

ASTROLOGY

IN A

NUT-SHELL.

A LETTER TO MR. ALDERMAN HUMPHREY, ON OCCULT PHENOMENA
CONNECTED WITH THE DEATH OF H. R. H. PRINCE CONSORT.

BY

CHRISTOPHER COOKE,

Solicitor to the Astrometeorological Society.

“There is a tide in the affairs of men.”—SHAKESPEARE.

LONDON :

PUBLISHED FOR THE AUTHOR BY WILLIAM FREEMAN,
102, FLEET STREET.

Price One Shilling.

El 10.02.14

6.



ASTROLOGY

IN A

NUT-SHELL.

A LETTER TO MR. ALDERMAN HUMPHREY,

ON OCCULT PHENOMENA CONNECTED WITH

THE DEATH OF H. R. H. THE PRINCE CONSORT.

BY

CHRISTOPHER COOKE,

Solicitor to the Astrometeorological Society.

“There is a tide in the affairs of men.”—SHAKESPEARE.

LONDON :

PUBLISHED FOR THE AUTHOR BY WILLIAM FREEMAN,
102, FLEET STREET.



IN RE
ZADKIEL AND YOURSELF.

TO MR. ALDERMAN HUMPHREY.

SIR,—Upon my return to London from a Christmas visit in the country, I have read some leading articles in the newspapers, and many paragraphs also, all of which condemn you for your recent remarks at your Guildhall, made in favour of the well known author “Zadkiel,” whose annual, I am informed, has increased in circulation, in consequence of such remarks. The object of this letter to you is not to puff Zadkiel, who is well able to take care of himself, nor to scribble in support of Astrological Science, which if it be, as I believe and know it is, when properly understood, the handiwork of the Creator of all things, does not require my presumptuous approval; but my object is to afford to yourself, and to other practical citizens of the world, my opinion of this science, and of the benefits arising from its knowledge when wisely applied; after much experience of its qualities, the subject having originally been called to my attention in the course of my professional pursuits, as I shall mention more fully before I conclude this letter.

The subject is serious, for Zadkiel boasts of 50,000 readers; and there are in all our large cities, and certainly, in your own

City of London, numerous persons who daily impose upon and deceive Her Majesty's subjects for money or money's worth, if Astrology is a fallacy, as some of your clever critics have alleged. But let us see if we cannot now obtain a glimpse of truth in her well, although we may not pretend to be critics, or literary lions. Nature's truths should be open for all men, without favour and without restraint. At least, such is my opinion.

The essence of the Astrological Science literally is contained in a nut-shell, although its ramifications may be numerous and abstruse, and not easily accessible. I shall not detain you by quoting from works or authors, but I shall proceed to offer to you plainly, and without any desire to introduce personal matters, the result of my own ten years' fairly-tested experience and observations, all of which tend to justify your remarks, and to show that you are right, and that the critics are wrong.

The antiquity of this science is indisputable, as all persons admit; and according to Sir Isaac Newton, it was in existence at least 1,000 years before the Christian era, when it seems to have enjoyed a kind of traditional fame. About the year 133, the Egyptian astronomer and geographer, Ptolemy, collected all the astrological knowledge extant in his day, and the book containing such knowledge is now the chief corner-stone with modern astrologers. I can testify to the truthful character of its precepts, both with respect to events and persons, public and private.

Astrologers originally seem to have been priests, who having observed that certain mundane events always happened after certain motions or situations of the stars, concluded that of the two things, one was the cause, and the other the effect; the stars the former, and the effect the latter. Their invariable concurrence compelled the rational conclusion that they were both the effect of a common cause. This conclusion embraced

the idea that the stars were the types of the concurring event, and that the common cause of both, the stars in heaven and the events on earth, was the great First Cause of all things. Hence, Astrology is antagonistic to Atheism, for it acknowledges the existence of the First Cause. Probably, the pyramids of Egypt, so renowned for their antiquity and magnificence, were erected for the purpose of making astronomical observations, the country being very level ; and they may have become consecrated to the worship of the gods, and to the cultivation of Astronomy and Astrology ; for the practice of the latter science became corrupted into the worship of the heavens, and, afterwards, into idolatry ; the objects of worship being made to resemble some of the qualities of the planets, in honour of which they were set up, as is mentioned eloquently by Mr. Atherstone, in his poem of "Nineveh."

