

JUNIUS UNMASKED;

OR,

WILLIAM R. DICKERSON

In his True Character.

BY

THOMAS HAGUE, ASTROMETEOROLOGIST AND ASTROLOGER.

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 “VILLANY THAT IS VIGILANT WILL BE AN OVERMATCH FOR
 VIRTUE IF SHE SLUMBER AT HER POST.”
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Of the large number of candidates before the people soliciting their suffrages, we design to speak as we have heretofore done, fearlessly and freely. Those who are capable and honest, irrespective of party, will receive our cordial support; and the demagogues of all parties we shall as fearlessly condemn. Of this latter class, none now nominated stands forth so prominently as Wm. R. DICKERSON, one of the candidates for the STATE SENATE. This man, under the cloak of philanthropy, professing to be the people's friend, the advocate of strictly legal and low fees, is doing more to undermine the true interests of the public than all the parasites that ever clung to office in this city. This advocate of low fees, we venture to say, has pocketed more plunder from the poor whom he has duped than all the officers in the Row for the last four years! His history will prove our assertions, and to its careful perusal we invite the public: that it will astonish—nay, if it does not utterly stupefy with amazement, we shall be mistaken in the estimate we have made of the purity of the public mind.

Wm. R. DICKERSON started in life with this axiom deeply impressed upon his mind, viz: “The people can be humbugged,



and him who does it the most successfully *they like the best.*" A man, therefore, with moral principles so loosely hung together as to adopt such a motto as the leading idea of his creed, would not hesitate, when the opportunity offered, to plunder the widow and orphan of their last crust, and while witnessing their agony wash his hands in their tears. All is fair with such a man so long as the matter can be kept "under the rose," or out of public view. But to his history.

WM. R. DICKERSON first made his appearance before the public in the letters of "JUNIUS," said letters purporting to expose the malpractices, the extortions, and corruptions in the officers of the State House Row. In the following year appeared the memorable report of the "COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN," in which not only the officers of the "Row," but the JUDGES OF OUR COURTS, were assailed in the most vindictive and unrelenting manner. Their private as well as public character was attempted to be blackened by this would-be-considered *immaculate philanthropist*. If a tithe of what was asserted in these letters and report be true, this good city of Brotherly Love contains within its borders more human depravity, more that is truly despicable in human nature, more corruption under the cloak of sanctity, than any government that ever disgraced the world in the midnight of its darkest and most despotic age. All this, if the assertions of WM. R. DICKERSON be true! We doubt, however, if after reading the revelation we are about making, there can be found any who will be credulous enough to think him capable of *telling the truth at any time, or on any subject*; and even if he did so far forget himself, nobody would believe him.

We, in general terms, utterly deny the sweeping and wholesale denunciations of this man. That *corrupt men* do sometimes get into office we are free to admit; but like some diseases to which the human body is subject, they work their own cure; they cannot hide their characters; the *cloven foot*, no matter how attempted to be disguised, will show itself; and the people in their sovereign capacity seldom fail to apply the corrective. But whether the officers in the State House Row take illegal fees or not, is a matter with which at present we have nothing to do. There is a fee bill attached to all the offices, and to which the public may at all times have access, so that if they wilfully shut their eyes, and afterwards find they have been imposed

upon, it is their own fault. This, however, the people are better acquainted with than WM. R. DICKERSON would make it appear. In all his agitation movements the prime, indeed the *only object*, has been to bring *grist to his own mill*. If he succeeds in duping a portion of the people he converts them into *clients*, and of course has an opportunity of *plucking* them to his heart's content. He is frequently boasting of *his* extensive practice, of *his* great wealth; and like all others whose supreme selfishness is the only motive of action, is continually making a show of philanthropy and benevolence, while at the same time the results of all his actions prove him one of the *meanest of the Judas tribe* that ever disgraced the bar.

We beg to remark in this place that, for any assertion we may make, or any act we may refer to, we are prepared with abundant and satisfactory proof. He may attempt to frighten us with a libel suit; but his threats will not deter us from speaking the truth. We have a reputation for veracity in this community that we would not exchange for all the wealth he has now or ever may acquire. For the last twelve years we have pursued the even tenor of our way, and that man is yet to be found who could successfully approach me with a bribe, or induce me to deviate from the course my favorite science indicates. Our reputation is our only fortune, and when that is tarnished all will be considered as but dust in the balance.

