

A
PLAIN AND RATIONAL
A C C O U N T
OF THE
NATURE AND EFFECTS
OF
ANIMAL MAGNETISM:

IN A
SERIES OF LETTERS.

WITH
NOTES AND AN APPENDIX.

BY THE EDITOR.

*Mirabile videtur, quod non rideat Haruspex, cum
Haruspicem viderit.*

CICERO.

L O N D O N :

Printed, and sold by W. and J. STRATFORD, N° 112,
Holborn-Hill, near Hatton-Garden ; H. D. SYMONDS,
N° 20, Pater-noster-row ; E. and T. WILLIAMS, N° 13,
Strand, near Charing-Cross ; TAYLOR and Co. under
the Royal Exchange ; and COUCH and LAKING,
N° 44, Curzon-Street, May-Fair. 1790.



A
PLAIN and RATIONAL ACCOUNT
OF THE
NATURE and EFFECTS, &c.

LONDON.

S I R,

THE sceptical air, with which you listened to my relation of the powers and effects of Animal Magnetism, did not excite in me any emotions of surprise. I was once equally as incredulous as you may be, and without arrogating to myself any uncommon share of logical powers, or rhetorical skill, I will venture to predict, that before the termination of our correspondence, you will be as cordial a believer as myself.

Permit me, however, to remind you, that during our late conversation, when Philosophy and reasoning, had without effect exhausted their artillery, you took refuge in ridicule :—But Ridicule, Sir, ought not to be regarded as the test of truth ; for it has always been found much easier to laugh at an argument, than to give a pertinent reply. You request me to send you an account of this new Science, to be considered at your
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leisure. I embrace the task you have imposed with pleasure, as it will enable me at once to gratify your curiosity, and to do justice to those important discoveries, which being little understood, have been unworthily treated.

It has been frequently objected by others, as well as yourself, that the powers ascribed to Animal Magnetism, “are not conformable to any of the known laws of matter and motion.”—I readily grant the truth of this assertion; but must beg permission to add, that if this were an argument of any weight, it might be produced against every new discovery in Philosophy.

There was a time, Sir, when the Phenomena of Electricity were not accommodated “to any known laws:”—There was a time when a proposal to sail with safety through the Air, would have been treated as a senseless Chimera by the learned, and branded as a magical exploit by the vulgar; and yet these wonders are now become familiar, and are easily explained on natural principles. The daily discoveries that are made of new and unexpected properties in natural things, ought therefore to teach modesty to the sceptical objector, and impose silence upon the petulance of hasty criticism.

You believe, Sir, I suppose, that the Electric fluid is pretty generally diffused: You believe that the several appearances exhibited by the Magnet, may be solved by the
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the hypothesis of a fluid circulating in a certain direction through Magnetic substances : and why may not I believe with equal reason, the presence and circulation of a subtile, active, and potent fluid, through the several Systems of Animal matter, with whose agency, the several Phenomena of health and disease, are intimately connected ? To tell me, that the fluid for whose existence I contend, is invisible, intangible, not cognizable by any of the senses, is only urging that which may be retorted with equal advantage, against your own schemes of attraction, Magnetism, &c. Here then, at least, we stand upon equal ground ; and although the truth of my Theory has not yet admitted of a sensible demonstration, this is only a defect common with it to a multitude of other schemes, and may perhaps, be rather referred to the narrowness of human intellect, than to any thing actually unintelligible in the nature of the subject.

But I begin to be apprehensive, that too much has been granted, in allowing that its existence cannot be demonstrated. If you require me indeed, to render it an object of your sight, feeling, or any other external sense, your demand certainly exceeds the powers of any of our fraternity. But excuse me, Sir, when I say, that we look with pity upon the man, who requires such a gross and sensual species of demonstration as this. Any peasant that has the use of his

eyes can contemplate an object of sight ;— the most confined capacity may derive information from tangible objects.

Besides, as Philosophers are generally agreed, that the senses are perpetually imposing fallacies upon the judgement, we have agreed to reject and disclaim their authority ; and to employ more noble and brilliant faculties, in examining the nature of a fluid, whose essential qualities are too rare and subtle, ever to be made the subject of a natural experiment. Without pretending to claim any superior powers of excogitation, we are contented to suggest, that an adept in this science, can discern that which is invisible to all the non-initiated ; he can perceive causes and effects necessarily connected in an endless series, where an ordinary Philosopher could only flounce about in the dark ; and he rules with absolute dominion over a fluid more penetrating and active, than the Alkahest of Paracelsus, or the Ether of Sir Isaac Newton.

It is a fundamental principle in this new System, that the Animal-Magnetic fluid pervades and circulates through every fibre of the body ; it confers sensation on the nerves, gives motion to the muscles, and is the grand source of those various energetic actions, by which the vital, natural, and animal functions are performed. From this representation, it is extremely obvious, that the most compendious

pendious way to become a Physician, must be, to acquire the mastery over this universal agent. We claim the merit of possessing this *defideratum*, and as the fluid is reduced to a state of perfect obedience to our commands, if the body be paralytic, we excite such strong vibrations in the inactive nerves, that they are suddenly roused into sensibility. Let a part be contracted, debilitated, or even wasted, it is sufficient to direct a stream of this noble medicine through its centre, and the moveless mass must infallibly start into the most lively and vigorous actions. If this fluid be thrown with unusual rapidity thro' the upper orifice of the stomach, it excites powerful eructations ; apply it to the middle of that organ, and it will produce vomiting ; and when it is made to act upon a more inferior part, it will operate as a cathartic.

I have often thought, that the curious effects which electricians have ascribed to negative and positive electricity, are all displayed to great advantage by the Animal Magnetic fluid. By exciting a turbinated motion in its integrant parts, and then throwing it with great velocity through the body, it will excite a sort of storm in the animal frame, and produce that admirable Phenomenon the CRISIS: But when we suppress its inordinate motions, and compel it to move in a contrary direction, the excessive quantity is subtracted, a delightful languor

guor steals upon the patient, and he sinks into the arms of sleep.

I make no doubt, but your curiosity will now excite you to enquire, by what skill we have subjugated this extraordinary fluid, and rendered it thus obedient to all our dictates.

“ By the same methods said a malicious opponent, which the Wizards of Lapland employ to control the wind.” This insinuation is, however, the result of consummate ignorance;—the method cannot be divulged; for upon this point, we have all sworn to maintain an inviolable secrecy. Some people have affected to harbour unfavourable suspicions, of what they are pleased to call dark and enigmatical proceedings; and others, who pretend to be religious, uncharitably insinuate, that our solemn oaths of initiation are profanations of the most sacred things. But such malignant accusations are not worthy our attention; and he must possess very little intrepidity, who is to be awed by the scruples or clamours of the vulgar.