Until the middle of the sixteenth century, Astronomy and Astrology were undivided, and equally in vogue.

The theory of planetary influence is occult and mysterious in some measure, as are many facts in natural philosophy ; and in the consideration of such cases it may be well to remember the words of Mr. Locke before pronouncing a hasty judgment, namely, "that two bodies at a distance will put one another into motion by the force of attraction, which is inexplicable by us, though evident to us by experience, and so to be taken as a principle in natural philosophy." If, therefore, evidenced by experience, a belief in the principle of planetary influence is excusable, although inexplicable, in our present state of knowledge.

The anonymous Author mentioned in your address has paid attention to the particular matter of astral science for more than a quarter of a century, and he has published, as the fruit of his

observations to this effect, and which relieves Astrology from the imputation of superstition, that with respect to the astronomical aspects, such as the opposition aspect of 180 degrees, the square aspect of 90 degrees, &c., there is a peculiarity in the angles which form the same. Each of these has been ascertained to form the exact angle or the supplemental angle of a regular polygon, which may be inscribed in a circle. The disbelievers say that these aspects are arbitrary measures, and that they do not exist in nature. Self observation and experience can alone decide finally as to the merits of the respective disputants. I have tested this part of the science, and I believe that the aspects *do* possess the power which it is alleged they possess, namely, that the trines and sextiles, containing respectively 120 and 60 degrees of space, do operate favourably, and that the oppositions and squares, consisting of 180 degrees, and 90 degrees respectively, operate unfavourably with respect to mundane events. The sceptic may allege, but he cannot prove, that the contrary is the case. The chief difficulty with respect to astral science is connected with what is called the Figure of the Heavens, considered by many persons as a mysterious affair, but which, in reality, is a simple astronomical calculation, divided into twelve parts, by degrees of oblique ascension from time immemorial, and each of which parts, according to the astrological theory, is connected with mundane events. Such is the fact; but the reason of the division I do not pretend to explain decisively, although it seems to have been founded on a regular geometric principle.* It is very ancient, and is mentioned in Isaiah xlvii. 13, also by the Latin poet Manilius; and it was adopted by the ancients in Hindostan, Chaldea, Persia,

* Each cusp, or boundary, forms an angle with the degree rising or on the Mid-heaven.

Egypt, Arabia, and other places. The first division is the Ascendant, and it commences with the degree of the Zodiac rising in the east at a particular time. The tenth division is called the Mid-heaven, the sun being on this place every day at noon ; of course it is transited also by each planet as it souths ; the seventh hour or division being occupied by the space opposite to the ascendant, where the planet sets. The figure, in all cases, has four divisions, east, west, north, and south, which are termed the angles, and each division is divided into three equal parts of degrees of oblique ascension, making altogether twelve equal parts. So simple is this apparently mysterious figure, that it may be constructed even by means of a small globe, and as the geocentric positions of the planets are taken, they may be supplied by means of an ordinary ephemeris, computed by means of orthodox mathematical calculation.

The figure is always constructed on the same principle, according to the latitude and longitude of the place for which it is required, whether it be in the case of a nativity, when astrologers profess to give the general destiny of the persons born, according to planetary influences, or in Horary Astrology, so called from *hora*, hour, because the astrologer answers a question at a particular time by means of the stars, as types of events ; or, in Mundane Astrology, when, at a particular time, he constructs his figures, and gives his opinion of local or national events, as in the case cited by you.