Again, since we came before the public as an *Astrologer*, we have been brought in contact with the most distinguished men who have occupied places under the general as well as the different State governments. Previous to, and during the late war, we resided in Washington, and had interviews with most of the leading officers and men who passed through that city. Many of them followed our advice, and none have ever reproached us with having given it improperly. During our sojourn at the Capital, we were consulted by the representatives of many of the European governments, and our *astrological opinion*, however given, was universally relied upon. We failed not to convince all who applied to us that the PROVIDENCE OF GOD, in his dealings with his *creatures*, extends to the minutest concerns of life. In this belief we have derived the greatest comfort and consolation under the severe trials we have had to endure as an *advocate* of this heavenly science. To this end we have labored,

and shall continue so long as life may last. That Wm. R. Dickerson has under this view been permitted to pursue the infamous course he has, and that the time has come for us to expose him, with all his sins upon his head, we as fully believe. And now to the exposition.

The JUNIUS LETTERS we pass over, as also the report of the celebrated *Committee of Fifteen*. The latter had a nominal President, who, however, only acted as the cats-paw of the leader of the movement, Wm. R. Dickerson. John Dungan was the Secretary, and he too only acted as the tool of this prince of demagogues. John Dungan was the man whom Wm. R. Dickerson employed to negotiate a contract with us. His object was first to obtain the information he supposed to be in our possession, and then to use us as he had done others in his nefarious designs upon the public. Dungan, for the first in his life, hailed us on the 15th of November, 1850, and in the street, who after paying me a number of compliments as the best of ASTROLOGERS, &c., said he wished to see me at my house, when he would make known certain matters which would eventually be of great service to me in a pecuniary way. We mutually agreed upon Monday evening, the 18th inst., at which time he according to promise came. After some conversation and many inquiries on his part, which I endeavored to answer to the best of my ability, he expressed much astonishment at the amount of astrological, political, and other knowledge he discovered in my possession. Without fully stating his object he appointed another meeting, when he would make known to me the particulars of a plan that would result in so much benefit to me.

December 1st, 1850, at half past 11 o'clock A. M., Dungan called again. During this interview I explained to him many chronological events; their connection with each other, and their bearing upon the condition of men. Many of my most valuable books, maps, charts, &c., were also explained in a manner which appeared to afford him great satisfaction. He remarked that so much valuable information should be made known to the world, and asked me why I did not make it so. I replied that it was for want of pecuniary means. This appeared to be the point at which he desired to strike, and which he regarded as the most vulnerable, as he hastily rejoined by saying that he was acquainted with a gentleman who was *very rich, and who would*

betriend me—furnish me with money to enable me to come to the city, and place myself before the public in such a manner as to command the attention and patronage of the best society. DUNGAN would not at that time reveal the name of this unlooked-for friend, but continued to assure me that the utmost confidence might be placed in every thing he said about him. On the 9th inst. I met Dungan in the street again, when he informed me that the gentleman to whom he had reference in our previous interview was out of town, but that on his return I should be duly notified of the fact. Nothing however occurred until the 29th of January following, when I called on Wm. R. Dickerson, as was my custom, with my Horoscope. He had been a patron since its commencement. I felt prepared to hear some disclosures, as one or two words dropped by DUNGAN led me to suppose his *rich friend* was none other than the gentleman that stood before me; but for such a series of the most infamous, such dastardly propositions, I was totally unprepared. Coming too from a man who had been prating before the public of his *philanthropy and fellow-feeling; of his love for the poor, the widow and the orphan, &c.*, so startled me as almost to cause me to leave the room before he got through. I really felt alarmed for my personal safety, but I kept my propriety and heard him out, as follows.

After paying me for the Horoscope, he invited me into his back room, remarking that he wished to have a talk with me. After being seated, he said in substance as follows. I now repeat his very words: "Mr. HAGUE, *I am a firm believer in your science, and I believe also that you fully understand it, and therefore ought to be well patronized.* But I understand you are *poor*, and need the means to place yourself and book properly before the public." I replied that such was the fact. I was *poor*, and would not deny it, otherwise I should issue it regularly. It was a loss for me to publish it, but I did it for the benefit of the public, as a means of warning them of the many impostures that were practised upon them in this branch of science. DICKERSON then said: "Mr. HAGUE, will you now accept of a friend who will enable you to publish your Horoscope, and place yourself in a proper manner before the public?" I replied at once in the affirmative. Then, said he, "*I will be your friend; I will furnish the means to place you in a comfortable position in life, and enable you to make for yourself a desirable competency.* And, in the