Valuable nostrums, and important Arcana, abound in every department of the community; nor will there ever be a dearth of envious, or disappointed men, to brand the fortunate adventurers as impudent buffoons, or grave impostors.

The teachers of the Magnetic science are however men of the most liberal principles; they

LETTER II.

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they do not design to bury their important secrets in their own bosoms. They deliver Lectures upon this curious and interesting subject at a very moderate expence, so that if your curiosity be not gratified to its utmost extent, no one ought to bear the blame but yourself.*

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

LETTER II.

LONDON.

SIR,

IF I conceive rightly of your meaning, you seem to argue thus : “ As the effects produced by Animal Magnetism lie under the control of the Magnetiser’s fingers, the powers so directed must be material and tangible, consequently they are susceptible of sensible demonstration.”—Again, “ If the Magnetic fluid be an object of
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* The Magnetic Academy, like the school of Aristotle, divides its disciples into two distinct classes. The exotericks, or the half-initiated, only give five and twenty guineas for their instructions : but the Acroa-ticks pay the moderate sum of fifty guineas, to be completely equipped in the theory and practice. *Ed.*

your senses, it may be rendered evident and sensible to the senses of another ; but if it be not an object of sense, by what means was it first detected ?”

I confess, Sir, that arguments like these, may have some weight with those who have been accustomed to the vulgar modes of philosophizing, but they make no impression upon the Magnetic Hypothesis. Men of moderate sized understandings, may obtain some scanty notions of things, by the dull and tedious way of noting facts, making experiments, and forming conclusions upon duly verified premises ; but we are emancipated from such Philosophical fetters ; and if I might presume to make the comparison, as when the pregnant cranium of Jupiter suffered the pangs of parturition, so our theories burst from the narrow prison of the brain, and like *Minerva* stand before their author, faultless and complete. Nor ought you from hence to conclude, that these creatures of the understanding, have no existence, but in the imagination that gave them birth ; they have produced prodigious effects, and it is upon this ground, that I mean to defend the practice of Animal Magnetism, in the present letter.

When this new Science was first taught and practised in the capital, and visitors were permitted to be eye-witnesses of its wonderful powers, I was urged by an eager curiosity

sity to make one in the number of spectators. My mind had by various means become greatly prejudiced against the operators, so that I went with a full persuasion that they were jugglers, who were practising fraud and imposition upon the credulous. But no sooner had I entered the apartments, where the grand achievements of Magnetic energy were displayed, than I felt as by magic influence, my light incredulity chilled into timorous apprehension. Never did the cave of Trophonius more instantly dissipate flippancy and laughter. My attention was soon directed to the great dispenser of Magnetic influence, who had just begun to operate upon, or in other words, to *treat* a lady of distinction. He directed his eyes towards hers, with a fixed and penetrating stare, which soon produced the intended perturbation; for the due management of the Eye is a very essential auxiliary in this process.*

Whether there be any analogy between the Eyes of the Doctor, and the organs of vision
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* Those who undertake to manage insane people, derive great assistance from the power of the eye over their unhappy patients. They can frequently by one steady look, awe them into quietness and submission. Poor Rousseau complained most eloquently of the terrible eyes of David Hume, and from this circumstance, many people have supposed that he was out of his senses. May we draw a similar conclusion concerning the state of those who are agitated by the stare of the Magnetic Doctor? *Ed.*

in those foreign snakes, who decoy their prey by barely looking at it, I cannot determine ; there is evidently some similarity in the effects :—but leaving the investigation of that point, I proceed to observe, that in the present case, he proposed to direct the stream of fluid through the stomach of his patient. The Doctor accordingly began to writhe his fingers in several directions with surprising agility ; these contortions, were quickly succeeded by sympathetic motions in the patient, who began to heave and vomit in a most extraordinary manner ; but whether the dose was too powerful for her frame, or that some inadvertence had occurred in the mode of administration, its influence was propagated to the bowels, and excited actions there, which delicacy forbids me to mention.

I was not a little astonished to find that the doctor was assisted by several female pupils, and in a distant part of the room, I saw a stout young fellow sound asleep, under the magic influence of a female magnetiser. As there was a considerable number of patients of both sexes in the room, the wonderful effects of Animal Magnetism, rushed upon all my senses at once in the most powerful manner. Some patients on my right hand, were happily delivered of a considerable quantity of imprisoned air, which the Doctor extricated with great facility ; not a few were
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in fits ; in others, the stomach was pouring out its contents ; and some I suspect experienced a thorough cleansing of the whole mass of humours. Now I have the misfortune to possess the sense of smelling in great perfection, and am troubled with a squeamish stomach ; so that I assure you, it required more than an ordinary share of fortitude to maintain my ground.

A little experience has taught me, however, that Animal Magnetism is a sovereign remedy against those scrupulous niceties, and prudish delicacies, which the people of this nation still affect, notwithstanding our long and familiar intercourse with the less reserved foreigners. Would you believe it, Sir, that people under the influence of this charming panacea, find a wonderful ease in permitting any natural function to proceed, without feeling the least embarrassment, from the presence of a numerous assembly. This circumstance may in time have a happy effect upon our manners as well as our health, for reasons too obvious to be mentioned.

The facts I have already recited, may appear rather extraordinary, but they are greatly inferior in magnitude and importance to the *crisis*. By the *crisis*, is to be understood, a violent and universal convulsion of the whole frame, attended with a temporary derangement of the senses. This method is

employed in certain-disorders where it is necessary to give a grand shock to the Animal System, that obstructions of every kind may be removed, and the circulating fluids be quickened in their motions,

Whenever the operator judges it necessary to raise a tempest of this kind, you will see the subject of his power upon the first onset, almost strangled with flatulencies; every feature of her face becomes frightfully distorted; her Eyes roll with a furious wildness; white foam is violently ejected from the mouth; and every fibre of the body seems to palpitate and agonize. The sight of a spectacle like this, appeared at first very tremendous: It recalled to my remembrance the story of the Pythoness dragged to the awful tripod; and the still more horrid tales of diabolical possessions. But these ridiculous qualms soon subsided. I thought it reasonable, that a power which could intimately pervade the very atoms that constitute the fabrick, might also be equal to all these strange effects; and as the Doctor assured me he could at all times suspend these operations, I gave myself no more uneasiness upon the subject.

It has been pretended by some people, that violent impressions made upon a weak, or disordered imagination, would be adequate to the production of the several appearances exhibited in the *crisis*: and it has been maliciously

liciously insinuated, that magnetisers are successful, in proportion to their dominion over the fancy.