A common idea is, that this system of judgment has been destroyed on account of the discovery of what is known as the Copernican system ; but all the observations were and are made by means of the apparent geocentric celestial positions. With respect to Horary Astrology, I have personally tested its accuracy in various cases, and I am convinced that in all real cases it

may be used with advantage ; and that in medical matters it is invaluable, the position of the moon ever denoting the character of illness, and her formation of aspects with the other planets showing the duration of the disease, long or short, serious or trifling. This fact is, I believe, known to many medical men, who would not care to acknowledge such fact publicly: It was known to and has been admitted by Dr. Mead, the physician, Dr. Good, physician to King Charles the Second, and by numerous other medical men. Lilly, the "Sidrophel" of the seventeenth century, practised as a physician at Hersham, in Surrey, for many years, and with unquestionable success. "Zadkiel" finds this author's rules for the judgment of diseases to be infallible after much experience, and I believe that he is correct.

With respect to the nativity or figure of birth, I have testified to its utility and truthfulness in various cases ; but I deem it not only less practical, but far less useful than the horary branch of the science. In early life, and in the cases of children of a delicate constitution, or of particular temperament, it is useful, especially when the character of the figure foreshows what is called a violent death, or accident, such as drowning ; but in numerous cases, and later in life, it is comparatively of less utility, and with respect to persons of excitable temperament even may be prejudicial, especially if the predictor be disposed to use indiscreet language, or to take advantage of his client's anxiety. The natural predictions are framed chiefly by means of simple calculations, which may be done by common arithmetic when the time of birth is known ; but as this is rarely the case, and even the day is sometimes unknown, the judgment is given, as in the case of the Prince Consort, by means of the geocentric positions of the sun and moon at the time of birth and on the

preceding birthday. This must always be an inexact mode of calculation, and it has caused ridicule on account of the sanguine temperament of the predictor operating so as to cause failure in the happening of the events predicted. The calculations are far from perfect, but these may be depended upon in a general way. It is not so with transits, as these influences only act partially, and are liable to be overshadowed by other influences.

Many persons believe that these calculations favour fatality; but the chief maxim in Astrology is, the planets influence, but do not compel. So this science recognises and it encourages prayer to the Creator of the universe, for it admits that by the blessing of God the greatest evil may be surmounted.

With respect to the figure of birth, the general events of life, past and present, are pointed out, and in some cases with remarkable accuracy. Experience has convinced me that the calculations may be depended upon generally, but not with respect to particulars. As to the nativity, or natal figure, there is one point so much noticed that it cannot be overlooked. I mean the position of the Moon and of the planet Mercury,—the former being the supposed origin, under Providence, of the animal organs; and the latter of the intellectual abilities of the person born. When we reflect that this astrological maxim deeply affects all questions of insanity and of idiotcy, it is worthy of consideration, irrespective of other details. Serious questions arise with respect to health; and with astrologers one established rule, which I believe is as sound as the keystone of London Bridge, is, that a person born when the moon is near the full, and in the vicinity of the Pleiades, is always liable to blindness, total or partial. There are other cases equally interesting which I could mention, if necessary, respecting the *mens sana in corpore sano*, but I do not desire to occupy your attention by reference to par-

ticalars ; and the critics might say that I desire to make up my pamphlet unnecessarily.*

With reference to the Prince Consort, the statement as to his expected decease was made chiefly on account of the transits of planets, operating at his last birthday, according to their geocentric position ; and although the time of his birth was not noted, I have reason to believe that he was born when the middle of the sign of the Zodiac, known as Sagittarius, rose ; and if such idea be correct, then the sun was the " Hyleg," that is, the source of life—according to Ptolemy.†

In some cases, the moon occupies this point of the Zodiac, and sometimes, according to the astrological rules, to the ascending degree is assigned this quality of giving life. Now, at the last birthday of the Prince, in 1861, the sun returned to his own place, that is, it occupied the same degree and minute of the Zodiac which it occupied when the Prince was born, and, at such former time the same place was affected unfavourably by the adverse planets, Saturn and Mars — as mentioned by Zadkiel.