first place, Mr. HAGUE, call on me to-morrow, and I will give you an order on my tailor for a suit of clothes, worth at least SIXTY DOLLARS; but this, however, must be kept a secret." I then remarked, this would be a difficult matter, as the tailor would certainly suspect some arrangement between us. DICKERSON then said if I preferred it, he would give me the money, and I could pay for them myself. "But there is one thing," said he; "I wish to have a choice as to the color and making of the clothes. I wish you to select a Quaker brown, and have them fashionably made," as he wished me to appear in the street in a different manner from my usual custom; "but as to your locks, you may have them cut or not, as you see proper; but the main point is, that I wish you to make a respectable, a genteel appearance when in the public streets." He would prefer, however, that I should keep myself as private as possible. "After seeing the tailor, and getting your clothes, I wish," said he, "you would look out for a house in the city, and if possible do not go beyond the following limits:—between Walnut and Market, and Fourth and Eighth streets; or you may go to Ninth street, but not beyond. You must get a house at about two hundred and fifty dollars rent; or if you cannot get one at this rent, you may go to three hundred. You can get a good and respectable house for this sum. *How would you like to be near ROBACK?*" said he. I told him I did not care where I lived; but so far as ROBACK was concerned, I could attend to my own business without *reference to him*; that I understood my profession, and would attend to it to the best of my abilities, wherever located. At this point I began to understand what he was driving at, and the *object of his friendship*. He then said: "When you have found a house that pleases you, call on me, and I will go and see it, and if the location is satisfactory, I will take it, or go security for you, after which you must move and prepare for operation. *I, however, will furnish two rooms in a most fashionable style for the reception of visitors, &c.* You must then procure a competent person to act in the capacity of door-keeper, as you must not expose yourself except to those who wished my services. The door-keeper must receive all moneys, and deliver tickets to those who desired to consult me. But," said he, "Mr. HAGUE, *you must not see any poor people*; your lowest fee must be FIVE DOLLARS; ten dollars, however, should be your regular charge.

You must not pay any attention to the *twenty-five or fifty cent visitors*; that must be broken up at once. Look," said he, "*ROBACK is making a fortune.*" As to not seeing the POOR, I at once replied: "DICKERSON, that can never be. If I failed to *impart the knowledge GOD has given me in this matter, I would expect to be deprived of it at once.* The POOR are as much entitled to it as the RICH." "If that is the case," said he, "they must come in at the back way, and you must have a room especially for them; you must have a particular hour after sunset to see them." He further said: "After you have moved your goods, your library, &c., and the rooms are properly prepared for the reception of visitors, *I will place, subject to your order, the sum of three thousand dollars, for the purpose of paying for advertisements, puffs, &c., in the different city and distant newspapers, as Roback has done for the past two or three years!!!* But if this amount is not sufficient, I will increase it to five thousand."

In the next place, I was to have prepared some peculiar costume, after the style of the EASTERN MAGI, to be worn only in my consulting-rooms, which was important, as the people would not be able to recognize me when out in the streets. In the same building he (DICKERSON) would have a room fitted up as a *printing office*; the front room on the first floor was to be arranged as a *real estate office*, as a cloak or disguise to the real business carried on, the clerk of which was to be his faithful secretary John Dungan! as the latter can fully testify.

At this stage of the interview, DICKERSON asked me what I could do for him for all these acts of friendship which he intended to perform for me. I replied, I could not then say, but that I doubtless could do a great deal if I was properly *fixed as I should like to be*, but that I did not know what he wished me to do, or what he had reason to expect. "I have been informed," said he, "that you have the Horoscopes of the nativity of most of our public men, as also of our foreign dignitaries; and I wish you to tell me, whenever I desire the information, all that can be known of their present or future fate, circumstances, or condition; who would be the lucky ones, and when the proper time to strike in their favor." In short, if I understood him aright, I was to tell him all I knew astrologically as to the governmental affairs of the country, and of the fate of the various political

cliques of the country, and also the prospects and fate of each individual politician or distinguished citizen whose nativities I had in my possession. I then remarked, "Mr. DICKERSON, you propose to advance me a considerable amount of money; what interest do you expect me to pay you for it?" He at once replied, "I expect to receive SIX PER CENT. PER MONTH for every dollar loaned. I loan all my money, Mr. HAGUE, on such terms; that is the way in which I have made so much." WILLIAM R. DICKERSON then said, "By pursuing the plan I propose, you will in a short time make for yourself a *handsome fortune*, as your abilities as an *Astrologer* will at once command the patronage of the most wealthy citizens of the Union, who will give any price for your advice." He also reminded me of the large sums daily remitted to ROBACK; "whose knowledge, compared to yours, is like the *farthing rushlight in the noonday sun*. You will not only make a fortune for yourself, but for those who assist you in getting under way, and of course they will be entitled to a share. Come out boldly and fearlessly; you can be useful, and for this the public should pay. Take the course of ROBACK *in reference to advertising, &c.; subsidize the entire press of the country*, and our fortune will be at once made."