To these calumnies I might reply, that if good be done, though through the medium of the imagination, no one ought to complain, the patient obtains his cure, and the Doctor receives his fees, so that the benefits are reciprocal. But as ill-nature and prepossession, are indisposed to listen to any evidence contrary to their wishes, I shall leave these suggestions to their own fate.

I remain, Sir,

Yours, &c.

L E T T E R III.

LONDON.

S I R,

FROM among the numerous and hitherto unheard of effects which take place in those who are thrown into a *crisis*, I shall select two of the most remarkable, for your present entertainment. In the first place you are to understand, that when a Man is thus completely reduced under Magnetic influ-

influence, although he should seem to be possessed of his senses, yet he ceases to be an accountable creature. You may if you please, call this a bold paradox, and charge me with uttering extravagant notions, but I will appeal from your startled imagination, to the test of experience. You know that there is no point of honour upon which men are more exquisitely delicate, than in giving or receiving the *Lie direct*. But Magnetism can remove this dangerous scrupulosity. Let your footman be thrown into a Crisis, and he may not only insult his master, but give the lie to the first man in the kingdom with perfect impunity.*

Men of nice feelings may be shocked at the recital of such plain dealing, but a little reflection will convince moderate people, that this liberty of speech may be attended with prodigious advantages. It is an old maxim, that the naked truth seldom salutes the Ears of the great, but this difficulty may now be removed by our wonder-working science.

Whenever

* This is literally and rigorously true. An impudent footman sprawling in a counterfeited convulsion, gave the Lie to a nobleman before a public company; and, hear, O ye men of sensibility and honour, he escaped the merited chastisement of kicking or caning! his lordship with great condescension continued to chat with him in a very familiar way. *Ed.*

Whenever a man of Quality is disposed to hear of his errors or ignorances, he may order his valet to be thrown into a crisis, and his Lordship will not fail to be treated with a freedom which upon any other occasion, would be deemed insufferable insolence. It needs no great sagacity to foresee that this remarkable privilege is liable to abuse, but you know, Sir, that the best things are capable of the greatest corruptions. I am well aware, that those minds which are yet fettered with vulgar opinions, will not readily conceive, how Animal Magnetism can emancipate a man from civil and moral obligations ; to these people I shall only reply, that I pity the narrowness of their intellectual faculties, and advise them not to censure, what they do not understand.

Another remarkable prerogative conferred upon the subject of the *Crisis*, is, that of perfect and unobstructed vision ; or in other words, all opacity is removed, and every object becomes luminous and transparent. It will be in vain for you to oppose any objections, founded upon the nature of light and vision, against my assertion ; the merits of the cause shall rest upon fair and open experiments. I do not intend to affirm, that every person in a crisis is possessed of this extraordinary faculty ; but it is a notorious fact, that some highly favoured ones have declared, they could tell you the hour of the day

day by your watch, when it is locked up in your drawer; and could read a book of moderate sized print, by looking at it thro' a Millstone.*

It is unnecessary for me to expatiate, upon the numerous advantages that must result, from the application of this Lyncean power to medical purposes. Physicians are frequently at a loss to assign the precise cause and seat of internal diseases; and we know that a judgement founded upon symptoms and reasoning, must be liable to great uncertainty. Indeed, the very illustrious diviner by Urine, has discovered a much more compendious way to the detection of diseases, than that which is generally taught in the schools of medicine; but his skill, tho' confessedly great, cannot aspire to a competition with that of the man in a *Crisis*.

Here we have at length, obtained that long wished-for *desideratum*, the art of looking into the inside of a patient, in order to learn the nature of his complaint. I cannot indeed upon this point speak from actual experience, as I never had the curiosity to suffer

* Let not the gentle reader suspect that the defender of Magnetism, is led by enthusiastic fondness to the verge of exaggeration. The shameless teachers of this System of Absurdity had the effrontery to propagate, and their disciples the simplicity to defend, these monstrous pretensions. *Ed.*

suffer a crisis in my own person ; but the experiment has been so frequently repeated, that the Doctor maintains the fact, with the same fearless confidence, for which he is so notorious upon every other point of the Magnetic doctrine.

Let a person labouring under any disease whatever, be only brought within the sphere of vision, of one in a Crisis, and the patient instantly becomes transparent before him. By virtue of this literal intuition, chalk-stones have been discovered swimming in the blood-vessels, bile obstructing the nerves, wind in the liver, and maggots in the brain. No person can for a moment entertain a doubt, that very valuable benefits may be derived from the discreet exercise of this power ; and yet the friends to Magnetism, have been grossly insulted upon this very point by your sceptical Philosophers : some of these men, have even had the effrontery to offer our great Professor a sum of money, to favour them with a Specimen of his gifts, in this way ; but his dignity of soul, would not suffer him to be bribed into an ostentatious display of this eminent faculty.

I very well remember, that when I first ventured to hint at this effect of Magnetic influence to a Philosophical friend, he very charitably supposed me to have lost my senses ; and with great politeness, made that a pretence for declining any farther conversation
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upon the subject. But he was not suffered to escape by the help of such a sorry evasion ; I urged him upon this point with so much vehemence of argumentation, that at length I compelled him to reply.—It would be as easy, said he, to see to the centre of the Earth, as to see through the body of a Man.—Most assuredly it would, nor ought we from hence presumptuously to assign the limits of powers and properties, so far exceeding our comprehension.—But to examine a morbid body, so as to discover the seat of any particular complaint, requires considerable skill in Anatomy ; and yet by your account it seems, that the Doctor's footman, or cook, are occasionally employed to execute this important service : How came they to be so knowing, as instantly to recognize any morbid deviation ?—Why Sir, the same power that can confer such perspicacious opticks, can likewise remove all opacity from mental vision.—Very profound, indeed Sir ! but you seem to have forgotten, that opacity, or transparency, are properties of the object, and not of the organ of sight : Now do you mean to say, that the *Crisis* as you call it, renders opaque bodies at a distance diaphanous ; or does it make the Animal in convulsions so very sharp sighted, that he can see where no light is transmitted ?—Excuse me, Sir, these are trite and vulgar objections ; they may have some
force

force when applied to people in an ordinary state, but Animal Magnetism is without analogy, it bears no resemblance to any one Phenomenon in nature.—I verily believe it, replied my friend, and immediately quitted the room. As my antagonist had thus hastily retired from the field, I exulted in my victory, and am not without hopes, that from an adversary, he may become a convert to Magnetism.

