointed, lady's hand, by which the letter *u* was not very distinguishable from *n*; and the whole it must be confessed, was not very legible to a French youth. I put a word, in large round letters, in the box: he asked for my hand: I was desired to will that he might know the word: he asked if there was an *a* in it? I answered, "yes:" an *s*? I answered, "yes:" he said it consisted of five letters?—again, "yes:"

he called for a pencil, and immediately wrote, "*Paris*." The same experiment was tried by another gentleman, with the word, "*France*," with a similar result.

His travelling powers were next essayed. He gave to a lady a description of a country residence; true in many singular particulars, incorrect in others. One of the truths was,—that a certain lady, whose age he accurately named, was in a certain room (which was *partially* well described)—she was neither sitting nor standing—she was unwell in bed: the cause of illness was named. To the noble lord he spoke with general accuracy of a gallery of paintings in his country-house—described two painted windows—spoke of the sun as shining on one of them, and accurately fixed which of the two. His lordship wrongly called it a cellar, but the youth insisted that it was a gallery. The look-out from the house was also described truly, except that a river before it was declared covered with boats. He was told that there were no boats—he went from "*bateaux*" to "*canards*." A lady thought that, seen at a distance, sailing boats and white-winged fowl might be confounded.

A lady, who had lost a bracelet enquired about it. He said, that she had had it about four years; first fact;—that she was accustomed to twirl it round her wrist; second fact;—that a fat lady, whose name he partially syllabled, had found it. This was doubtful; but such a name was known to the loser as possessed by a neighbour.

A more satisfactory *statement* concluded the experiments. A lady, related to the noble lord present, asked the number of her children? "One—a boy." "Where was he?" "In a country-house, twenty miles from London?" "With whom?" "His aunt." A mistake. He guessed again: "It was the lady's mother!" So it was. He added: "It rained where the boy was—he was, therefore, in the house: his name was D——." Everything true but the rain; and, in Regent-street, though the day was very fine then, in half an hour, we had violent showers of rain.

Alexis was now aroused.

Though I went to these experiments without prepossession, watched them without favour, and narrate them with my utmost fairness and good faith, I know I risk some character for common sense in making them known. It is dangerous to tell an extraordinary truth: still more, to affirm extraordinary things, whose demonstration falsifies opinions which have been held for ages demonstrated. But be it recollected that the farthest liberty I take is to say what I *think* I have seen. I do not expect any one to give up their reasons for

my impressions ; and few, of course, will not sooner believe my impressions false than these marvels true. But, in any case, there are marvels to be believed. Whatever side taken, we must be credulous. M. Marcillet was the only person who could help a collusion. He was in a strange room, among strangers ; no mechanical aids, possible of appliance. He was watched : he was separated from the patient : his voice was the only thing that could guide the youth ; and he spoke little, and then but mere words of very natural encouragement. How could any aid of M. Marcillet help Alexis to deal with such ready and instantaneous judgment with the hundred unforeseen and complicated contingencies arising in the shuffling, cutting, and playing a pack of cards ? By what *chance* were his *guesses* so right ? By what ingenuity of contrivance was he tutored that a box impenetrable to sight, contained a specific word out of so many thousands—a word unknown to myself one minute before writing—and *only* to myself when written ? Supposing one deceived on so many successive and plain matters of obvious fact, how could so many others ? But it is useless to expand on the difficulties which surround the hypothesis of fraud and collusion. If it be, *a priori*, improbable that Alexis has the power he pretends to—it is, *a priori*, improbable that under such circumstances he could achieve such tricks with ordinary capabilities. A *moral* is just as difficult of achievement as a *physical* impossibility ; and there is just this to be said of the *first*, that we know much more about the laws constituting or governing it, than we do of the second. *All* may feel the difficulty of fully *believing* these phenomena : only those who have seen Alexis under such favourable circumstances as myself, can feel the difficulty of fully resisting them.

I am, Sir,

Very faithfully yours,

T. PIERS HEALEY.

2, Elm Court, Temple—July 1.

The following was sent to the *Medical Times* by the Rev. Mr. Sandby :—

Sir,—I have read with much interest the letter of Mr. Healey, that appeared in the last No. of the *Medical Times*, narrating what took place with Alexis, at M. Baillièrè's, the well-known publisher of Regent Street. Having been present during part of the *séance*, I can attest the general accuracy of his statement. Where, however, Mr. H. says, that the noble lord, to whom he refers, “wrongly called a place

in his country-house a *cellar*, while the youth insisted that it was a *gallery*," he misunderstood *cellar* for *salon*, thereby weakening the effect of the correct description which the *clairvoyant* gave.

As you are not unwilling to receive *facts*, perhaps you will permit me to state a few striking circumstances that occurred on Tuesday, the 2nd inst., at a private *reunion*, in Welbeck Street.

Alexis was bandaged most carefully: cotton-wool and handkerchiefs were not merely placed over and below the eyes, but over and *below the nose*: and, in this state, he read six or seven lines, out of a French book, opened at random, with an ease and a rapidity of utterance that I could scarcely imitate in my own language. He repeated the experiment with another passage, when the hand of a gentleman was interposed between the face and the volume, and he succeeded completely. He read a few words, through five or six thick pages of the same volume; and this he did two or three times, not failing once.

The room was rather full, and Alexis, being greatly oppressed by the heat, threw off the bandages, and remained the rest of the morning with his eyes unfettered: and now came the more astounding occurrences.

A lady, of my acquaintance, wrote the word "Alexis," and placed the paper in a tortoise-shell card-case; and in a short time the youth read the word *through the card-case*. The card was torn, and he said it was *dechiré*. The card-case was never out of the lady's sight, till he gave the name.

A gentleman placed a thick envelope, sealed up, with the word "Marie," written upon a slip of paper inserted in it: Alexis was not long before he detected what the word was.

But it is to the following striking fact that I more particularly direct your attention.

An officer, of long standing in the army, who was severely wounded at Waterloo, and is well known in the highest military circles, was one of the company present. He was an unbeliever, and knew nothing of mesmerism, and had never seen or scarcely heard of Alexis,—but having been accidentally invited to join the party, and been told that the young man had the power of reading through opaque objects, he determined to bring his talent rigidly to the test.

He produced a morocco case, eight inches long, and an inch and a half thick, looking like a surgical instrument case, or a small jewel-case. It was placed in the hands of Alexis, who held it for a short time in silence, and then gradually and slowly gave the following description:—

“The object within the case is a hard substance.”

“It is folded in an envelope.”

“The envelope is whiter than the thing itself.” (The envelope was a piece of silver-paper.)

“It is a kind of ivory.”

“It has a point (pique) at one end” (which is the case).

“It is a bone.”

“Taken from a body”—

“From a human body”—

“From your body.”

“The bone has been separated and cut, so as to leave a *flat side*.”

This was true: the bone, which was a piece of the colonel's leg, and sawed off after the wound, is *flat* towards the part that enclosed the marrow.

Here, Alexis removed the piece of bone from the case, and placed his finger on a part, and said, “The ball struck *here*.” (True.)

“It was an extraordinary ball, as to its effect.”

“You received *three* separate injuries at the same moment.” (Which was the case, for the ball broke or burst into three pieces, and injured the colonel in three places in the same leg.)

“You were wounded in the *early part* of the day, whilst charging the enemy.” (Which was the fact.)

Here the description ended: and what does the sceptic reply to our statement? That M. Marcillet, as a colleague, was assisting Alexis? M. Marcillet, in common with every other person in the room, was himself ignorant of what the case contained.—That the gallant officer was in collusion? It were a waste of time to meet so monstrous a suggestion.—That Alexis had learned by accident, and before-hand, what the case contained? The thing was impossible: no one in the room was aware of the contents: only two or three persons present were acquainted with the colonel, and he and Alexis had never before met.

There is but one answer to the whole transaction, viz.: that CLAIRVOYANCE IS A FACT IN NATURE—a real existing fact in philosophy—be the explanation what it may.

At the same time, it must be said, that the *power is not always on Alexis*: it varies greatly—many things act with a disturbing effect—he guesses—he makes mistakes—he is sometimes wholly wrong: this must be admitted. But a hundred failures cannot upset four or five positive facts: those facts are certain: yet still it must be owned that this singular power is not always upon the young man.

It is easy to say, that the thing is an impossibility—that it is contrary to the laws of Nature: the question recurs—What are the laws of Nature?—and what is an impossibility?

One thing certainly seems an impossibility; where a man has committed himself to the opinion, that “mesmerism *shall* not be true,” it seems *impossible*, even by the strongest and most unequivocal evidence, to bring him to a candid and willing confession of his error.

The facts, above stated, can be corroborated by several gentlemen who were present.

I enclose you my own card and address, and the name of the gallant officer who produced the morocco case, and beg to subscribe myself,

Your humble servant,

CLERICUS.

July 8th, 1844.

Lord Adare has obliged me with his notes of this interview:—

July 2.—I saw Alexis at the house of M. Dupuis. He was bandaged as usual. After various performances with cards, a book was opened and held upright before him, which he read with great rapidity. He was then asked to read some words through several pages, and a book was opened; he felt about on the page with his fingers, and said “*Literature Espagnol.*” We found these words twenty-seven leaves off. He then read words enclosed in envelopes and in a visiting case, given him by different persons. One gentleman declared he would believe nothing unless Alexis could read a word that he would give him, and he handed him an envelope. Alexis turned it about, and said “This contains a visiting card; I cannot clearly read the English word, but I will run a pin through the letter *h* which I see, and also through the centre of the address.” This he did quite accurately. A lady gave him a letter; he took her hand; she asked how long the letter had been written: “About two months.” It was two and a half. He then said it was written by a relation,—a brother, (yes), who was very very far off, beyond the sea, (He is in India); he wears a costume “*tres curieux.*” He then described his face and appearance, and the lady said she could not have described him better herself.