After DICKERSON had concluded his advice and counsel to me, I told him that when I got home I would cast a Horoscope for the time of his proposition, and consult the stars on the subject; after which I would call on him and give him the conclusion at which I had arrived as to the whole matter laid before me.

On my arrival home I at once consulted my charts, and the figure of the heavens during our interview, when I soon discovered that this *gigantic proposition was the most selfish and base it was ever my lot to hear made*—the very heavens seemed blackened by its malignity. Any Astrologer who properly understood his science, would instantly reject a proposition of any kind made under such *forbidding aspects*. The MOON was in a square aspect of SATURN, applying to a conjunction with MARS; then going to a square of JUPITER, and to a conjunction of MERCURY and a square of HERSCHEL. Fatal, fatal indeed would be the result of any business operation undertaken at such a period. More *disastrous to W. R. DICKERSON* would such a business be than any he has as yet undertaken, even could he have found in me a *willing tool* for the purpose. One thing was boldly appa-

rent in the figure I then consulted, and of the truth of which I feel as confident as I do of my existence, viz.: that one of his objects was to get possession of my books, charts, maps, and instruments, used in my scientific calculations; after which he might cast me off at his pleasure, if not found as willing and suppliant a *tool* as he desired. After making this discovery I allowed sixteen days to elapse before calling on him, which was on the 14th of February, when I told him plainly that I had consulted the stars fully, and, acting under their direction, I must refuse the compliment offered me, and indeed I could not be influenced to impose on the public in the manner he had suggested; therefore his plans must fall to the ground, as they never could be carried into operation by my aid.

CITIZENS OF PHILADELPHIA, and, indeed, of the whole County of Pennsylvania, we ask you to ponder over *these facts*: think of it, ye voters, before giving your suffrages to this *arch-impostor for a seat in the Senate of this glorious old Commonwealth*. The man who would *extort money* from you at the rate of *six per cent. per month*, by the most vile and infamous means, would not hesitate to use his *office*, and *prostitute its name*, for the accomplishment of any object that would fill his coffers with gold. WM. R. DICKERSON desires office for no other purpose, if he wants it at all; for so long as he can keep up an excitement, keep his name prominently in connection with any popular movement, he can dupe a certain class into his clutches, and woe be to that man's case who has a *purse well lined*. Officers' fees and attorneys' fees will be as numerous and extensive as the most liberal may desire.

Six per cent. for \$5,000 would be \$300 per month; the rent of house \$24; and JOHN DUNGAN was to receive \$50 more per month. THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FOUR DOLLARS per month, or FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT DOLLARS per annum, first to be deducted out of the receipts, to go into WM. R. DICKERSON'S pocket. Half of the net balance, we presume, he estimated at as much more, making near ten thousand dollars a year, by one of the most gigantic and most infamous systems of plunder ever conceived. The public would, of course, know nothing of his connection with the same. He could *pocket the proceeds*, and at the same time *preach philanthropy and benevolence*; would probably conde-

send to contribute a hundred dollars occasionally to a scheme to prevent gambling, horse-racing, and the like! This would be perfectly consistent and in keeping with his character. He can be all things to all men; but, above all, out of every man's pocket he will manage to procure the dimes. SUCH A MAN, FELLOW-CITIZENS, IS WM. R. DICKERSON. Do you think him fit for the office of Senator? He has talents, we admit, but they are so steeped in *degradation* and *fraud*, as to render them totally unfit for *legitimate exercise* in any *honorable pursuit*. In speaking of JOHN DUNGAN in connection with WM. R. DICKERSON, we do not wish the public to infer that we consider him, by nature so corrupt as his master. No; JOHN DUNGAN is *poor*, and only lends himself to this prating philanthropist for his BREAD AND BUTTER; and as his master feeds him freely, he is satisfied to do a portion of his dirty work. JOHN DUNGAN is a fit subject for a certain charitable institution, where he doubtless might be reformed. A life-time of *penance* would only reform his master.