I will, however, frankly confess, that the wonderful visual powers conferred by the *Crisis*, ought not to have been divulged in so publick a manner; nay, this openness and ingenuity, may be inimical to the interest of the operator.

Suppose for instance, that a Lady of virtue and delicacy should require the Doctor's assistance, were she to conceive that she is more perfectly exposed to the Eyes of his footman, than the naked savages of America, false delicacy, and the prejudices of Education, might induce her to reject this salutary remedy. Besides, this power of minute inspection, is capable of being perverted and misapplied, to the great inconvenience of the Patient.

I had once an opportunity of observing a curious instance, where a Magnetiser's sense of touch had acquired a degree of perfection, equal to that which I have related of the organ of sight; for as in the latter instance they can see without light, so in that which I am

going to relate, he could *feel* without the contact of a tangible object.

The Doctor was seriously engaged in Magnetising a Gentleman, when he suddenly cried out with a rapture equal to that which agitated *Archimedes*, when he jumped out of the bath, and ran naked into the street, "I have found them," "I have got them." "Got hold of what," said the Patient, somewhat amazed. "I have caught hold of two worms, Sir," replied the Doctor, "I feel them between my fingers." Tho' the patient did not see them, yet he believed, and was delighted; and the whole company departed with emotions that are easier to be conceived of, than expressed.

I remain, Sir,

Yours, &c.

L E T T E R IV.

LONDON.

S. I R,

IT was once my intention, to have sent you a more ample account of the *Crisis*, and its wonderful concomitants; but as you wish for information upon a different part of the

the subject, I shall proceed to give you the satisfaction you desire.

When the Science of Animal Magnetism was first employed in a medical way, the directors of the process, were less skilful than their present successors. They employed a formidable and unweildy apparatus, consisting of a large tub, perforated with a great number of holes, and through these apertures iron rods were made to project, for the purposes of conveying, and directing the Magnetic effluvium. But these were days of ignorance, and grossness of invention.

We have now no occasion for reservoirs to contain the Magnetic fluid, nor for extraneous assistance to convey it to the morbid part: Our Professor is always full charged in his own body, and in beholding him, you see the most faultless edition of a *Materia Medica*, that was ever sent abroad. Like the ingenious spider, he is continually employed in pouring forth the contents of his own bowels, to alleviate the sufferings and sorrows of his fellow creatures.

It has been pretended by some people, that the Magnetisers carry certain subtle substances in their pockets, so that the numerous cures they perform, are wrought by the efficacy of Medicinal effluvia. But nothing can be less true than this slanderous imputation. If it were necessary for me to adduce particular proofs of this assertion, I
could

could demonstrate, that they are not at all indebted to Physical agents for their success ; for they have contrived to maintain a profound ignorance, concerning every thing that relates to the practice of Medicine.

There are so many advantages attending this new method of treating diseases, that it threatens annihilation to the Physicians and Apothecaries; you ought not to be surprised therefore to find, that the faculty oppose with such firmness, this dangerous innovation.

When a sick person chooses to be cured by *Treatment*, (a new technical name we have lately adopted) he is entirely delivered from all the nauseous potions, which ordinary Practitioners are accustomed to prescribe; his palate will never be disgusted, nor his stomach offended, by Chymical or Galenical compounds. As nothing can be more easy, so no method of cure can be half so diverting, as that by Animal Magnetism. The patient is only required to sit in his chair for about half an hour every day, in the presence of the Magnetic Doctor, who employs so many curious grimaces, and singular gesticulations, in dislodging the complaint, that the low spirits of a Hypochondriac, must infallibly be refreshed by observing them. The expense, may indeed equal that which is incurred by the usual mode of recovery, but any sensible man would rather pay his money to be cured
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without medicine, than be obliged to swallow the drugs, and pay into the bargain.

The *certainty* attending this method of cure, has a still greater claim to our notice ; for it may be said of Animal Magnetism, that it never fails to do good to one of the parties, which is more than can be at all times said for the practice of Physick. Some of our fraternity, have honestly confessed, that on making attempts to administer medicines in the usual way, it was seldom with success ; and as defamatory reports were circulated, that some patients were unexpectedly hurried into the other world, a just dislike was conceived against such edged tools ; it was, therefore, determined to make war upon sickness, in a manner less hostile to the human constitution.

Indeed, if any man has found by sad experience, that in the administration of drugs, it is very uncertain whether he shall kill or cure, it will do credit both to his humanity and integrity, when he shall adopt a method at once profitable and harmless : and certainly, he who takes another's purse, robs him of trash, when compared with the man, who distributes misery or death in every dose.*

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* The practice of Animal Magnetism hath often proved the last resource of an ignorant and hardy adventurer ; and a fellow unfit to prescribe Physick for a horse, has suddenly become a great Physician, on assuming the character of a Magnetiser.

As a man of learning, you are doubtless acquainted with the admirable relations upon record, of the power of mystical sounds, when uttered by an old woman over a diseased person ; of the extraordinary virtue of Magical Characters, of Love Philtres, and Amulets : and you certainly know something of the wonder-working weapon-salve, and the famous sympathetic powder, the former of which was applied to the weapon to heal the wound ; and the latter could stop the most dangerous hæmorrhages, at a moderate distance. But all these accounts, which have been generally treated as fabulous, are more than realized in the powers and effects of Animal Magnetism. Let me intreat you, Sir, to restrain your scepticism upon this point, till I have fully explained myself ; nor hastily reject my assertion as incredible, because it may surpass your comprehension.

The interposition of any portion of space, between the Doctor and his patient, can form no obstacle to the action of the Magnetic fluid. If any diseased person shall communicate to the Doctor the place of his residence, although he shall be an inhabitant of another kingdom, he is as much under the power of our great dispenser of Magnetic influence, as if he lived in the next street. Many people have received cures while they were travelling, by giving the Magnetiser a
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plan of their journey, and one of our people in London, actually cured an old woman of blindness, when she was making the tour of Wales.

You know that sick people are sometimes strangely perverse, and obstinately refuse to take the benefits that are offered to them; here we can again boast a manifest superiority over medicine, for we have no occasion to pour the drugs by force down the throat of a refractory patient, he may be silently cured, without his knowledge and concurrence. Thus, like the Astronomer, who was intrusted with the distribution of showers and sun-shine to the whole globe, the operators in Magnetism when sitting in their closets, may be employed in curing Cataracts in Greenland, the Gout in China, the Leprosy in Egypt, and the Yaws in America. The doctors are perfectly agreed, that their influence upon a patient at any distance is equally powerful; but they confess, that when this subtle fluid is propelled beyond a certain limited space, it is apt to become ungovernable, so that they always wish to conduct it by the means of a shorter rein. If the disease should happen to be situated externally, and so can be fairly represented by the pencil, let the patient only transmit its picture once a week to the operator, and the cure will go on without any inconvenience.