Col. Llewellyn, who was I believe rather sceptical, produced a morocco case, something like a surgical instrument case. Alexis took it, placed it to his stomach, and said “The object is a hard substance, not white, enclosed in something



more white than itself. It is a bone, taken from a greater body; a human bone,—yours; it has been separated, and cut so as to leave a flat side.” Alexis opened the case, took out a piece of bone wrapped in silver-paper, and said, “The ball struck here; it was an extraordinary ball in effect; you received three separate injuries at the same moment; the bone was broken into three pieces; you were wounded early in the day, whilst engaged in charging the enemy.” He also described the dress of the soldiers, and was right in all these particulars. This excited the astonishment of all the bystanders, especially the gallant Colonel.

This account is drawn up not only from my own notes, but from Col. Llewellyn’s statement made after the *séance*, and from a written account given me by a lady who was sitting close by.

The following was given me by a lady who was present at a private exhibition of Alexis in Welbeck Street.

Alexis took a letter I offered to him, concerning the writer of which M. Marcillet informed him I was anxious to learn all the information he could afford me. He took hold of my hand, and looking at the letter for a moment, he told me I had received the letter more than a fortnight since,—nearly a month indeed had elapsed since it had reached me; that it came *d’ontre mer*, a very long way, and had been written two months. The writer was a gentleman—some connexion—nearly related—in fact he was my brother. I then asked Alexis whether the gentleman was in good health, and whether he could describe him to me. He at once replied, after looking intently as if he saw some object in front of him, “I see him very plain; he is about 35.” To which I objected, saying he was very much younger. “Then he is at least 28 or 30; he certainly looks as old,—older than you. I added he was still wrong, but that the gentleman certainly looked that age; had always been considered to have the appearance of being eight or ten years older than he in reality was; (a remark which has been most frequently and forcibly made by the greater part of his acquaintance). Alexis proceeded to say he was neither short nor tall, (*gros*), with dark eyes, very long hair (*fonée*) which he continually cast off his face by throwing back his head, an action which he imitated as he spoke, and which was a most fixed and continual habit with my brother in reading. He in reply to an enquiry whether he was pale or not, said “*Oh, non; c’est un beau teint.*” He described him to be living in a house, and not very far from an island; and that he had been very lately on

board some vessel. His dress he said was white, but something green he had which he could not discover. "*Mais que c'est drôle, dites moi donc et que c'est.*" I was unable to assist him with the solution of the enigma, which seemed to have made so great an impression that he twice returned to the subject, after having made other remarks, with the observation, "*Mais que cela en embarrasse c'est une chose si drôle que peut être.*" Alexis, after repeating that the person had been at sea, told me I had not seen my brother for some time,—that it was full two years and a half since we parted; that I might rest satisfied he was in perfect health, and that he wished I could tell him what the green colour which embarrassed him in the dress was; returned me my letter, with the assurance that he would be happy to give me further information to-morrow. In addition, I can only say that in every assertion that Alexis made he was borne out by the facts; the time of departure and arrival of the letter was quite correct. The position of my brother's residence being singularly true: he being about 100 miles from the Island of Bombay. It was but little more than two years and a half since my brother and myself had separated; and if I had wished to describe him I could not have used any language more appropriate, even to the peculiarity which he had of continually shaking from off his face his very long hair. Concerning Alexis' assertion, that he had been lately "*Sur un navire,*" I can only say, I have every reason to believe, that about the time specified by Alexis—the end of June or beginning of July—my brother did cross from the main land to Bombay.

The following is an account of what occurred at Lady Blessington's, and was given me by Count d'Orsay:—

Alexis, having been put in a state of somnambulism, had a large piece of cotton wool placed over each eye, after which three handkerchiefs were closely bound on; he then rose from his chair, and placing himself at the table, proceeded to open a new pack of cards, which he shuffled and arranged with greater rapidity than his antagonist; he played two or three games of *écarté*, winning each time, and telling, not only his own cards, but those of the other person.

One of the guests took from the shelf the first book that presented itself; Alexis, then, with his eyes bandaged and his outspread hand placed on the page, read the passage which the hand covered. It was then proposed that he should, without turning the leaf, read what was printed four pages beyond the one before him. He agreed, but said he would prefer taking off the bandages, as the heat greatly incom-

moded him. This being done, he, still looking at the page before him, read slowly, but correctly, two lines of verse, which were indeed found on the fifth page from the one open.

A gentleman then placing himself *en rapport* with him, by taking his hand, asked him to describe his room; but in this he failed, evidently guessing at random instead of employing *clairvoyance*. A folded paper containing the word "Marguerite" was then given him, and another with a sketch of a fox: the first he said contained a word with ten letters, but he could not read it; the second he described as an animal—he believed a dog—sitting down.

Another person then took his hand, and pointing to a gentleman, (whose name Alexis did not know,) asked him to describe a certain picture in his apartment. He said he saw a very large picture without a frame; at one side was a great building, from the windows of which men were firing; in the centre was a man on horseback—*an dèse de l'ecole Polytechnique*, and round him were a number of men. The building was the Louvre, and the scene represented the French Revolution of 1830. All these particulars were correct to the letter, and he described some others, which I do not at this moment recollect, but which were equally true. He was then asked by the same person to describe another picture. He said it was large, but not so large as the preceding one: it was a portrait representing a man in a very singular costume,—full length. He could not exactly describe the costume, but it was dark, with a great deal of white in front, and a white stiff ruff round the neck: the wearer was fair, with the hair thrown back from the temples, and with large whiskers:—this was equally correct. Upon being asked whether the original of the picture was in the room, and if he could point him out; he replied that he was, and that if all the persons present would come and take his hand, he could tell which it was; this he did without hesitation. He then described the adjoining room, the pictures, their position, dress, &c.

A lady, of whose name he was ignorant, then took his hand, and at her request he described with *tolerable* accuracy the position of her house, its proximity to the sea, its distance from London, &c. He said there were five young ladies in the house, four of them her daughters; the name of the eldest was spelt with five letters, but he then corrected himself, and said in English it had only four; that it was *Marie*, or *Mary* in English. He then told the names of the other three according to their ages, which was the more extraordinary, as two of the three were English names which

he had never heard before. He then read the word "Marguerite," which had at first puzzled him, made out a second word, and also a playing card closely enveloped in paper, describing not only the face, but the colour or pattern of the back.

I received the following account from Dr. Edward Johnson :

Stanstead Bury House,  
July 24th, 1844.

Dear Sir,—I am requested by M. Marcillet, and by several ladies and gentlemen, to write to you on the subject of an exhibition of his peculiar powers lately made by Alexis (17th inst.) before a large and highly respectable party, at which I was present ; the motive for writing to you being simply the performance of an act of justice to the exhibitor, and to those who do not consider him an impostor. Immediately after he had been thrown into the mesmeric condition, I applied a large roll of cotton-wool over each eye, fixing the rolls in their position by means of two folded handkerchiefs bound tightly round the head and over the eyes, their lower edge extending down to the tip of the nose. He then took his place at a card table, opposite to a sceptical friend of mine, who had agreed to play a game of *écarté* with him. As yet there were no cards. These I had in my own pocket—a new pack which had never yet been unsealed. I had bought them in London the day before, and they had never left my pocket until the moment that they were called for. I now tore off the sealed envelope, and placed them on the table. Alexis immediately took them up, and rapidly prepared them for *écarté*, by discarding all the two's, three's, &c. He did this *rapidly* and without *any hesitation*. Once he threw out a wrong card, but immediately discovered the mistake and picked it up again, and replaced it in the pack. He told his adversary every card he held in his hand. A gentleman, after the game was over, took a card secretly from the pack, and placed it on the table, the blank side upwards. Alexis immediately told him it was the nine of hearts, and it was so. A gentleman (the same who had played at *écarté*) now produced from his pocket a sealed packet, and said, "This sealed envelope contains another sealed envelope, and this second contains a third also sealed, and the third contains a piece of paper on which I have written one word, which no eye has seen but my own. I have had it in my pocket ever since I sealed it, and I now desire to know from Alexis what is the

word which I have written." Alexis took the packet in his hand, and with the other grasped the hand of the gentleman. Within a minute and a half, or, at most, two minutes, he said, "The word is *Helléne*." It was so. A lady in the company had given to a gentleman a small nosegay, *before Alexis arrived*, saying, "This I send by you to Alexis—wear it in your button-hole till he comes; take an opportunity of giving it to him when we are all assembled, and request him to discover, if he can, from which of the company it has been sent." When the exhibition was about half over, the gentleman suddenly presented the nosegay to Alexis, and made the desired request. Alexis immediately rose, and went round the circle, taking hold of the hand of each for a moment or so, and then letting it go. No person in the room, except the lady and the gentleman above mentioned, knew anything of the matter. When he came to the lady who really sent it, he hesitated, and held her hand a long time—then took the hand of the next lady, and hesitated again—then recurred to the real lady—then went and sat down apparently disappointed. It was remarked that these two ladies were sitting hand in hand, and when this observation was made they separated their hands—and instantly, with a slight exclamation, Alexis rose and walked rapidly over straight to the true lady, and thanked her for having given him the flowers. Several similar experiments were now made by others; pins, brooches, rings, &c., were secretly sent him, and he never once failed to discover, merely by feeling the hands of the company, from whom each article had come. He did this quickly, and with great precision. He astonished one lady by telling her that "*the ring which she had sent him, was a joint present from two persons—that these two persons were her sister and brother-in-law—that it was given to her in South America, and in the town of Rio Janeiro*,"—and it was so. These are a few of the very extraordinary things which he did, to which I have nothing to add except that I am perfectly sure he could not see with his eyes, and that any kind of collusion was utterly impossible. For my own part, I do not find it a whit more difficult to believe that the brain may be occasionally endowed with an extra faculty or sense, just as easily as the foot with an extra toe, the hand with an extra finger, or the breast with an extra nipple—which we know occasionally happens. But of the nature of this extra sense we can no more conceive than a blind man can conceive of colours, or deaf men of sounds.

I am, dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

EDWARD JOHNSON.

This letter was afterwards sent me by the Rev. H. B. Sims.