Yet, a word more in connection with the astrological and real estate office, which was soon to be got in operation. These two worthies boasted that they would soon have one of the largest *printing offices in the Union*, and a NEWSPAPER that would compete with any in the world! Magnificent and dazzling propositions, truly! Such, however, were the inducements held out to me, and by them they supposed I would be entrapped into their clutches, and made the instrument, to the sacrifice of my good name, the fame I have already acquired, as well as my immortal happiness, and the ruin of hundreds who would be decoyed to their den for the purpose of filling the pockets of this *human cormorant*. He cares not who suffers, nor by what means.

We have no doubt but that he has been engaged in some such similar schemes before. We know he was one of the proprietors of that *filthy sheet*, styled the "PHILA. POLICE GAZETTE;" but with all his ingenuity he could not get it to go. The paper he now conducts is printed from the types used at the office of the "Gazette."

A few words more as to ourself, and we have done. After our return from the Supreme Judicial Convention at Harrisburg, we called on Mr. DICKERSON, when he politely handed us two copies of his new paper, the "STATE-HOUSE BOW," remarking that he

hoped we would read it. We thanked him, and replied that we made it a point to read every thing that was published, which came in our way. We opened the paper in his presence, and observed that he had "commenced with the 'CONFESSION OF A FORTUNE-TELLER;' is it *fact* or *fiction*?" for if the latter, it is in direct opposition to the principles of your paper, "which purports to expose *corruption*, not *manufacture* it." "Oh!" said he, "the public like a little of that kind of material, and it is better to let them have it. But, Mr. HAGUE, let me have your confession; it will take amazingly, and I should very much like to publish it." "No doubt of it," said we; "but, Mr. DICKERSON, would it not take just as well if you'd publish the '*Confession of a Pettifogger*?' We think you could make some *revelations* that would *astonish* the public quite as much, if not more, than *any thing* that has ever occurred in my life. I have endeavored to be honest, and always rendered an equivalent for any moneys I have ever obtained. Can you say as much?" This was rather too pat to the purpose for this *extreme moralist*, so he turned on his heel and left us. We have no doubt, however, that in view of the probability that some day or other we would expose his nefarious attempts to *subsidize* us, expecting thereby to choke us off, that this pretended confession of a fortune-teller was got up. In conclusion, however, we beg leave to inform Mr. DICKERSON, that if we ever do write a confession, a portion of the above will certainly be included in it; and we think the contrast between the *Astrologer* and PETTIFOGGER will be quite as creditable to me as it will be to DICKERSON.

Since the above was written, we have observed a new *dodge* of this would-be SENATOR. He has had printed a large show-bill, after the style of BARNUM, on which is a large cut (to attract the children) of HERCULES destroying the HYDRA, intending thereby to impress upon the public mind the extent of his exertions in *reforming* the *abuses* in the *offices* of the Row. But we think the HYDRA would be more fitly represented by a *cut of himself*, as no sooner is one scheme of plunder discovered than up starts another, and so they would be likely to continue; but we have endeavored to apply the actual *cautery* in the above exposé, and trust our HERCULEAN effort will prove effectual.

Again, we observe that DICKERSON, by some system of strategy, has had his name coupled with that old veteran in politics, Col.

SWIFT. But how John Swift, a gentleman for whom we have ever entertained the highest respect, could be induced to allow himself to be ridden over by such a man, we are really at a loss to imagine. DICKERSON may make something out of the coalition; but to JOHN SWIFT he will be a dead drag.

And now, Fellow-Citizens, we close. What we have written has been for your benefit. The above are facts, and facts, too, which, you will have observed, have been in our possession for some time. We make them known now, because we honestly believe your interests require it.

READER, we now conclude this article, with hopes, but not assurances, that WILLIAM R. DICKERSON (this unlawful usurer) will soon *repent* of his past and present *Saturnine* conduct, and become a more *upright* and *honest* citizen and lawyer.

THOMAS HAGUE,

The Philadelphia Astro-Meteorologist and Astrologer.
September 24th, 7h. 50m. A.M., 1851.

P. S.—HAGUE'S HOROSCOPE FOR OCTOBER is in Press, and will be for sale on *Saturday morning, October 4th*, at all the principal Periodical and News Depots and Book Stands, in Philadelphia, New-York, Lancaster, Harrisburg, and Baltimore. Price 6½ cents.

☞ The Horoscope needs no puffing; its name is a recommendation. However, we will just say that *Pennsylvania* and the New Elections in October will be noticed, and their results predicted, according to the rules of ASTROLOGY.