Here you will find, without doubt, genuine planetary influence. You may say, as many persons do, especially prejudiced persons, in condemnation of the word *evil*, that it is wrong to suppose that the Creator allows the planets to influence the mental character of the health of mankind ; and you may say that Saturn and Jupiter are equally harmless, and that mere brute masses cannot and do not affect this earth. As I have men-

* Another well known rule is, that the Sun, setting near the Asselli, in Leo, causes a predisposition to danger by fire or lightning.

† Each sign is believed to confer a particular temperament and character with respect to persons. This sign causes a partiality for out-door exercise, such as hunting.

tioned before, the astrologers do not agree touching the reason of the supposed influence, but the better opinion is that spiritual beings connected with the planets are the influential causes of all mundane events, and this belief was entertained by the ancients, and I am disposed to endorse.

When I arrive at the observations which I propose to make about Astrometeorology, I shall give you some further information, more practical, respecting the causes of these influences, but I may here just mention that whatever be the causes, the idea with the astrologers is, that the planets have different qualities, favourable and unfavourable, and that Saturn and Mars operate evilly, as they did when they combined to deprive the Queen of her worthy husband, and the country of its patriotic Prince. The horary question before described is based upon the sympathetic properties which are found to exist more or less throughout nature, and which may be a fine elastic and subtle fluid emanating throughout infinite space wholly imperceptible, except by its effects, and which, to a believer in planetary influences, appears to be a portion of the ordinary, but unerring laws of nature. This species of divination is really founded on the same laws to which the universe is subjected. I repeat, in these questions, the planets are merely regarded as *signs* of events. A curious thing connected with the horary question is, that when genuine, it generally sympathises or agrees with the figure of the querent's birth. I have known one case where a countryman suffered from disease, and its nature was discovered, and a remedy was supplied, by means of the horary figure, and in which case the degree on the ascendant on both figures was almost identical. However, this is only a single example of my allegation, and not quite conclusive.

In one of the recent astrological annuals a clever and curious paper was published, respecting the agreement of the horary degree with that of the nativity. The paper was written by an able mathematician, and in the case of the querent, a lady consulting him, the writer, which happened to be seven times from the year 1850 to the year 1854, he found that in all the cases, except one, the Zodiacal sign Cancer was rising, and the moon, according to the astrological doctrine representing the querent, in all the six cases was found to be in the sign Pisces in five times out of seven. The writer proved, by mathematical reasoning, that the probabilities in favour of astral influence, and against the coincidences of position being accidental are 6, 285, 029, 833, to 1! This is a sample of the "accidents" and "chances" mentioned by inconsiderate persons against Astrology.

The reference to Horary Astrology, and to the sympathetic property of the "Ambient," as Ptolemy terms the whole face of the heavens which happens to be above the horizon at a certain time, reminds me of a much neglected but useful principle believed in by the ancients, although neglected by the moderns. namely, the doctrine of sympathy, or of agreement, existing between persons, and of antagonistic feelings. This is a clear and satisfactory maxim in Astrology, and I have tested its accuracy in various cases. It is termed the doctrine of concord. I do not mean to suggest the adoption of such an unfashionable and impracticable notion in the present days of crinoline and steam-engines, or that the idea could be carried out actually; but, doubtless, if it could be, the business of the court of Sir Cresswell Cresswell would be decreased, and, possibly, matrimonial felicity increased. This question of concord applies chiefly to the position of the sun and moon in the respective