My Dear Sir,—I have to thank you for the opportunity you kindly afforded me of perusing Dr. Johnson's letter, containing an account of some mesmeric phenomena, exhibited by Alexis at Stanstead Bury. Having been present, I have great pleasure in adding my testimony to that of Dr. Johnson, as to the complete success of Alexis on this occasion, and I can also bear witness to the fidelity and accuracy with which the various instances of clairvoyance are detailed. But one case, which as it is not mentioned by that gentleman, did not I presume fall under his immediate cognizance, is I think too curious and too conclusive to remain unrecorded. A lady, residing in this neighbourhood, who had never before witnessed any mesmeric experiments, brought with her a casket which she had enveloped in a piece of printed paper and carefully sealed up. She presented it to Alexis, and asked him what it contained. He said, "Something white and hard: that it was metallic, but not of the precious metals; had two faces (figures) upon it, one of a man, the other a female face; and that he saw on the other side something *entrelassée*." He added that it had been made about a year. The paper was then taken off, and the casket opened. It proved to contain a medal struck on occasion of the launch of the Great Britain steam-ship, which took place, within six or seven days, just a year before. It had on one side heads of the Queen and Prince Albert, on the reverse a representation of the steam-ship, which with its shrouds and rigging, was well described by the term, *entrelassée*. He also wrote down, before the seal was broken, two English words, which on opening the paper were found to form part of what was printed upon it.

The *séance* lasted nearly three hours, during which time Alexis had been exercising his power of clairvoyance, in a great variety of ways, without, as I believe, a single failure: though he made a few unimportant mistakes while playing at cards. The company present, about forty in number, were so satisfied that they would not allow him to continue his exhibition, though he was perfectly willing to have done so, the mesmeric influence appearing unimpaired.

You asked me for some details of an interview I had with Alexis last year in Paris, where I first became acquainted with him. I was, previously, an obstinate unbeliever in the clairvoyant wonders of mesmerism; but having one evening heard some very startling facts related by a person whose veracity I could not question, I resolved to pay Alexis a visit the following morning, that I might, from personal experience,

form an opinion on the truth or falsehood of what I had so long disbelieved. I was accompanied by a friend, and we had a private *séance*. Alexis was in a very few minutes placed in the mesmeric trance, and having had his eyes carefully bandaged, played at *écarté*, read from a book, &c. &c., with great success and facility. I then sat down by him, and asked to have some conversation with him. He took my hand. I asked him if he could tell me where I lived. After a good deal of hesitation he said, "North-east of London;" and gave the distance very correctly in leagues. He then said, "There is a railroad which leads to your part of the country. There are two branches to this railroad, and your house is situated on the left branch; and on the right side of that branch—" He then called for a sheet of paper, and began to draw a map of the part of the country he was describing. He delineated the railway with great correctness, marking the branch which turns off eastward at Stratford, and continuing the other to a point where he said there was a station. He gave a very minute account of the position of this station, answering in all points to that of Roydon; the river running nearly parallel to it, and the bridge immediately in front: and he also described with much truth the general character and appearance of the surrounding country, and said that the railroad extended only three or four leagues from this point, which is the fact. He then marked on his chart another station, a few miles farther on, and gave exactly the relative distant and position of my house with these two stations. He then said, "Now let us go to your house," and proceeded to give a sketch of the road with its various turnings. As he approached the house he was more minute, and described with singular correctness the sudden descent; the brook about half as wide as the road, the steep ascent on the other side, and the gateway on the right hand of the road. He gave the distance of the house from the gateway very exactly, mentioned a piece of water on the right with ducks upon it, (I keep a few wild-ducks,) and described the position of the stables, &c. The perfect accuracy of the whole of this minute description was truly astonishing.

I then asked him if there was any one living in the house during my absence from home. He said, "Yes; there was only one person—a gentleman," (which was the fact); and he then proceeded to state his age and describe his character and appearance, as correctly as if he had been well and personally known to him. I should mention that the gentleman who accompanied me was entirely unacquainted with this part of England; that I had not mentioned to him the subject on

which I proposed to question Alexis,; and, in fact, that neither to him nor to any soul in Paris but myself, were the foregoing particulars known. The *séance* had now lasted nearly an hour; and the mesmeric influence appeared to be on the wane. He began to make mistakes, and I would not suffer him to proceed, being perfectly satisfied with what he had already done, and entertaining a firm conviction, which has been strengthened by subsequent experience that he really possesses the power he professes to exercise.

I am no mesmerist: till I myself witnessed these things no one could be more incredulous on the subject; but I should not be doing justice either to Alexis or M. Marcillet, who have been unfairly stigmatized as cheats and impostors, if I hesitated to declare my firm belief that the former is endowed with a most wonderful and mysterious faculty, extending far beyond what we have hitherto considered the limits of those powers which have been granted by providence to the human race.

I am, my dear Sir,  
faithfully Yours,

Parndon, Dec. 20, 1844.

HENRY B. SIMS.

The following is an account of what occurred at the house of my friend the Rev. Thos. Robertson, of Blandford Square, and was drawn up by another friend, Mr. Kirby of Blandford Square, and approved by Mr. Robertson:—

On the 9th of July last, Alexis exhibited his extraordinary powers at the house of a gentleman in Blandford Square, before a party of about thirty ladies and gentlemen, at eight in the evening.

Being placed in an easy chair M. Marcillet, the operator, put Alexis into the mesmeric sleep, by what appeared to be a strong effort of the will, communicated by a fixed look, without any passes whatever. This was effected in about ten minutes, after many convulsions of the face, which were anything but agreeable to look upon.

The business of the evening began with the usual experiments of rendering rigid the muscles of the arms and legs,—the legs being made to support the weight of another person, &c.

In the act of bandaging the eyes, preparatory to playing at cards, the anxiety on the part of some of the company to make assurance doubly sure, was so great as to annoy Alexis; and after many efforts to satisfy the most sceptical, the bandages were thrown off altogether, Alexis refusing to have any, and he sat down to *écarté*, his eyes closed but unbound, and



played two or three games, his own cards with their faces turned down upon the table; he every time selected the card to be played correctly, with one exception, and only once or twice held his cards with their faces towards him, as a player would do in the natural state. The game abruptly terminated by his adversary desiring to increase the difficulty by covering his own cards with an additional row of cards; this greatly irritated Alexis, who, as interpreted by M. Marcillet, was annoyed at this additional proof of a predetermination to believe that the whole was a trick or wilful deception.

One of the company put into his hands a sheet of paper folded several times, so as to prevent a knowledge of what was written within by an effort of ordinary vision: the words written were "*Vin de Champagne.*" After turning the paper about in his hands for some time, putting it to his chest, &c., he said the first word began with *V* and contained three letters, by degrees he declared the whole correctly. A box and other packets were produced of which he did not succeed in declaring the contents, but a watch case being put into his hand by the lady of the house, he proceeded to state that it contained a small thing enclosing some hair which was grey, and that round a circle of gold were engraved the names of a lady and gentleman with a date, the year being 1808, and the month abbreviated, ending with *y* "*(y grec).*" When told he was wrong in the year, he corrected himself by saying it was 1809, and in this he was right. He was then told the hair was not grey, being that of a young person, but he persisted in saying that the hair was grey, and when the case was opened it was found to enclose a very small locket containing hair of a greyish appearance from having become mildewed; a very small inscription engraved on the rim of the locket, difficult for any one to read, contained the names of a lady and gentleman with the date of January, 1809. This must be considered a very successful experiment, the object having been in possession of the gentleman of the house, immediately before it was put into his hand, and the apparent errors having been satisfactorily explained.

But the most interesting and valuable experiment was the following, because the gentleman who applied it, one of the most sceptical, had declared that he should be perfectly satisfied of the genuine clairvoyance of Alexis if it succeeded. This gentleman took from his pocket a small French book, entitled, "*Le petit Carême de Massillon,*" and desired Alexis to read the title page, over which he had placed firmly a sheet of writing paper doubled so as effectually to conceal the print from ordinary vision. Alexis applied the book to his chest,

afterwards to the back of his head, and in a very gradual manner, but in a short time, read the title correctly.

The master of the house put himself *en rapport* with Alexis, by taking his hand and then desired him to tell him what he found in his dining room, the *séance* being in the drawing room above. Alexis described most accurately the position of the door, windows, &c., and then said "*Il-y-a trois tables, une grande et deux petites,*" this was correct. He mentioned correctly also the pictures, &c., he said there was a bust of a gentleman in one corner, which looked like the bust of a dead rather than a living man; that there was a table between the windows, on which were three books, one without a cover. The room had been arranged in these particulars by the gentleman of the house for the purpose of the experiment, and to guard against the accidental entry into that room of Alexis on his arrival, he had locked the door and pocketed the key. The description was most accurate throughout, the peculiar appearance of the bust being accounted for by its being a plaster cast from life *with the eyes closed*. Another gentleman asked Alexis to accompany him to his house (in the same Square but this was not told him), he immediately said there were trees in front—a park; and when desired to describe the dining room, he said there were two windows, &c. He erred in the colour of the curtains, but told the gentleman that there was a picture containing two figures—lovers; the lady with something in her hand—roses, picking them to pieces and throwing them down (describing the manner by gesture). All this is a most accurate description of the last Art Union print, and what is curious the gentleman denied at first there was such an article, having only lately placed it there. The erroneous part of his description was that the man had a poignard in a belt—a belt there is but no poignard. At first he declared the dresses were those of savages, when told he was wrong, he said they were Spanish or Italian. He was then told there was a piece of art over the fire-place in the same room, when he said "*Oui c'est en plâtre—il-y-a deux figures, une femme et un petit amour, il-y-a encore une autre figure, c'est un animal fabuleux, pas tout visible.*" Now this is so near the fact as to be quite astonishing considering that Alexis had never been in the house referred to, and received not the smallest hint except that above mentioned. The object referred to is a group in plaster, by Davis, expressive of maternal affection,—a female in great horror endeavours to crush a serpent with her foot, while a little boy entirely naked with its back to the spectator clings to her. When he was told the third figure was not that of a fabulous animal,

he said, "*c'est un viscau,*" and finally "*c'est un serpent.*" The serpent is not wholly visible, and with the exception of a wrong notion of it, which he at length corrected, the description was strikingly correct.