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Behold,

Behold, Sir, a perfect contrast to the abominable practices recorded in the Histories of Witchcraft and Sorcery; these infernal wretches employed their art, in tormenting French and Scottish Kings, by sticking little waxen images full of pins, and roasting them before a slow fire; while the Magnetic Doctor exercises his talents upon pictures and images, with the most kind and benevolent intentions.

Do not, I beseech you, misunderstand me, as if I meant to insinuate, that the Magnetisers are a tribe of Magicians and Conjurers; nor suffer your imagination to fancy, that there is some resemblance between their pretensions, and the boastings of those who deal with the Devil. A Man of Science will form a more just estimate of their real character, and leave these chimæra's to the credulous vulgar.

Some Philosophers have objected against our distant operations, by asserting, that no material substance can act, where it is not present under some form. But this is mere *gratis dictum*. What do we know about proximity or remoteness? Perhaps there are no two particles of matter in the universe that actually touch one another, and yet they exercise reciprocal actions: besides, nearness and distance are mere arbitrary terms, so that as one of our Lecturers very well observed, Edinburgh may for ought we know,
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be as much in the neighbourhood of London, as Islington. I cannot at present bring forward all the reasons by which this sublime Hypothesis is maintained ; but the Lectures of our Professors, contain every thing that can be wished for upon the subject.

If I have hitherto been reciting to you a narration replete with the marvellous, the constellation of wonders, contains a star much brighter than any that has yet been viewed. Pardon my figurative language, for I want words to express that transcendental faculty, by which the Magnetic Doctor can transfer diseases from one subject to another, with the same facility that you can pour wine out of a bottle into the decanter ; and this simile will hold in another part, for as wine is decanted in order to be again taken out, so the disease is transplanted, that it may be more conveniently expelled. When I was a child, I remember, the nurse used to transfer whitlows from our fingers into the ear of a cat, to our great comfort, but to the inexpressible torment of the poor animal ; the Magnetiser, however, in his superabundant benevolence, transfers the complaints of his patients to himself, and afterwards runs the risk of expelling them from his own body. I am quite at a loss to conjecture, whether you will more admire the power of the Doctor, or his eminent humanity.

In former days, when a regular exorciser undertook to dispossess the body of a demoniac, he would either send the demon into the Red Sea, or imprison him in the bowels of the earth; he had not, like our doctors, the courage to engage his adversary in close quarters.—I also defy the medical world to produce such an example of rare benevolence: Where is the Physician, for instance, that would be willing to take the Gout, the Colic, or the Stone from his Patients, and then undergo the danger and fatigue, of combating these formidable enemies in his own territories? *

It must, indeed, be acknowledged, that the act of transplantation, induces a material change in the form of the disease, so that the operator does not become the subject of the specific complaint which he translates, but only experiences a general inconvenience. As you will probably be curious to know in what manner the doctor is affected by this transfer, I will relate the usual mode of its operation. No sooner is a disease expelled from his wonted residence, than like a wild beast attacked in his den, he rushes furiously upon his opponent; the first onset somewhat resembles the conflict of an Acid with
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* Here then we have a specimen of a true medical Metempsychosis, where mens diseases, like their souls, being violently dislodged, are compelled to shift about for new habitations.

an Alkali, for there is a powerful effervescence in the Magnetiser's stomach, and such a sedition in his entrails, that he becomes puffed up like a man in a Tympany. This obstructed flatulence he soon expels in a very sensible manner, at every convenient outlet, and he declares his victory in the language of a genuine ventriloquist.*

Thus the Magnetiser by voluntarily exposing himself to the pains and infirmities of his patients, is constrained to suffer for the benefit of society, a daily series of cruel martyrdoms.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

* As there are certain people who attach themselves to peculiar operations, as Oculists, Aurists, &c. so the Magnetisers generally make the lower intestines the theatre of their exploits. All their powers and prognostics smell strongly of the water-closet; and from the nasty tricks they play in the presence of their patients, one might be induced to suspect, that like the antient Egyptians they worship the *Crepitum ventris*. Ed.

LETTER V.

LONDON.

S I R,

WHEN the effects of Animal Magnetism first became generally known, there was a something in its operations, so far surpassing the conceptions of the multitude, that they were regarded as miraculous. The masters of this Science, found it rather difficult to decide upon the best way in which mankind should be directed to conceive of its achievements, whether they should refer them to natural causes, or lay claim to supernatural powers ; and this difficulty was farther augmented, by their not being precisely clear, with respect to the nature of the powers of which they were conscious. They concluded however, that there could be no impropriety in hinting at the efficacy of FAITH, when acting conjointly with Animal Magnetism ; and as for the unbelieving, and profane, they were left to take the sole chance of Magnetism uncombined. I am aware, that many of the graver sort of people, have been greatly scandalized, at our hinting a necessary connexion of this New Science with Religion, but they were probably

bably ignorant of the surprising moral effects which it has wrought upon many of its disciples.

I do not intend to insist upon the introduction of it as an auxiliary to religion; nor do I approve of our openly arrogating supernatural powers. This is very delicate ground, for it might lead to a controversy, whether, supposing the facts we have adduced to be authentic, the effects are to be ascribed to Divine, or Diabolical agency. Discussions of this nature are attended with so many inconveniencies, that we wish carefully to avoid them. I shall, therefore, content myself with hinting thus much in favour of the co-operation of Faith, that obstinate incredulity will disarm Magnetism of all its powers, and entirely prevent the unhappy infidel, from deriving any benefit from this salutary remedy.

But while the subject of this New Science, agitates and divides the minds of so many people, I am happy to see the number of illustrious and respectable names, which dignify the list of converts to Magnetism. We can boast of disciples in both houses of Parliament; many worthy Gentlemen in the church, may be ranked among its ablest masters, and warmest defenders; and even a *remnant* among the faculty, have had the liberality to divest themselves of prejudice, and become students in the school of Magnetism.

tism. There is, indeed, one class of men, upon which we have hitherto been unable to make the least impression ; I mean the Philosophers,—a race of men notorious for incredulity respecting all the occult sciences : we have accordingly determined to regard them as incorrigible.