figures of birth ; and if they be in favourable aspect, the result is proved to be beneficial. The reverse occurs if the aspect be contradictory. Our learned men will deride this axiom, but this is not of consequence if such be a fact in nature. There are many things passed over by the self-wise and by the great in science, which deserve consideration ; one of which occurs to me at the present time, as I see the bright planet setting in the west—I mean Venus—whose astronomical signification, shown by a circle with a cross at the lower part, like the cupola and cross of St. Paul's cathedral inverted, is termed by the *savans* the *cruxansata*, or cross with a handle. Now, a superficial acquaintance with astral lore shows that this is simply the symbol of life in the hands of Venus, the goddess of life. When placed in the zodiacal sign, Taurus, or the Bull, this planet is ascertained to be powerful and fertile ; and it is a curious fact that the Chinese characterise the Bull by means of this symbol. If we look at the votive tablets found among the Egyptian antiquities, two hieroglyphics are generally found at the head of them, namely, a figure representing an equilateral triangle, being the astrological trine aspect of 120 degrees, and the character of Venus above mentioned. These two characters signified “health” and “life.” The mundane part of the science, when well understood, is useful. The figure is set for a particular time, and according to the positions of the planets the opinion is given. The doctrine of signs of the Zodiac influencing countries and cities, is chiefly important in this branch of the science ; for instance, it is believed that the sign *Gemini* influences America ; and when the planet Herschel passed through that sign during the latter part of the last century, the Americans seceded from the mother country, and signed the celebrated Declaration of Independence. Now, this planet is there again,

and we find the whole country torn by civil war—the brutal tragedy of Cain and Abel, acted in the second half of this Christian nineteenth century by a nation, with the civilized world as sorrowing spectators of the disaster. Again, the city of London is believed to be affected by Gemini also, and when a particular degree of that sign arose, the new bridge was commenced. When the great fire at Cotton's Wharf occurred, a comet, which is stated by Ptolemy to partake of the character of Mercury and Mars, passed the same degree of that sign; and in 1825, when Saturn passed that place, banks broke, and sundry rich merchants were discomfited. All mundane predictions, fallacies or not, are based upon the doctrine of agreement or sympathy between certain signs of the Zodiac with certain places. Only a few are known with certainty. Tiverton, for instance, is believed to be influenced by the sign Pisces; and I believe that the sign Virgo influences Brighton, as Cancer influences Scotland and Manchester.

Many persons will regard this part of the subject as gross superstition,—but there is no part of Astrology which is better authenticated, or which is more calculated to stand the test of criticism. The principle when fairly applied, as applicable to towns, &c., is based upon the fact that when the same was founded, originally, a certain part of the Zodiac was rising at the time, which operated accordingly, and influenced the city, &c.

In giving an opinion in a nativity, this principle, although quite impracticable in the present day, is much noticed. For it is ever found that if a person has an unfavourable planet located in the part of the Zodiac believed to influence a particular place,—there he will not thrive. I have no doubt that this principle is correct, and that the subject of climate is con-

nected with it in some manner also, and the knowledge of which fact would benefit invalids. I have alluded, briefly, to the various branches of the much derided, little understood, but really useful logic of the stars, from which one cannot run away, when once a personal acquaintance has been formed ; but, like all good, it is liable to be abused, and it should be carefully handled by the inquirers, when ascertained to be correct, and useful.

Before making a few remarks respecting Astrometeorology, the most practical part of the science, and the only branch of it which is likely to be much noticed or taken up by the public in our day and generation, I will make a few remarks respecting certain facts connected with the "Planetary Hours," and other collateral details.

The planetary hour is a certain part of the time which elapses between sunset and sunrise, and sunrise and sunset, which time is divided by means of a certain table commencing at sunrise, with the sun on Sunday, and proceeding with the moon and other planets until sunset.