The experiments concluded by his telling the Christian names of several ladies present, which he did accurately with more or less labour; the name of one gentleman he failed to give, apparently because the name was different in English than in French. Towards the close of the evening a young lady placed in his hands a piece of paper, doubled up several times, in which she had written in pencil, "*Vous êtes gentil,*" he did not declare this, not apparently because he could not, but waived it by saying, "*Ce la ne vaut pas la peine.*"

On the one hand, though it cannot be asserted that he did not fail in several matters put before him, he succeeded in others to a surprising extent, not to be accounted for as the act of a conjuror, as sleight-of-hand, or fraud, or by collusion with others,—founded in either of these it might fairly be expected that the tricks would have been better performed. The vision obtained though out of ordinary course appears to be limited and imperfect; the answers are more clearly given to those who are *en rapport* with him, and who fix their own minds exclusively on the things or ideas treated of.

*Report of an Interview with Alexis, July 19, 1844, at the house of John Auldjo, Esq., F.R.S. Drawn up by that Gentleman himself; and published first in the Medical Times, and now with his permission republished, with some emendations by Mr. Auldjo.*

" Multa sunt Naturæ miracula incompetæ rationis, et in Naturæ majestate penitus abdita."

" ——— and art thou shocked at mysteries

The greatest—thou—"

" ——— Truths—

By truths enlighten'd and sustain'd, afford  
An arch-like, strong foundation, to support  
The incumbent weight of absolute, complete  
Conviction; here, the more we press, we stand  
More firm; who most examine, most believe.  
Parts, like half sentences, confound, the whole  
Conveys the sense."

[The following report was written immediately after the interview, and has been corrected by most of the party who were present. Of that party, consisting of twenty-eight, seven ladies and eleven gentlemen were perfect unbelievers in the powers of mesmerism, and particularly in those of clairvoyance. The remaining ten, six ladies and four gentlemen, were not sceptical, some having seen cases of mesmerism,

and two or three having witnessed successful exhibitions of clairvoyance.

Fair and courteous means were resorted to by the unbelievers to test the powers of Alexis as a clairvoyant, and detect what they believed to be imposture. The success of the greater part of the tests he was subjected to, was not only extraordinary but convincing—every one was satisfied, that there was no imposture, no collusion; but that there did exist a very wonderful, though inexplicable power; and as was observed by one of the gentlemen present, “it would be irrational to set down as imposture everything which we cannot account for; this principle would stifle all discovery.”]

An arrangement having been made for Alexis to exhibit his powers of clairvoyance to a party of ladies and gentlemen, on the afternoon of the 19th of July, a piece of fine chamois leather was procured, some cotton, such as is used for the wadding of ladies' dresses, three large silk handkerchiefs were got ready, and a very strong solution of gum was prepared. Neither Alexis nor Monsieur Marcillet had ever been in the house, or had been seen by any of the party, except two, and that only in public, at one of the exhibitions in Mortimer-street. The party, in the drawing-room, having assembled, to the number of twenty-eight, Alexis was introduced, and having been put into a state of lucid somnambulism by Monsieur Marcillet, his eyes were covered with two circular pieces of the chamois leather, well moistened with the gum. The leather was so placed as to cover the ball of the eye (the upper eyelid being closed over the ball), the eyebrows, and the cheek down to the edge of the nostril; over the leather was placed a quantity of cotton, covering the whole, and extending to the mouth. The silk handkerchiefs were then tied over, so that two were across the eyes transversely, coming on each side below the nose, and by the corners of the mouth, and under the ears. The third was bound round the head horizontally over the other, covering the top of the nose, and was tied over the ears, keeping the other two in their position. There was thus left only space sufficient for respiration, and every one in the room felt certain that his eyes were covered in such a manner that it was impossible for him to see by any movements or contortions of the cheek; he did not make any, nor did he attempt to displace the bandaging, and particular care was taken to prevent his interfering with it.

Being seated at a card table, a pack of cards were taken at hazard from among several other packs, in a card-box, belonging to the house, each pack being still in its stamped cover, so that the possibility of the cards having been tam-

pered with, or even seen by Alexis, or Monsier Marcillet, is out of the question. The cards had coloured backs, and were of the ordinary thickness of English playing cards. The cover being taken off and the pack placed on the table, Alexis observed, "they were not *écarté* cards," and proceeded to separate with rapidity the small cards, which were unnecessary for that game, (all under seven, except the ace) from the rest, making two mistakes in his haste, which he himself observed and corrected. He then cut for deal with the gentleman who had sat down to play with him; he played four games, naming the cards in his adversary's hands, choosing cards from the whole pack when he required a few more cards, selecting trump cards for himself, and low ones of other suits for his adversary, naming the cards of both hands, those of his own having their faces to the table and unturned, and, in fact, satisfying the most sceptical, that the whole pack, with its back towards him, was as visible to him blindfolded, as if the faces of the cards were exposed to his common sight. He then played three games with another gentleman, and made two or three mistakes, such as selecting three spades from the pack, when he had thrown away three cards, believing spades to be trumps, when clubs were, and finding out his error, acknowledged he had mistaken the turned-up card. He then named cards in his adversary's hands, mistaking, however, the knave of hearts for the queen on one occasion. He also named cards with their faces on the table, selecting particular cards from the pack, and played his game, naming his cards without touching them.

No one else being desirous of playing with him, a book was taken at hazard off a table near at hand, which book it was impossible that Alexis or Marcillet could have examined previously. It was about to be opened by a gentleman, and given to him, but Alexis said, as soon as the book was brought near him, "*nous sommes dans le Department des Landes,*" and putting it open on the top of his head, immediately said there was a picture of two men on stilts, and that they were *les habitants des Landes*, and that this was, also, the title of the descriptive part on the next page. This was so, and the work *Les François peint par eux memes*.

Several sheets of letter paper, doubly folded, were then thrust into the closed volume, and opened at the part where the paper was inserted, the paper completely covering the letter-press; he then, with a pencil, wrote a line, which, he said, contained the words of a line of the printed page underneath; on removing the paper, it proved to be correct. He, also, pierced the writing paper with a pin, so as to transfix two or

three of the words which he previously mentioned, correctly. During the whole of the exhibition, up to this time, it is to be recollected that the bandages were over the eyes.

The handkerchiefs were now removed; the gum having flowed a little from underneath the leather, the cotton was found gummed to the skin of the cheek, near the nose, and the leather adhered firmly in every part over the eye, so that there was not the slightest possibility of his seeing in any way from under it. One leather was removed with much trouble by a sponge and hot water, at the same time, giving him pain. Calling Monsieur Marcillet to him, he desired him to magnetise the other eye to a state of insensibility, which, being done, the remaining leather was torn from the eye-lash, brow, and cheek, without his flinching or showing any feeling of pain, though the lids, lashes, and brows were much raised in the operation, and one or two of the lashes and some hairs of the eyebrow were torn away.

His eyes were now open, and after a few minutes' delay a sealed envelope was given him by a gentleman who had brought it with him, and could not divulge to any one present what it contained; after examining it some time, he said there were two words, but they might, also, pass for one; that they were French; he said if the gentleman who wrote it, and who, he said, was so firm an unbeliever that his influence affected him, would go into the next room, and whisper it to the lady of the house, and she would come and give him her hand he would be able to write the word for her. This being done, he wrote the word *clairvoyance*; she said he was wrong. "True," said he, "I ought to have written it on the envelope, *clairvoyant*," and so corrected it. On opening the envelope, the word was found to be correct, written on a sheet of note paper, folded up.

Another envelope, brought to the house as the others had been ready sealed, containing a sheet of note paper, was presented to him, containing three words, one of which he was requested to read; after some time, he said he would take the last one. He held the hand of the lady who wrote the words, asking, "*Est-ce vous, est-ce vous-même qui l'avez écrit?*" and then wrote down the word "Rossini," and said, "*Vous voyez que je fais l'ss comme la votre.*" A foreigner would generally have written it so, *ss*. He then said he would put a pin through the four first letters. On breaking the seal, and opening the envelope, the last of the three words was Rossini, and he had put a pin through the first four letters.

Other envelopes, containing paper, written upon, were

shown him, but he made an excuse for not reading them, that there were too many words. Monsieur Marcillet explained, and said, if a line of writing happened to be folded in the middle, the letters would cross over each other in so intricate a manner, that it would be difficult if not impossible for Alexis to decypher them, or in fact any one else, and is a difficulty not likely to occur in a printed book. An instance of this occurred to a gentleman present, who had been at one of the public exhibitions. He had, on that occasion, written three words on a sheet of note-paper, and placed them in an envelope, and then examined it with a strong light, but no part of the writing was visible. It was submitted to Alexis. After a few moments, he said, (not knowing, nor ever having seen the gentleman before), it is not English, nor French, but Italian, and said there were three words, the first beginning with a "C." He was desired to write down, and he wrote "Che," and then said, that it was impossible to make out the other two, but it looked like "ra—rasa;" that they were "*pliés l'un sur l'autre,*" and he could not make them out; he was requested to stick a pin through them, which he did, and on opening the envelope it was found that the two words "*sara sara,*" were folded over each other, so that they made "*ra sa rasa,*" the sentence being, "*Che sara, sara.*" To return from this digression: Alexis made several guesses at one or two unsuccessfully, and then gave them up. In reading from the book, he asked no questions; from the owners of the sealed packets, various questions, as to number of letters, &c., and the suggestion naturally arose, and was put by one of the party, if he really can mentally see, why ask leading questions? To which it may be answered that he does not see with that facility which the natural common sight possesses, but only by a great effort of that second spirit, or power, whatever it may be, which he has, and which is not under the perfect controul of his own will, but is directed to the effort in obedience to a superior and overruling influence—that of the magnetizer: for instance, one of the sealed packets given him contained the word "*L'Imagination.*" After some time, and asking if it was not a word of seven letters, then of ten, he wrote on the packet "*Cr dul,*" perhaps meaning the word "*L'Incredule,*" which does not resemble it. He was told the letters were not correct, but the packet was put aside, without a further attempt to decypher it, although Monsieur Marcillet was very anxious that he should persevere.