I have sometimes amused myself with Speculations, upon the unparalleled advantages that may result, from the introduction of Animal Magnetism into the great council of the nation. If the minister fears opposition in some favorite motion from a turbulent orator, he may by the eloquence of his fingers, consign the troublesome member to sleep ; or if the Gentleman be already upon his legs, thundering out invectives against mal-administration, he may find this Demosthenes other employment, by throwing him into a Crisis. You will probably say, that this power may prove a dangerous engine in the hands of a corrupt administration ; but remember Sir, the Patriots may avail themselves of the same weapon, so that on a day of public business, St. Stephen's would exhibit a motley scene of members found asleep, or rolling in convulsions. This would form a new æra in the history of ministerial influence ; and our Senators would then seek as eagerly for an antidote against the powers of Magnetism, as for a remedy against the bite of a mad dog.

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It is my private opinion however, that the communication of this power, ought to be laid under certain restrictions. Evil minded and designing men, (if any such can become Magnetisers) might produce great mischief; and confusion, in the world, by the misapplication of this potent instrument. Our Legislature might be interrupted in the digesting of salutary laws; magistrates might be arrested in the execution of justice; and even the Pulpit be exposed to a new species of insult. An unlucky fellow instead of pelting a preacher with stones, would more effectually spoil his sermon, by throwing him into a *Crisis*. But the prevention of these and such like abuses, I resign to the wisdom of our Law-givers.

I have often been curious to know, why our clerical disciples betrayed such eagerness to become adepts in the Science. They cannot exhibit attainments of this kind in the Pulpit, nor ought their gown to permit them to follow it as a lucrative profession; and if they Magnetise *gratis*, this great generosity may prove injurious to those, who may be said, "By this craft to get their wealth." We are very sensible of the honour they confer upon us, by entering into our Society; and the contempt and persecution, which they voluntarily suffer in the common cause, merit our warmest expressions of gratitude. But it would probably

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be more for the common interest, if they were contented to assist us by their prayers and good wishes. Don't think, Sir, that I say this from mercenary motives, I can assure you, it is for their sake, rather than ours, that I deliver this opinion.

The great openness, with which the Magnetic professors have communicated their instructions, seems likely to be attended with some inconvenience. Curiosity, or ambition, has prompted many plain uneducated men to emerge from obscurity, by acquiring a knowledge of this occult science; hence tradesmen have quitted their shops, and clerks their counting-houses, to become proficient in Animal Magnetism. For my own part, I do not approve of thus exposing the Arcana of our art to such an indiscriminate company; and I am rather apprehensive, that the investigation of so profound a subject, may produce unfavourable effects upon the brains of men, whose studies never extended farther than the doctrines of loss and gain. The number of operators is already quite adequate to the public demand, so that our friends may be supplied with Animal Magnetism, for their own use, and the benefit of their families, at a moderate expence, without exposing themselves to the dangers incidental to learned enquiry.

I have now, Sir, enumerated several peculiar advantages, medical, moral, and political,

litical, that may be derived from the due management of Animal Magnetism, I shall briefly suggest another, which must be a very interesting one to the polite world.

When a Gentleman pays a morning visit to a Lady, it may so happen, that a dearth of news, and a barrenness of invention, shall so spitefully jump together, that the *tête à tête* will be likely to prove a scene of perfect insipidity; but if the visitor happens to be an adept in this science, the embarrassment cannot be of long duration. It may soon be fashionable to ask the Lady, if she chooses to be Magnetised; and this diverting employment will at all times prove an infallible relief to a dull conversation. It has been violently suspected, that this has operated as a powerful motive with many young people of fortune, to learn the Art and Science of Magnetising,

I have now, Sir, delivered to you a fair and authentic account of the nature and qualities of Animal Magnetism; the success of this attempt to remove your incredulity, can only be decided by time and experience.

I remain, Sir,

Yours, &c.

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A P P E N D I X.

THE ironical stile employed in the preceding letters, seems to have been intended to expose Animal Magnetism, with its abettors, to ridicule and contempt. And upon a subject so truly contemptible, it was perhaps, as good a method as could have been adopted. Argument and candid examination would be entirely misplaced, when directed against men, who possess neither science nor honesty. But although the artful Ringleaders of this scheme of fraud and imposition are too despicable to deserve any other notice, than that which the law has assigned for vagrants and fortune-tellers; yet the simple credulity of great numbers, (of whom better things might have been expected) seemed to render it necessary, that some attempt should be made, to rescue them from this spreading delusion.

On comparing the general account of Animal Magnetism, as it is exhibited in the foregoing pages, with the result of a very diligent

diligent enquiry, both among the operators and patients, I am so far from considering it as a caricature, that it might have been carried much farther, without at all violating the truth. No fanatics ever divulged notions more wild and extravagant ; no impudent empiric ever retailed promises more preposterous, or histories of cures more devoid of reality, than the tribe of Magnetisers. It is now my intention, as Editor, to make a few observations, upon some of the particular facts that are brought forward in the foregoing Letters.

I. These men abound with noisy pretensions to Science and Philosophy ; and with people that are possessed of neither, a mystical jargon delivered with ease and effrontery, will have a mighty effect. But there is a general strain of inconsistency, and evasion, in their manner of propagating the knowledge, they affect to have attained. Sometimes they boast of performing all these wonderful things, by the interposition of some fluid, which nobody but themselves knows any thing about ; and when you inquire where it is, and what are its properties, you are told upon one occasion, that it circulates through the whole earth ; at another time, it is contained in the body of every individual ; then you are to seek it in the body of the Doctor ; and by and by, it comes out, that they are not sure, whether there may be any
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material fluid or no ;—perhaps their operations are performed by some occult quality, or by Sympathy. The farce of profound Science is carried still farther, by the formal delivery of Lectures upon Magnetism : and some people have been found in almost every class of Society, who would pay from twenty five to fifty guineas, sign a bond, and take a solemn oath of secrecy into the bargain, that they might have the privilege of hearing a set of senseless harangues, which nobody ever did, or ever can understand.

In this country, indeed, a man may utter nonsense, and vend it at his own price ; but there seems to be some impropriety, in permitting them to administer oaths of secrecy to their credulous hearers. There cannot be a more likely method adopted, to prevent the detection of any scheme of villainy, than to expose its dupes to the hazard of perjury, in giving a proper information against the authors. It may be very properly inquired, why is all this darkness and mystery employed, if there be no fraud or juggle in the case ? and reasonable people will be strongly inclined to suspect, that where a business shrinks from the light, and dares not submit to a fair examination, there must be something very weak, or very wicked, interwoven in its fabric.