On Monday, the first planetary hour is said to be ruled by the moon, on Tuesday by Mars, and by each of the planets throughout the week, each planet commencing on the day it is supposed to rule or influence, and the others following by turns, and a similar principle is adopted at night. Friday is the day of Venus ; hence, neither the doctrine of Black Monday, nor of an unfortunate Friday, is recognised by Astrology. I shall have something to say presently respecting "fortunate days," but the planetary hour merely alludes to the hour being influenced by a certain planet. I have not much faith in this idea, but it is very popular with gipsies and herbalists. The idea of fortunate days, and the reverse, as connected with Astrology, has been much ridiculed ; but I think with impropriety. It is not con-

nected with the old Romish superstition, but merely means that, inasmuch as the moon is always powerful by reason of her vicinity to this earth, and quick motion, so, as she is well or badly affected by the planets by favourable or unfavourable aspects, will the time be fortunate or the reverse. You will observe that this question depends upon the fact of the existence of planetary influences, still stoutly denied, and endeavoured to be explained away, by scientific men; and it likewise depends upon the existence of the fact that the aspects are really based upon geometrical principles, and that, in conjunction with the stars, they operate accordingly in the manner pointed out elsewhere. If such be the case, then the fortunate day is not an absurdity, but if the contrary, it is mere delusion and unworthy of notice.

As a case in point, on opening the ephemeris, I find that the geocentric position of the planet Jupiter on the 17th April, 1860, at noon, was 17 degrees and 21 minutes in the sign Cancer, and the moon applied to him by a close trine aspect of 120 degrees, which is deemed a favourable aspect, especially as Jupiter was in a part of the Zodiac when it is found to be powerful, and was not unfavourably affected by other planets, by the square or opposition aspect. I merely cite this as one instance.

It is easy to deride and scoff at the "astrological nonsense"—as the late learned Mr. Godfrey Higgins would call it—attempted to be briefly sketched out in the preceding pages, but the only mode of arriving at the truth is by honest and fair examination of occurrences, and of the astrological principle, which, so far as my experience has extended, the literary men and recognised leaders of public opinion generally avoid; voting the whole affair an intolerable bore, even when the matter is presented to them by one of their circle. If the scribe be but an obscure

outsider, and not "one of us," he has even a less chance of obtaining a patient hearing. So it was, is, and I suppose ever will be, while the literary world lasts, and acid critics remain as the stern, and, too often, prejudiced watchmen of the Temple of Knowledge.

The climacterical years of life, I believe, even now, are recognised by some medical men, as well as the position of the moon and her motion in the Zodiac for the progress of diseases ; and it is an axiom in Astrology that remarkable changes occur in these climacterical years ; but I cannot write upon this point with confidence. These years consist of the years in life which answer to the place of the moon on those days after the birth, when she arrives at a square or trine aspect, that is, 90 or 120 degrees from her place in the Zodiac at the time of a birth. Upon this principle, the forty-third and sixty-third years of life are believed to be of much consequence, which may be the case, although we cannot perceive the reason. Before proceeding to notice the subject of meteorology, I shall add a few words about the chief calculations used by astrologers in their schemes, having before explained the nature of the Figure of the heavens. The calculations in nativities are merely with reference to parts of the arc or measure of the equator between any two points in the heavens. This arc is turned into time by taking one degree for one year of life, according to the old prophetic measure. The calculation may be made by the common rule of three, without reference to logarithms or trigonometry. For instance, in the nativity of the present Queen, the right ascension* of the Mid-heaven (M.C.) or tenth house, was 301 degrees and 25 minutes, and that of the planet Jupiter, pointed in the tenth house, that of honour, was 283 degrees 20 minutes. The difference measures

* The arc of the equator, reckoned from the first point of the sign Aries.

18 degrees 5 minutes, and these, when converted into time as above mentioned, answer to the month of June, 1837, when her Majesty came to the throne. This is a simple example. There are minor calculations, but all are based upon simple mathematical calculations, all irrespective of any black art. In Horary Astrology, no calculations are used, the whole art being typical; but occasionally, in the judgment of time, both in Mundane and Horary Astrology, the space between certain portions of the heavens is measured to count days, months, or years, where the question of time is concerned; but prudent artists generally avoid giving any decided opinion upon this matter, as well as, in the case of a dangerous illness, they hesitate to predict dissolution, although some of the fraternity occasionally indulge in flourishing warnings and threats, which are not justified by the event.