The next questions put to Alexis were with the object of testing his power of visiting and describing different localities.

He was asked to describe the room of a lady present. After some hesitation, he pointed out the position of the fire-place, and that of the bed with regard to it, and made an attempt to describe some paintings on the chimney-piece. He said one was the portrait of a soldier, which was wrong, though one answering to his description was in the room beneath. Baffled in his efforts, and making several wrong descriptions, he said he would leave the room and return to it again later. An opera-glass case was then given him, containing some article, not a glass. After examining it some time, he saw it was something that was of two metals, something red and yellow, it was something wrapped up, but he could not say exactly what it was. It was wrapped in paper, and the paper was then removed, but it did not facilitate his saying what it was. This was an instance of complete failure; it was a gold ring with a gold band, the two exterior fingers extended, the middle ones and thumb closed upon the palm—a Neapolitan charm against the Evil Eye. It was suggested by one of the ladies that the influence attributed to this charm counteracted his power also, and prevented his seeing the ring, and shewed the efficacy of that protection so carefully used by the Neapolitans.

Deh guardiamci in tutte l'ore  
Da chi mal segno il Fattore.

He was then asked by another lady to describe her room; he said, after some reflection, that she was a Romanist, and describing her room correctly, said there was a thing on the chimney-piece which was black, of metal—it was iron, and proceeded to describe such particulars of it, that all present, though few knew the lady to be a Catholic, concluded it was a crucifix. He did not at first discover it, seeming to have a difficulty in finding a name for it, but at last said what it was—and that there was a figure in white on it, very small, and that a chaplet of flowers, or leaves, was on it; it was a crucifix, and the lady had that morning put a chaplet of flowers upon it.

He was now requested to return to the first lady's room: and on this second attempt to describe the picture he had been asked about, he told the lady to sit down by him, and took her hand. M. Marcillet desired her to fix her thoughts firmly upon it. "*Pensez-y bien, fixez bien vos idées sur le Portrait.*" Alexis said. "*C'est brun, c'est noir et blanc, ce n'est pas coloré, c'est une Lithographe. La Lithographe n'est pas Anglaise.*" This was correct. "*Elle est Française.*" Non. "*Mais oui, c'est à dire faite pas un Français.*" Right.



“*Il y a des lettres en bas, ce n'est pas Français*”—right—“*c'est de l'Anglais, non, non c'est du Latin, c'est son nom.*” All this was right. He then described exactly hair, beard, and moustache, admired the countenance, repeating several times, “*C'est une belle tête, il est beau, le front est beau;*” said he was not alive, but made some mistakes as to the length of time he had ceased to exist, saying 100 or 200 years, or more. He then suddenly exclaimed, “*Il est ici;*” the lady looked round the room, which was hung with pictures, but said “No.” Alexis insisted. “*Mais oui, je vous dis qu'il est ici,*” pointing through the floor, “*Il est dans la Chambre en bas, je le vois.*” The lady proposed going down to see, she alone knowing what picture it was; but he would not let her draw away her hand, and said, “*Non, non, n'allez pas, attendez, je vais vous dire,*” and then with a strong expression of reverence and solemnity, he said, “*C'est le Christ.*” The plate is a lithograph published at Naples, representing the head of our Saviour, from a portrait which was supposed to have been taken from the life, and sent to the King of the Abagari, by order of Tiberius. It has only the head, has neither neck nor hands; has moustache, a beard, and flowing locks, and three rays of glory proceeding from the temples and upper part of the head. The description below it, is in Latin, and is, *VERA IMAGO SALVATORIS DNI NRI IESUS XTI AD REGEM ABAGARUM MISSA*, and this copy in the lady's possession was given to her several years ago in Naples. After Alexis had finished his *séance*, it was asked if there was one, such as he described, in the house, and it was believed there was not. The lady, however, accompanied by another and the gentlemen of the house, left the room to go down to the library in search of it, and in a portfolio which had not been opened for a long time, was found the copy indicated by Alexis, among some lithographs, the existence of which had been quite forgotten. The lady, to whom the print described by Alexis belonged, was not present when this duplicate was found, having turned back, after going half-way down stairs, to ask Alexis not to go away before it had been ascertained whether there was a copy of the lithograph in the room below.

An old sandal-wood fan, closed, and tied with a pocket-handkerchief, was then given him, and he was asked if there was anything particular in it. After some time, he said there was a figure in the centre in black and white; it was in an old costume something like an Abbé, with hair curled up—costume about the time of Louis XV.—robe with a collar open at the neck. There were stars above it in the wood of the fan. It was then spread out; in the centre, in an oval,

was an engraved figure of Mirabeau, and the sandal-wood was pierced with stars. He said it belonged to a lady present, and he would, if required, point her out and give her the fan : this was not done. He was asked to describe the drawing-room of this lady, and said there was a small clock ; but here is her own account : “ I imagined that the ladies, whose crucifix and whose picture he had *seen* and described, had assisted him unintentionally by answering him, and thus giving him hints. I gave him none. We have on our drawing-room chimney-piece a remarkably small clock, placed upon a wooden pedestal covered with velvet. I asked Alexis concerning it ; he said, it was an object which could be divided into two parts, the lower part of wood, and the upper part of steel, iron, or metal. He then said, ‘ *Qu’il y avait une tête.*’ I told him that there certainly was NOT, fancying he meant to describe a bronze bust. He said, ‘ *Oui, oui—il y a une tête, il se peut que ce ne soit pas une tête d’homme, ni de femme, mais il y a une figure.*’ I was as positive against the head as he was for it, so I said I would not teaze him with any further questions, as I feared I might fatigue him. In talking matters over at home, we settled that his having placed ‘ *une tête*’ on our mantel-piece was an instance of failure. Imagine our *amazement* ! in discovering engraven on the back of the clock—a Grinagog of a face!! which, though *ni une tête d’homme—ni une tête de femme*, is to all intents and purposes—*une Figure !*” Alexis fulfilled his promise of discovering the owner of the fan ; when this lady allowed him to hold her hand, in order to make inquiries concerning the clock, he observed, unasked, that it was the lady to whom the fan belonged. She asked him if he recognized her by her voice ; he told her “ No,” and she then remembered that she had not spoken to him previously.

A lady put her watch into his hands, asking him the name of the maker, which was engraved on the works in the usual manner : he made one or two attempts, but it was a total failure.

After this he begged to be unmesmerised or awakened, as he was very much fatigued : this was quite evident, for he seemed faint and exhausted. The persons present were quite satisfied with what he had done, and joined their requests to M. Marcillet to awaken him from a sleep, which, to all appearance, was not different from the waking state of all present, for he saw and conversed freely with every one. M. Marcillet, by some passes, jerking his arms, and making the joints of his fingers crack, awakened him, when he yawned and gave every indication of being awakened from a disturbed sleep.

The picture of Christ was shewn to him afterwards, but he did not seem to know anything about it; and on several questions being put with regard to things he had done in his state of somnambulism, he shewed complete ignorance, not seeming to know what had occurred, and this without betraying any appearance of attempting to conceal a previous knowledge, but asking, with natural curiosity and open manner, what he had done that was curious or astonishing. And truly much that he did was most curious and astonishing. How to be explained?

No one present at this interview could doubt the facts presented, though some among the party might say, we cannot understand—we are still incredulous? And they might ask, what is the cause?—what the power?—how can these things be? A French writer has it, “*On sait que dans l’esprit de la plupart des hommes, des choses, les plus reeles, passent pour de chimeres, des qu’elles mortifient leur amour propre, ou qu’ils n’en connoissent pas les principes ni les causes.*” How many of the phenomena which are ever occurring around us, we cannot satisfactorily explain, and yet we dare not say we disbelieve in them. And in the case of clairvoyance, how many ask, is this a power of good or evil? forgetting that the same question can be put with regard to any power we possess. Others ask, are we all included with it? Probably it does exist, to a certain degree in all persons, being more developed in some, as in Alexis, than in others. It is only by the accumulation of facts that much which we require to satisfy ourselves can be learnt, but even then it may be said with Virgil, “*Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas.*”

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## VII. *Surgical Operations in the Mesmeric state.*

### I. TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

47, Prince George St., Portsea,  
Dec. 6th, 1844.

Sir,—The following, though almost too insignificant for the pages of a public journal, may, when thrown into the scale, assist in establishing the truths of mesmerism.

On Saturday, Nov. 23, 1844, I, for the first time, mesmerised E. K., residing at Portsea. Whilst in this state, her mother expressed a wish for me to extract a splinter from

under the nail of the ring finger of the right hand, which had been there for three days, giving her extreme pain. Accordingly I took her hand, and with a probe tried to touch the splinter, but from having been broken off deep under the nail, I could not reach it: I therefore cut the upper surface of the nail and came to the splinter, which I extracted. It measured nearly half an inch. During the whole of the time there was not the slightest expression of pain either in the face, voice, or fingers. After demesmerising her, she was not aware of the operation till I pointed to the finger, when you may imagine she was well pleased.

If the foregoing is worth recording, you have full liberty to use my name; but perhaps, though poor, the parties themselves may not like such publicity, but it can be known from me at any time.

Yours, very truly,  
E. SMITH.