II. When these men first began their practices in this kingdom, they contrived
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to work upon the fancies of weak and irritable women, so as to throw them into Hysterical fits; and to these convulsions they gave the name of *Crisis*. Some violent effects were necessary to be produced, to awaken the attention of the populace; and this was a trick of known efficacy, for it has often been too successfully employed by the most wretched impostors, who have by arts like these, supported a claim to a supernatural mission. It seems, however, that these bodily agitations are not essential to the success of the scheme; they have answered their purpose, and now give place to a milder, and less alarming practice.*

There are some circumstances attending this part of the imposture, that greatly expose the credulity of the people. They find no difficulty in believing, that an arrogant buffoon by making some ridiculous motions with his fingers, can throw any person into convulsions.—They believe, also, that these people, when actually convulsed, are in a very proper state for enquiring into the nature of diseases; and they believe likewise, that any of the Doctor's accomplices, when in this condition, can see through all the cover-

* The reason for this alteration is very obvious. Very dangerous consequences have followed from exciting these convulsions, so as to put the health of the sufferers, and the credit of the Magnetisers, into a very perilous situation.

coverings of the body, natural and artificial, into the very bowels of his Patients. The very recital of absurdities like these, must shock every person of sense and integrity: and yet this thin veil of imposture, has not prevented people of all ranks, from becoming the prey of these audacious pretenders.*

III. It was formerly charged upon the Jesuits, that they had a scheme of religion, adapted to the different tastes of people with whom they had intercourse; and a method like this, is every day practised by the Magnetisers. If a man of some pretensions to learning, enquires after its nature, he is assured it is strictly Philosophical and rational; that there is no claim to any powers or effects but such as are natural. But let a simple credulous person apply, and he is given to understand, that it has no sort of relation to

* This species of Divination is not the peculiar offspring of Magnetism. Many years ago, the city of Paris was infested with vagrants, who offered to convince any person that would pay them, that their Eyes could pierce through the most opaque substances. They pretended to know the contents of any box made of gold, silver, or wood; and more than this, they offered to repeat the contents of any letter, written at the distance of several miles, provided the person would write it in the presence of a particular clock, which they affirmed, would repeat again every thing that was transacted in its presence. What is rather singular, they seemed to perform what they so boldly promised, and with such success, as to impose upon some men of education, who believed that these people had discovered "*a new agent in nature.*"

to medicine, or human means; but is a something, on which his own imagination may confer a name.

With some religious people, it has been attempted to be passed off as a miraculous operation; and, upon certain occasions, it has been found convenient to give dark hints at the power and efficacy of Faith, when its actings were directed this way. Timid people, who could swallow by wholesale all the absurdities that have been propagated concerning miraculous cures, have, at times, expressed some apprehension lest these men should be performing all their feats by a diabolical compact; but the good which they fancied was done, soothed their minds into tranquillity upon this point. In short, Animal Magnetism has been a subtle fluid; it has been sympathy; it has been Faith and prayer; it has been spiritual influence; or, it has been any thing that seemed to suit the disposition of the present inquirer.

In an age which pretends to so much illumination as the present, it must appear very extraordinary, that it should be necessary to employ arguments to prove that a Physical effect, cannot be produced without a Physical cause: that men cannot cure diseases without employing adequate remedies; and that the drawing figures and characters in the air, cannot affect a sick person at the distance of a hundred miles! I will venture

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to suggest to those people, whose faith is not to be staggered by the want of probability, that the same drug which would prove salutary in a small dose, may prove poisonous in a larger : if Magnetism, therefore, be so powerful a remedy, it is capable of being employed in executing the most destructive purposes ; and destructive in a way the most dangerous, because the most secret. For the Magnetiser, without attacking the lives of men by dagger, or poison, might assassinate in every family, with the most perfect impunity.

Now, is there a disciple, possessed of common sense and integrity, who will seriously declare, that he really believes all this to be very possible? If such a believer as this can be found, I am sure he is bound as a good citizen, to exert his best endeavours to banish these dangerous people, not only from the community, but out of the world : And those who cannot digest so much of the marvellous, by encouraging the imposture, deserve to be regarded as their associates in insanity. How can the same men pretend to any consistency, when they affect to despise the Histories of Witchcraft, and Sorcery, and yet professedly give credit to stories equally improbable, with any that are related by the most credulous Historian? It would be manifestly ridiculous to pretend, that there is no analogy between the boasted feats of
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Conjurors and Magnetisers ; the resemblance will strictly hold in every respect except this, that the Magnetiser is the more able Magician of the two.

IV. We learn from the history of human nature, that the more illiterate part of the community, from their proneness to superstition, have most commonly become the prey of arrogant impostors. But the modern tribe of Magnetic Jugglers, have had the finesse to seduce characters, the most exalted and respectable. What must be the astonishment of posterity, to read, that members of the British Senate, have so far forgotten their dignity, as to countenance the most worthless foreigners, in their flagrant impositions upon the Public : to read, that they have become their associates and co-adjutors ; have listened with gravity to Lectures fraught with the most profound nonsense ; have learnt the tricks and grimace of knavish buffoons, and thus equipped, they have issued forth as Magnetisers, offering their services among their friends and acquaintance.

It is really difficult to know in what manner to address these noble and honourable characters, who have thus sullied their dignity, and dishonoured their understandings. The Education of a Gentleman, ought to render him a competent judge between Philosophy, and Legerdemain ; between a rati-

onal proposition, and nonsensical jargon. I must therefore, frankly acknowledge, that to me it appears one of the greatest and most singular effects of Magnetism, that it should possess the power to infatuate and bewilder, the intellects of men, who upon many other occasions, are capable of acting an useful, and creditable part in society.

V. Men of avowed licentious principles, have embraced many opportunities, to insult the friends of Christianity, upon the weakness and credulity of the orthodox. But Magnetic attraction seems to have levelled all distinctions ; so that believers, and unbelievers, Turks, Jews, and Schismatics, may be found mingled together in the number of its disciples. If it were once thought a strange thing to meet Epicurus in a heathen temple ; How much more strange is it, to see a rational Infidel, who could never find satisfactory evidence of the truth of Christianity, now admitting with implicit faith, all the doctrines taught by the great Apostles of Magnetism ! Men who deny the perpetual providence of the Creator, can believe, that a wretched impostor in London, daily controls the health and lives of their fellow creatures in different parts of the Globe. They do not believe that God ever endowed any one with power to open the Eyes of the blind ; and yet they believe, that without any divine assistance, a man can confer the
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gift of seeing through the most opaque bodies. They cannot perceive any thing consonant to reason, or justice, in vicarious sufferings; and yet they admit that a Magnetiser can transfer the Physical evils of his fellow creatures to his own body, so that "*himself shall take their sicknesses, and bear their infirmities..*" A miracle, according to these Gentlemen, is in its own nature impossible; and yet they believe, that their master by making a few circles in the Air, can perform miraculous cures, equal to any upon record: but what is more, they also believe, that the Magnetic Apostles can confer upon themselves, the power of working miracles equally extraordinary. When men have attained to such a measure of faith, that they can receive and propagate tales, equally ridiculous with any that disgrace the legends of the darkest ages; we must either shrewdly suspect the honesty of their sceptical declarations upon certain points, or rejoice to observe that, among Infidels, may be found the least rational, and the most credulous of all mankind.