This is one evil connected with the present degraded position of astrological science, namely, the people are liable to be imposed upon by pretenders, and by ignorant men possessing a smattering of knowledge, just as in the case of pretenders to mesmeric and phrenological science. In all such cases, some amount of education should be necessary as a qualification. I have arrived at the practical branch of astral science, known as Astrometeorology, and having been instrumental, recently, towards the formation of a society for the practice of this branch, and there are, as members thereof, some fifty other persons, I may consider myself more entitled to write with authority than I have felt with respect to the other matters, especially as, although the subject is not much in vogue with regular scientific men, it is generally considered to be less objectionable than the other divisions of astral science, and more agreeable to the feelings of the press, some of whom have noticed

the Astronometeorologists.* I believe that Astrology will only be received, eventually, as truth, by the public, through Astrometeorology. Ptolemy wrote upon this subject, and his observations and remarks are proved to apply now, as they did long since on the plains of Egypt and in Chaldea.

A sensible writer in the *Penny Cyclopædia* has used the following argument, which I introduce, as it applies to this matter; showing, that in all cases, when one phenomenon is observed constantly to happen at or near the same time as another, the mind is convinced that there must be some connection between the two. "Both must depend upon, or in some way be derived from, the same cause. However unaccountable it may be that two phenomena should happen together, the fact of their so happening is an argument in proof of their connection, which it is impossible to overturn by any reasoning. A philosophical mind will not allow the word 'extraordinary' to have any place in its vocabulary of words employed in reasoning, but will be prepared to admit, that any two phenomena whatever, which constantly occur together, are in some way related to each other."

This paragraph forms a good introduction to a description of Astrometeorology, which is well demonstrated by reference to the planet Neptune, thirty times the distance from the sun that the sun is from the earth. A ray of light striking on the planet Neptune, takes three hours and fifty minutes to be reflected back to the earth. Light and electricity are united; therefore this body must affect the electricity of our atmosphere and the temperature of the earth's inhabitants. This is merely a modern discovery as to Neptune, the planet having only been discovered

* The London Sun, Post, Manchester Guardian, St. Leonards Gazette, Maidstone Journal, &c.

recently ; but the principle applies to all the zodiacal planets, with respect to their terrestrial influence.

The sun's light being also accompanied with electricity when it penetrates a planet's atmosphere, and is reflected thence to this earth, it will gain or lose electricity, and so carry to us more or less of that substance. The rays are refrangible, and they enter the atmosphere at different angles ; a red ray being more direct, will produce more electricity than a blue ray, which is the reason why the red rays of the planet Mars excite more electricity than the blue rays of the planet Saturn. The Astrometeorologists always find, that when the earth passes in a right line with the Sun and Mars, the air is more electrified, and drier than when the earth is in a similar position with respect to Saturn. In the *Record** of the Astrometeorological Society, of which several numbers have been published, the editors explain particularly the basis upon which the science is founded, and why it is that storms and windy weather may be pointed out beforehand, by means of simple zodiacal positions, consisting of the opposition, and of other aspects, to which I have alluded in the early part of this letter ; and the effect of which aspects Astrometeorology will surely and undeniably test.

The same reasoning applies to farming operations ; and I will give you an instance of the potency of planetary influences, by citing the following facts :—Mr. White, the Secretary of the Astrometeorological Society, collected the same, after a patient investigation of three years ; he having been a general observer, and having published his remarks in the newspapers during the last quarter of a century. Well, he found that during the three years just mentioned there were 309 aspects formed by Mars and Jupiter, when the thermometer rose 275 times, and 1,174

* Berger, Holywell-street.