## II. *Incision of an Abscess in the Mesmeric State.*

“On Wednesday last an operation, simple enough in itself, but exceedingly satisfactory in its results, as regards the application of mesmerism to more important cases, was performed by Dr. Mason, of this town, upon a boy named Sturdy, residing in College-street, Maxwelltown. His disease was a rather large abscess on the neck, in a tender part, almost directly under his right ear: and, an assistant having thrown him asleep by the usual process, Dr. Mason made a longitudinal incision in the abscess, about an inch and a half in length. While undergoing the operation, not a muscle of the boy's face was observed to quiver, although subjected to the most minute and scrutinising inspection by parties sufficiently sceptical. He appeared, during the whole time, in a deep and placid sleep, and when the organ of Language was excited, and the question put, he declared that he felt no pain, that he was not aware of any person touching him. When taken out of the sleep, and the wound dressed, Sturdy appeared to feel acutely the introduction of a tent, and his powers of enduring pain were also further tested by a person going behind him, and pricking his neck with a needle; but of the operation he did not appear, when awake, to have the slightest recollection. Indeed, when newly awoke, it was proposed to him to strip for the purpose of having it done, and it was not till he had taken off his neckcloth, and observed blood upon it, that he became fully aware of the state of matters; and it was only when, pouring water on his hand,

he had become fairly aroused, that he complained of the smarting of the incision. The wound is now completely healed.”—*Dumfries Courier*.

*Leicester Chronicle, Nov. 9, 1844.*

Before commencing our account of two Surgical Operations which have been performed this week in Leicester—and in both of which mesmerism has again been brought to bear most successfully as a “very present help in time of trouble” to suffering humanity—it may be as well to premise that our information, though obtained from what we deem trustworthy sources, is but second-hand; that none of it has been furnished either by Mr. J. F. Hollings—a party concerned in one case, or by Mr. Tosswill, the operator in the other.—It may also be as well to state the reasons assigned by these gentlemen—both so courteous and competent to furnish our reporter with correct particulars—for declining to do so in either case. They were, as respects Mr. Hollings—that he had promised Mr. T. Paget that he would not send any report of the operation to the papers, and therefore he would not practically violate that promise by furnishing *particulars* to our reporter; as respects Mr. Tosswill—that he had made a similar promise, or had been asked to do so, concerning all that he saw or should see of the operation which he was to witness; that he must therefore decline communicating particulars of what he had seen—more especially as he had been subjected to so much “talking-at” about the former case, notwithstanding his repeated denials of having been a party to any of the reports first published in the newspapers; and that he must decline, also, giving any account of the operation he had performed *this* week, lest his so doing should be misconstrued or misrepresented.—It is to be hoped this explanation will satisfy those gentlemen who are so frightened at the idea of such things “getting in the papers.”

### III. *The Amputation Case*

to which attention will be drawn is that of Elizabeth —, a young woman who comes from Ibstock, and who had been in the Infirmary for some time with some complaint which rendered amputation necessary. From the various accounts we have heard (people *will* talk, and reporters *will* listen)—it appears that the parents of the young woman had been long known to Mr. Paget, that he had attended both them and her professionally, and that he looked upon her as a simple-hearted girl who was incapable of deceit. In the case of Mary Ann Lakin, Mr. Paget, as will be recollected, was

very sceptical as to the veritable insensibility of the patient during the operation: after-thought upon the merits of the case, and the discussion which ensued, may have shaken his doubts:—at any rate, from some cause or other, Mr. Paget expressed his readiness or a wish that a further trial of the power of mesmerism or animal magnetism, to render a patient insensible to pain during surgical operations, should be made; and should be made upon this patient for the reasons above-given. Mr. Hollings, with his usual kindness, consented to act as the magnetizer, and he succeeded in throwing the poor girl into the mesmeric slumber. His visits were continued for some time; but, owing to bodily indisposition, want of sufficient leisure, and anxiety for the patient on his part, it was found that the patient's sleep partook of the operator's nervousness and was of a disturbed character. The operation was therefore postponed for a time, and Mr. Hollings—not liking to be the means of the patient's running any risk on account of his ill-health—endeavoured to induce some practised magnetizer to take his place. In this he happily succeeded.

It should be mentioned, however, before proceeding further, that while the patient was undergoing the daily process of magnetising by Mr. Hollings, she was visited by most of the medical men of the town, and various means were resorted to of testing the reality of her somnolent or cataleptic state. The frequency of these visits and the questioning she would undergo, while in a waking condition, there is little doubt, had a tendency to increase her nervousness and unfit her for undergoing the operation while in the mesmeric condition.

The gentleman who came to supply Mr. Hollings' place as mesmeriser was Mr. Atkinson, of London, a friend of Dr. Elliotson, and, we believe, a disinterested, because unprofessional mesmerist. He arrived in Leicester on Friday or Saturday last week, and almost immediately paid a visit to the patient at the infirmary. The mesmeric sleep was soon superinduced in her, but it was still found to be of the same disturbed character as referred to above. But, notwithstanding this, and that both Mr. Hollings and Mr. Atkinson doubted whether—owing to this condition of the patient—she was one on whom the operation could thus be successfully performed, it was resolved to have the amputation take place on Monday, the 4th inst.

Several, if not most, of the principal medical men in the town were invited to be present; and a certain hour was named for the operation. Mr. Atkinson was ready, before the appointed time, and succeeded, as before, in throwing

the patient into the necessary condition ; but one of the surgeons invited was not present, and the operation was therefore delayed for some time—waiting for him. When at length he came, and the operation was about to be performed, the mesmeric influence had passed off, and the young woman awoke ; and there was an end of the matter for that day.

Mr. Atkinson, it is said, was not altogether pleased at this delay, or satisfied that the experiment was meant to be fairly made ; he also saw that the suspense and thoughts of the amputation had terrified the patient to such a degree as to render it improbable that she could be reduced to such a state as to render her unconscious of the operation ;—and he therefore declined any further interference in the matter.

On the following morning, however, when it had been resolved to proceed with the amputation in the usual way, and when the young woman was preparing to undergo it, Mr. Paget—anxious that the question should be tested, and the patient spared pain if possible—appealed to Mr. Atkinson to make one more trial of the mesmeric influence, and, Mr. Hollings seconding the request, Mr. Atkinson consented—though by no means sure of success. He succeeded in what appeared to be only partially magnetising her ; for she continued to “maunder,” or talk, as persons do in their dreams, of that which has engaged their “waking thoughts :” that is, she kept muttering something or other about the amputation—she “hoped it would not hurt her much,” that, if done, “Mr. Paget would do it,” and “that the Lord would support her” or give her fortitude to bear up under the trial, &c. Mr. Paget, however, having applied a forceps to the limb to be operated upon, and found that she evinced no signs of sensibility to pain, resolved to proceed ; the tourniquet was applied, and the limb quickly taken off, without her evincing any of the usual symptoms of suffering. Indeed, it is a singular circumstance, that while the limb was being taken off, the young woman continued to “maunder on” just as she had done while Mr. Atkinson was magnetising her. When demesmerised, she said she was unconscious of having undergone the operation, and that she had felt no pain.—Mr. Atkinson left the town highly pleased with the result and also with Mr. Paget’s fair and candid dealing in the matter.

Here we leave this case. If it has not been quite accurately stated, the fault rests with those who bound down the parties concerned in any way, not to furnish reports to the papers, or enable the papers to furnish reports.

IV. *Operation for Squinting.*

The case is that of Martha Clark, a young girl of about twelve years of age: she was labouring under *strabismus* or obliquity of vision—in common parlance, she squinted in one eye. Our authority for the following particulars is Mr. Joseph Biggs, who was present at the operation: three surgeons and another gentleman were also present. The operation was performed in Mr. Tosswill's surgery on Tuesday morning.

The patient was seated in a chair, and having been speedily mesmerised by Mr. T., her arms were rendered cataleptic or rigid, and were extended during nearly the whole of the operation—sinking gradually as the arms do after having been for some time in this condition. She had been placed quite upright in the chair, but was not fastened to it. Mr. Spencer then hooked up the lid as is usual in these operations, and Mr. Tosswill turned the eye out of its socket—divided the part which caused the obliquity—performed all the requisite dressings and put the eye in its proper place again; and during all this she uttered no exclamation or moved a muscle. He then awoke her, and put two or three questions to her before she was aware that the operation had been performed.

After the operation was over, Mr. Biggs wrote the following note, to which he, as well as Captain Jackson, signed his name:—"November 5th, 1844,—I, having witnessed an operation, for *Strabismus* performed upon Martha Clark, while in the mesmeric state, by Mr. Tosswill, consider that she evinced no *consciousness* of pain. There was a painful expression in the features, and, as it seemed to me, a quickened breathing; but I feel certain there was entire want of consciousness. Upon being awoke, she had clearly no knowledge that the operation had been performed."—In explanation of the "painful expression" of the countenance, Mr. B. said it was no more than was often to be perceived in the countenances of sleeping and dreaming children. The girl was not aware till she felt the bandage over her eye, and was told all was over, that such was the case. She was questioned as to whether she had been dreaming, and, if so, of *what*. Her reply was that she had been at Ann Clayton or Colton's, blowing the fire to make a pan or pot boil: not a word as to having felt anything like cutting.

Mr. Tosswill said, "Well, Martha, the operation is over." "Is it?" the patient replied in a tone of surprise.



The following is extracted from the *Medical Times*, of November 9th, 1844:—

To the Editor of the *Medical Times*.

Sir,—I beg to acquaint you with the result of the second operation, under the mesmeric condition, in which I have been engaged, and to furnish you with copies of the certificates of those who were present.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. TOSSWILL.

November 5th, 1844.