VI. This absurd business, is likewise said to receive countenance and support, from many respectable ministers, both in the established church, and among the dissenters. Their motives for standing forth as advocates in so strange a cause, may do credit to their hearts; but the interests of humanity do not require

require any man to lay aside his understanding : and the plea of a good intention, is a very insufficient excuse, for the man who exposes not only his own character, but his profession, and even religion itself, to the insults of profane men, for the sake of defending a piece of contemptible quackery.

Some of these reverend Gentlemen have learned the art and mystery of Magnetism, to the great edification of those, who have long been accustomed to regard priests and empirics as similar characters. It may be presumed, however, that clergymen are no more interested in the science and practice of Magnetism, than in tumbling, or rope-dancing ; and if their curiosity should induce them to learn the art of picking locks, and inverting pockets, it would be not less laudable, than that which carries them to the lectures of Magnetisers : and I am fully persuaded that a clergyman has as much business with Magic, as with Magnetism, in the performance of his pastoral function.

Reverend Sirs, you are believers in the Christian Revelation, and in Animal Magnetism ; and you defend the authenticity of each in the same way, by the evidence of miracles. Suppose it were to be inquired, How you distinguish between the miracles recorded in scripture, and those related by the professors of this new art ?

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I am persuaded you would be some time in finding a satisfactory answer. To reply, that the Magnetisers lay no claim to miraculous powers, would be a mere subterfuge, a verbal evasion; for wherever a true miracle is performed, the agency of some supernatural power is implied. If any man should remove a mountain by stretching out his finger, you would grant the interference of an agent more than human; and if by a similar motion, diseases can be chased from the bodies of the sick, are these effects less supernatural?

The very same arguments, that would prove the mighty works done by the Apostles of Christ, to be genuine miracles, would be equally conclusive in favour of the mighty feats boasted by the Magnetisers. If you be thus reduced to acknowledge the presence of a supernatural power, we must next investigate its nature, and inquire whether these operations be diabolical, or Divine? You cannot esteem them to be divine, without deserving the solemn reproof that Peter once delivered to that ancient impostor, Simon the Magician; and charity forbids one to suppose, that you suspect diabolical agency.

But it is very possible, that some of these marvellous stories, which you have helped to circulate, are gross mistakes, and that the greater part are impudent falsehoods; What then will be your reflections when the bubble

bubble bursts, and the whole scheme of this atrocious imposition shall be openly detected? The time cannot be very distant, when the most fascinated advocate for this Medico-religious buffoonery, will be ashamed of, and confounded at, his simple credulity. The interested agents in this business, are too low and contemptible, to suffer the indignation of an insulted publick; but upon you, their tools and abettors, will the ponderous load of infamy descend; an Infamy, that may stain the glory of all your former labours, and greatly obstruct your future usefulness. A well grounded charge of credulity and fanaticism, must unnerve all that your zeal, your learning, and piety, may attempt; and the meanest of your hearers, may think it a sufficient reason for despising all that you may preach, when he shall say, This Man was a Magnetiser!—

7. Quacks and Impostors have commonly been most successful in their depredations, upon the lower ranks of people, who are always remarkably attached to the marvellous. The common venders of nostrums, have also generally given the people something substantial for their money; but quackery in this improved state, operates upon the body, by disordering the imagination, and cannot boast of one effect, but where the victim of credulity has been previously deluded by hope, or terrified with apprehension.

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It has been thought a sufficient reply to any one who urges that Magnetism operates only upon the fancy, that "we may daily witness the most remarkable FACTS, which are performed by this new agent in nature." When any matter of fact is brought before the mind, with sufficient evidence of its truth, it must be admitted; but we are not obliged to grant any conclusion which the relator may please to infer. I believe, that timorous people have fallen into fits, at the time they were exposed to the tricks and grimace of a Magnetiser; that the stomach and bowels have suffered great commotions; and that some distempers gradually disappeared after these disturbances had been excited. The simple facts are admitted for truths, and the cause I assign, is mental perturbation. Nothing can betray greater weakness of the understanding, than for a man to pretend that he has rightly assigned the cause, when he has only simply proved the fact, and who expects the same deference to be paid to his Logical deductions, that we give to the testimony of his senses.

Before a man undertakes to show, that any one Phenomenon is effected by some agent or power, it is incumbent upon him to prove the existence of that agent, or his theory will be a mere rope of sand. Now

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the existence of such an Agent as the Magnetisers boast of, is a mere chimera, its reality never has, and never can be proved : on a fair and candid examination into this matter in France, they were pronounced to be a set of vile impostors, and were prohibited by royal Authority, from continuing their infamous practices.*

It has been often urged, that " If good be done by these men, why should we be so scrupulous about the means that they employ ?" This is indeed an argument worthy of such a cause, and would vindicate highway-robbery and assassination, as well as Magnetism.

He who pretends that the end will justify the means, is either a weak, or a wicked man, and is qualified to be an advocate for the grossest enormities that have ever been committed. Fraud, and deceit, are in their own nature, highly criminal ; and whatever supposed benefits may result from employing

* In order to elude the force of what the Royal Academicians brought against this imposture in France ; the Magnetisers in England, pretend to renounce all affinity with their foreign brethren. They tell us, that what they practice is " commonly called Animal Magnetism ;" but in what the difference consists, they have not vouchsafed to declare. But this is a paltry equivocation, for, however, there may be some little circumstantial variations, the scheme is fundamentally and essentially the same : equally foolish, and equally fraudulent.

ing such engines, the guilt of the perpetrator is not at all lessened by his success; and it becomes the duty of every good member of society, to discountenance and expose such dangerous characters.

But it is no new thing, to see men in distress, urged by fretfulness and impatience, forsake the use of lawful and natural means of relief, and attempting to extricate themselves by practices of a very suspicious nature. We have a very memorable instance of this, in the example of King Saul, who in the day of his calamity, sought relief from the prohibited arts of a wretched old woman;—and it becomes his imitators to recollect the affecting reason he gives for this criminal conduct,—“I am sore distressed—and God is departed from me,—therefore I have called thee.”

T H E E N D.