“Martha Clarke, aged 10 years, was brought by her mother to my house, on the 30th of October, to know if I would consent to operate upon the child for strabismus. I desired them to call again on the following morning. On explaining the difficulty which attended such operations, from the inability to keep so young a person quiet, and upon suggesting that mesmerism should be tried, in order that this indispensable end should be obtained, the mother readily acceded to my request. I, therefore, immediately commenced the usual manipulations, and at the expiration of sixteen minutes succeeded in inducing the mesmeric insensibility. On being awakened, my little patient’s astonishment was expressed by her look of extreme wonder and surprise. Having daily continued the induction of the mesmeric coma, until I had produced perfect insensibility to powerful impressions applied as tests, and induced the most beautiful manifestations of a cataleptic condition of the limbs, I determined upon operating this day. Having given no intimation of my intention either to the mother or the child, I placed the latter in a chair, and succeeded in rendering her mesmeric in a few minutes. I then induced a cataleptic condition of both arms, and extended them at right angles from the body. Having obtained the assistance of Mr. Spencer, that gentleman raised the upper lid with the elevator, while he depressed the under eyelid with the hand, in doing which he caused the patient to fall backwards against the back of the chair, traction being used in that direction. With the forceps, I then seized the conjunctiva of the right eye, and divided it with the scissors, subsequently introducing the hook and cutting through the internal rectus muscle; the operation occupied two minutes and a half, there being much condensed cellular tissue to clear away, but, during the whole time, I saw but one indication which might lead to the supposition of pain, which was, that, upon pinching the conjunctiva with the forceps, there was one spasmodic contraction of the orbicularis muscle; the sound eye was uncovered, and remained closed during the whole

time, the lips motionless, and the entire body free from the slightest movement. The arms, which had been rendered cataleptic, gradually and slowly fell, in the same manner as is usual when no pain has been experienced. On being awakened, and informed that the operation had taken place, her reply was, "has it?" On being questioned if she had felt anything, she asserted, and has repeated the assertion, that she had felt nothing. On being asked, had she dreamed, and what was the nature of her dream, her answer was: "That she thought she was at Hannah Colton's, a-blowing the fire to make the pan boil." This dream would at first appear unconnected with her actual condition, but it is in reality an instance confirmatory of it. It is well known that irritation, applied to the organs of sense, produces in each the sense peculiar to it; that whilst the electric shock, applied to the ear, will produce the idea of sound, applied to the mouth the sense of taste is excited, whilst, acting on the eye, a vivid flash of light is the result: so, in this instance, I conceive the irritation of the operation may have given rise to the idea of fire, and have originated the train of ideas embodied in the dream.

## (CERTIFICATES.)

"I. Nov. 5th, 1844. Having witnessed an operation for strabismus, performed upon Martha Clarke by Mr. Tosswill, while in the mesmeric state, we consider that she evinced *no consciousness* of pain; there was a painful expression in the features, and, as it seemed to us, a quickened breathing, but we feel certain there was entire want of consciousness; upon being awakened, she had clearly no knowledge that the operation had been performed.

" (Signed)

JOSEPH BIGGS.

JOHN JACKSON.

P. DOWNEY, M.R.C.S.I.

"II. I believe the child, Martha Clarke, was not rendered so comatose by mesmerism, as to be insensible to the pain of the operation; that the muscles of the face were contracted; that she used considerable muscular exertion to recede from the operator; and that the breathing was indicative of suffering.

" (Signed)

J. H. SPENCER.

"III. I believe this to have been a beautiful case of mesmeric cataleptic sleep. The arms were extended, but very gradually fell during the operation, but not entirely so, one remaining without support to the end. I observed a slight re-

ceding and flushing of the face, on commencing the operation, but I cannot say if such arose from consciousness, or from an involuntary effort, such as occurs continually in patients under the mesmeric influence, and which is likely to have been the case, as the sense of pain, or consciousness of an operation being performed, would certainly have influenced the dream. There was no sound uttered, or other expression of pain whatsoever; at all events, the anticipation of a painful operation and the after consequences, with much of the actual pain, were clearly saved by the mesmeric sleep. It should be known, that the eye is the last part to lose sensibility under mesmerism, and even the whole face often continues sensitive when the rest of the body is unimpressible. The operation occupied two minutes and a half.

“(Signed)

HENRY G. ATKINSON.”

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VIII. *Vital Magnetism; a remedy.* By the Rev. THOMAS PYNE, A.M., Incumbent of Hook, Surrey. Highley, Fleet Street, 1844.

It was with joy unfeigned that we saw the advertisement of this little book. No fewer than three English clergymen have now published works in favour of mesmerism. The Rev. C. H. Townsend's came forth when mesmerism was utterly despised in this country, and did and does great good. The Rev. G. Sandby's pamphlet and subsequent volume came forth, when indeed mesmerism was raising its head a little, but the ignorant and besotted cry of satanic agency, uttered first by a superficial, vain, unscientific and bigotted popular preacher, was resounding through the land. The present little contribution will aid the cause of truth and humanity: for it is evidently written by a good man, of cultivated understanding, sentiments and taste. How charming it is to see ministers of what professes to be the gospel of peace and goodwill employ themselves not in such trumpery as considering whether sermons shall be preached in one coloured dress or another, or prayer shall be said with or without candles, and with the face in this direction or that, and with so many bowings down, and other formalities. Christ taught us the simplest of religions—to love one another and be as little children—to be benevolent, sincere, unselfish, single-minded: and set his face against what the high priests and

the pharisees made the business of their lives. While Christ went about preaching his simple mountain sermons, he also healed the sick : and we have the delightful spectacle of clergymen at length imitating him in this particular also. Let our readers turn back to the communication of Mr. Sandby in our last number : and read the following extracts from Mr. Pyne's good little book :—

“An infant was brought to me aged seven weeks. Her symptoms:—‘She does not grow, screams much, always craving, never sleeps by day, little by night.’ I magnetised her for three minutes. After eight days the nurse again called, and signed this declaration:—‘The infant is much improved since Mr. Pyne saw her; she slept three hours-and-a-half immediately, and has slept well since; her appetite is returned, and she grows. The parents are very thankful, and I.’

“A child, aged about five years, was brought to me afflicted with deafness. I saw her three times. The mother wrote me this certificate:—‘Mrs. ——— feels greatly obliged to Mr. Pyne for the benefit her daughter has received. She has been quite cured by him of her deafness. Thanks be to the Almighty for it.’

“I was requested to call on a family to see their daughter, a child of about four years old. I did so, and found her very ill with an abscess on the saurus muscle. I only magnetised her for a few minutes, but saw some change; the next day I did it more perfectly; it was evidently better. By the fourth day it had dispersed. I give the parents' certificate:—‘My child, ———, has been afflicted with an abscess in the loin for two months. A medical gentleman attended her throughout the time but without relief. It was very bad, and it was feared she would not get over it, when the Rev. Mr. Pyne called, and in treating her in four days she became quite well; for which we feel very grateful. Her appetite is returned, she runs about, sleeps well, and her spirits are excellent. The medical man said if ever she did get over it, most likely she would be a cripple. Her limbs are quite free. (Signed by the Father and Mother).’

“In passing through my parish, I observed the horse of a medical officer at the door of a cottage. I, therefore, went in, supposing that sickness must be there. I saw a poor woman lying on her bed, and the worthy practitioner standing by her. The woman, who had had an internal abscess, connected with child-bearing, of some continuance, was suffering much from a pain in her side. The medical man in my presence ordered her a blister and some further remedies. I said to him, ‘I think, Sir, if you would pardon the liberty I take, I could remove that pain.’ ‘Oh! certainly, if you can,’ he replied. I magnetised her for a few minutes locally, and seeing her countenance brighten, I said, ‘How do you feel?’ ‘I have no pain in my side now,’ she answered; ‘it is gone to my leg and foot.’ I made some passes there, and again asked her how she was. She said, ‘I am easy now.’ I said, ‘What do you mean? that you are

free from pain?" 'Yes,' she replied, 'quite free, and quite comfortable.' I turned to the medical man, and said, 'I trust you will excuse my doing this in your presence.' 'Most surely,' he candidly answered; 'I only wish I could remove pain so easily.' He left the house, and the woman fell into a gentle slumber. No blister was needed, nor other remedy. She was well; better, as she informed me two months afterwards, than she had been for fifteen years, and she continued cured. The following is her simple certificate:—'Dear Sir,—I return you great thanks that I found so much ease from that blessing that I received. I thank God for it, as I was in great pain. Seven years afflicted; found ease in five minutes.'

"I need scarcely add, that the medical man's conduct was here as philosophical as it was Christian.

"The following may shew the charm which magnetism has had for me. I mean, that the happiness imparted by its curative property has rendered me unmindful of ridicule or censure:—A woman, aged sixty-seven, having dislocated her right hip four years since, and the dislocation having never been reduced, the weight of her body in walking fell upon her left leg, which in consequence had become weak, and dreadfully painful. 'It is now,' she said, as with evident anguish she sat down, 'like knives sticking into it through agony. I cannot get any help from the doctors. I cannot sleep. I have come to you through the wonderful cures I hear you have performed. The thigh is worst, and the chief seat of the pain; the whole leg stiff. I have had the pain all the blessed winter; worse for the last three months, now TERRIBLE!' In ten minutes, she said, "I feel in heaven now, thank the dear Lord, and thank the gentleman; God bless you, Sir! Oh, how comfortable! I have not had such ease for many months. I can put my leg up now, and the stiffness is gone. I shall go home quite different. I can walk well, and had a hard matter indeed to get here.'

"The following account I received from the lady of an officer, at whose request I magnetised both her daughter and herself. I confine myself to the remedial effects in the description:—

"'My dear Sir,—It will give me much pleasure to give you in writing a statement, as far as I can remember, of the effects of mesmerism on my daughter; for let me assure you both she and I feel most grateful for your kind attention, and feel convinced that you were, under Providence, the means of restoring her to health, when, although there was no serious formed disorder, her medical attendant expressed considerable anxiety about her state of health. She was suffering from influenza, which had left great debility, pain in the back and side, which had caused her for several days previously to walk quite lame; there was swelling about the under part of the face and total disinclination to all exertion either of mind or body. You were kind enough to mesmerise her. Neither myself nor my daughter had ever seen it tried on any one, or had it tried on ourselves. In a very short space of time she fell into a quiet slumber, sighing very frequently, and appearing perfectly happy. She had her eyes quite closed; when spoken to,

she answered readily. You asked her if she was comfortable, she replied, "O yes!" At one time she frowned and seemed in pain. You asked if she was so, she said, "Yes in my side," and pointed to the spot; you asked if you should remove it, she answered, "O, yes;" and after a few passes made by you, she seemed quite comfortable and happy. After an hour you asked if she wished to be awakened, she replied, "No, no!" You awoke her, however. She sat up and said, "She had enjoyed a delightful sleep." No one made any remark to her on the subject for some hours; but we were astonished to observe her set about various domestic arrangements, wish for tea, and play with the children, having evidently shaken off all those listless feelings she had previously felt. She had *no pain*, and the *lameness* when she awoke was quite gone, and has *never returned*. She slept soundly and comfortably all night, and, although not strong, continued free from pain, and recovered every day after.

"I can also testify to the power of mesmerism in my own person when suffering from violent cold, which had caused pain in every bone, so that I had been two nights and days without sleep; but in a few minutes you removed all pain, and I enjoyed a night of refreshing slumber, certainly, I can safely say, the most delightful sleep I ever enjoyed. Trusting that this very truly valuable gift may, through Divine aid, be the means of soothing the afflictions of many, and hoping you may long enjoy health to render you a blessing to those around you, I wish you every happiness."

"In one of the first cases of magnetism I had, the following were the circumstances:—I called on a person, whom I found very ill, unrelieved by medical remedies, and apparently sinking. The chief seat of her malady appeared to be the liver. When I visited her she said, 'O that I could sleep! I have not slept day or night for three weeks.' I said, 'I think I could procure sleep for you.' 'Could you?' she said, 'how grateful I should be; but I cannot take opiates; they have been tried, but only produce greater uneasiness.' I said, 'Give me your hands, and look at me.' In three minutes her eyes gently turned upwards with a slight convulsive movement, and her hand quivered. I spoke to her, and she said, she felt a rapid pulsation of the heart. It was an anxious moment to my inexperienced mind, but the fluttering ceased on my passing my hand near the region. She slept a few minutes, and I awoke her, she smiled delighted, and said, 'O, I feel heavenly! as much refreshed as by a night's slumber.' Her pain in her side was gone; but a stiffness in the knee, which for about six weeks had been contracted, remained. I made a few passes, and the leg relaxed. The medical attendant expressed his surprise at her unexpected improvement; and though she was not cured, convalescence, according to her view, then began. On one occasion, afterwards, when reclining on a couch, I asked her why she did not sit up. She said, she had a drawing of the knees to the body, and of the head towards the chest. She thus then sat with her chin and knees very nearly together; on making a few passes locally, she put her

knees down, and then her head back, and thus I left her. Good medical advice was pursued in this case. I, therefore, take no exclusive credit to magnetism; but it interested me much, and being among my first essays excited me, with thankfulness, to attempt others.

“A woman who had been confined was suffering much pain, and, after six weeks’ illness, was getting no better, but rather worse. I magnetised her twice—she was well.

“Again, A —, aged about 50, was suffering from excruciating face-ache, apparently *tie doloureux*. She was very averse to magnetism being attempted, and was altogether thankless. The pain left before I quitted the house, the next day she was very easy, and she has had no return of attacks, though before she was constantly subject to them.

“Another writes, ‘I cannot omit to thank you for your kindness in meeting me, and, as I truly believe, in having made a cure of the pain in my chest, which I have been suffering with for some years past. May God bless you for your kindness to me a perfect stranger.’ I saw this person three times. Her constitution seemed generally renovated.

“Another, aged about twenty-two: ‘Sir,—I was seized with insensibility and loss of sight three years since. In about half an hour by the use of stimulants my senses returned, but I had paralysis in my right arm and side, which, and my tongue also, would become quite dead, my arms would be quite rigid, and this was followed by great pain. I had good medical advice, and by the use of very powerful medicines had some intermission; but for the last six months it had returned, and for three weeks before I saw you the attacks came on several times every day. You have been so good as to magnetise me four times, which has effected in all respects a perfect cure.’

“Another says, ‘I have been suffering for thirteen years with a violent pain in the chest, stomach, and left side, for which I have been leeches and blistered, and taken much medicine. I have been magnetised once. I feel a different person altogether. I have had no pain since, can place my hands firmly on my chest, and no one can believe the relief I have found. I am well; and Mr. Pyne’s care has cured me at once. (Signed) —.’

“Another: ‘I much regret not being able to see you again before I left to thank you for your kindness, and the trouble you took about me. I must ever consider that I am greatly indebted to you, as it is the opinion of myself and friends that through you God’s mercy was manifested and my life saved. I know that this testimony can be of little consequence to you, but it may be pleasing to find I have a grateful knowledge of it.’

“Another: ‘My eyes have been failing for the last six years; I have not been able to read a chapter in the Bible for three years, or to work by candle-light, nor, indeed, to see well when the sun shone. You have been good enough to magnetise me three times, and have quite restored my sight. I can see with perfect comfort by candle-

light as well as by day to read, work, &c.; and I am very much obliged to you.'

"Another: 'Rev. Sir,—I am happy to inform you that I am quite well after thirteen years' labouring under a disease of a pain in the breast and side and shortness of breath. I, therefore, Rev. Sir, send you my most sincere thanks for the kind office you have done me.'

"I might multiply these instances, but hasten to another class. I have not myself magnetised any one for operations; but in the coma I have, in some instances, pinched the hand severely, but not so as to bruise the flesh, without the patient betraying any consciousness; and a young medical friend assured me that he had had a tooth extracted without feeling. There is no reason to doubt this power.

"I have now to speak of exterior ailments or wounds. The following needs no comment:—'—— duty to the Rev. Mr. Pyne, and begs him to accept her sincere thanks for the excellent cure he has performed for her in curing her broken breast. Signed ——.' I saw this party three times.

"A boy, aged about nine, was brought to me, having a protruding spine, weak and suffering, and with a scrofulous sore on the hand. I saw him once. The father wrote me this letter:—'Sir, it gives me much satisfaction by informing you my little boy is very much improved in health and strength. His hand is quite well, and he is altogether better. Remaining, much obliged by your kindness. (Signed) ——.'

"The following testimony has also been given me:—'I have been afflicted for five years, with a surfeit covering the chief part of my face, and especially my nose and ears, with malignant sores. No medical remedies could remove it. It was growing worse. Mr. Pyne called upon me a few times and treated me. He has cured me. I thank him greatly.' The father adds, 'The above is correct, and my son has now got employment.'

"I called on a poor parishioner, aged twenty-six, confined for a month with a sore foot. The chief seat being the back of the heel. He had not slept the previous night for agony; the medical man had lanced it in the morning; but still it was very tender and full of pain. On magnetising him, in two minutes he declared the pain gone, and putting his bad heel (so bad that he could not bear me to touch it) firmly on the ground, he stood on *it alone*, exclaiming to his wife, 'See, I am well!' He was well from that time. I put him into coma for twenty minutes (in the meantime calling at another cottage, and being permitted to relieve a poor woman of serious pain in the face), then awoke him. Once more he slept for three hours after I left the house; then arose and played with his child; and the medical man, I understood, pronounced it a cure.

"The following entry also occurs in my book. I transcribe it, and the certificate of a most respectable gentleman. I have heard nothing to cause me to doubt of the man's sincerity in the description of his feelings. He was, however, a stranger:—



“ ——— ran a rusty edging iron through his shoe, and into his foot. A surgeon told him it had gone to the bone, and he feared he would be obliged to lay up a week or a fortnight. The accident caused sweating and faintness, but little hæmorrhage. It had occurred three days before I saw him, and he came to me in evidently great pain, leaning on a crutch and a stick, and unable to put his foot to the ground with his shoe on. In a few minutes he was well, and signed his name to these words:—‘I feel cured, I thank God. I shall carry my crutch and stick, for I shall run home or a part of the way.’

“Then follows the gentleman’s testimony:—‘I came into Mr. Pyne’s house on a visit, and found ——— seated on a chair, Mr. Pyne having attended to him. The man was rather somniferous, but shortly recovered himself. He gave Mr. Pyne the above description, which was read over to him in my presence, and I saw him affix his name to it, jump about the room on the wounded place of the injured foot, and take a *running departure* from the house across the gravelled road, carrying his crutch and stick. (Signed — —.)’

“The man after this at once returned to his accustomed habits, the cure having been complete.

“The last instance I shall state is this:—

“The wife of a party, who had had a remarkable cure, in gratitude for it, took me to a man, ———, aged sixty, lying ill with a most seriously bad leg. He had pains in the knee, where a thorn had run in; and two wounds on the external side of the tibia, one two inches long by one-and-a-half inches wide, the other an inch each way; great discharges, and black round the leg for a hand’s length. The woman, who begged me to go, said, that the medical man feared it would mortify, and would require amputation, and that there was great danger of its occasioning the patient’s death. The disease seemed serofulous. His mother had been in like manner afflicted. On magnetising him, I saw it improve. The next day I again called, and put him into coma. He had scarcely slept before. He now slept generally well. The hue of health returned. It was Sunday evening when I first saw him. On Friday he was down stairs, and said he did not think such a change could have passed on any one. He was free from pain, and his wounds closing in health. He gave me the following declaration:—‘The Rev. Mr. Pyne has read the above account to me. It is very correct, and my leg, through his care, is quite well. (Signed — —).’

“The cure was about three weeks in completing. I saw him six or seven times.”

S. I. T. O.

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#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Edinburgh Phrenological Journal.

Vital Magnetism, by the Rev. T. Pyne.

Revue Magnétique, Journal des cures et des faits Magnétiques et somnambuliques.

**NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

*Miss Martineau.* Every body has read this lady's admirable papers upon her own case and mesmerism in the *Athenæum*. They are now published as a pamphlet with a preface. The surgeon who attended her is also about to publish her case, and she probably will then publish something more. In our next number we shall review the whole affair, contented at present with expressing our admiration of her noble courage, which ought to put so many of our own sex to shame. Obedience to her feelings of conscience and benevolence must have cost her much : and the conduct of part of the medical press towards her fills us with regret. She—a woman, issuing forth alone to battle for the truth, has in a brief space of time scattered a host of the enemy.

*Non Wist.* We are deeply obliged for all his communications. Had they been sent as essays, and not hints, they should have been published forthwith. But being merely suggestions, we can make use of them only when we come to the investigation of particular points in mesmerism : and the points to which they refer require more study than we have yet been able to bestow. He will find justice done to him in an early number.

*A Student in Mesmerism* is referred to No. V., p. 33.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

December, 1844.

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