degrees, and fell only 17 times, and only, in all, 59 degrees. During the same year there were 282 aspects formed by Saturn and Herschel, and there were 266 cases in which the thermometer fell at the period of those aspects, and it only rose on 16 occasions; the fall was not less than 1,241 degrees, while the rise was only 69 degrees. These are strong facts; for the *Times* recently stated that one morning's sunshine was more important than a treaty of commerce in harvest-time; and the *Morning Star* declared, when the above remarks were published, that the rise or fall of the barometer was looked to as an index of the ruin or salvation of the country.—From such astronomical facts, farmers, many of whom have personally tested the accuracy of the above-mentioned statements, may expect wet and cold weather at any season when the earth forms an electrical angular position or aspects with both Saturn and Herschel; or storms, when Saturn and Mars are conjoined, as was the case when the *Great Eastern* sailed last; and fine weather, with heat and little rain, with Mars and Jupiter. Unless, verily, this is a delusion, it does not require much acumen to perceive that the principle here contended for is worthy of notice, and of consideration, on the part of the numerous persons interested in the result.*

There are two remarkable cases in which the observations made by scientific observers agree with Scriptural meteorology:—"Fair weather cometh out of the north," is a sentence contained in the Book of Job, written about 2,000 years, A.M.; and about

* The Astronomical Society have recently published a paper, shewing that out of an equal quantity of light, incident upon each of the two bodies, *Jupiter* reflects fourteen times more of the chemical rays than the moon does. The rays of *Jupiter*, after passing forty miles of gases, which constitute the atmosphere, act *chemically*, even fourteen times as much as the moon; and Mr. Thomas Slater, the optician, made interesting experiments of a similar nature some years since, showing the different nature of the planets *Venus* and *Mars*.

1,066 years afterwards it was stated in Proverbs, that the "north wind driveth away rain." Now, in England we find that the north wind is dry, and the barometer rises by the north-west and north winds, while the humidity of the atmosphere decreases relatively, from the west wind, passing by the north to the east. So again, Jupiter, according to the astrologers, produced north winds and "fair weather," and, according to Lilly, in the seventeenth century, "Jupiter governs the north wind," and produces healthful "north winds." These facts, you will admit, are rather more than "curious coincidences." Scripture contains numerous instances of astral and astrometeorological phenomena, which my space does not permit me to mention. Daniel was an astrologer, and probably Moses understood the science.

I have stated that the moon plays an important part in all astrological matters, and the influence upon the earth is admitted, more or less, by many of our modern *savans*, although at a public meeting, recently, Mr. Adams, the lecturer, deemed it well to caution his hearers against the idea, stating in the language of Sir Charles Coldstream, in the play—"there was nothing in it." But a writer in the *Penny Magazine* admitted that there are more rainy days in the second quarter of the moon than any other, and fewer in the fourth; "that the first half of the lunar month is more rainy than the second;" that the barometer is lowest, on the average, at the second octant, and highest at the second quarter; and that "there is most rain at the octant, and least at the second quarter." These observations agree with those of Dr. Goad, before mentioned, and Martin, in his *History of the Colonies*, brings forward numerous cases of lunar influences with other writers.

The two physicians of antiquity, Hippocrates and Galen, admitted the existence of the lunar influence, in case of disease,

the critical days being the seventh, fourteenth, and twenty-first, as connected with the position of the lunar phases. Surely all these facts, to which I could add many others, tend to prove that the cap and bells are not due to you for your public notice of Zadkiel and his works, nor to myself.

In the part of Astrology which relates to nativities, the same effects are to be observed with respect to the planets, Mars and Saturn. If the former be what is termed the "Anareta," it is said to destroy life by fever, or hot diseases; but Saturn by complaints produced by cold and wet, such as rheumatism; and also by consumptive disorders. Invariably the former planet is hot and dry, and the latter one cold and moist. The author, whose recent lucubrations have attracted your attention states, as one of his observations, that not only is an increase in the temperature experienced with lightning, &c., according to the season when the Sun forms an angle with Mars; but, if it occur in the case of individuals, as respects the scheme of birth, the blood becomes heated, and the person influenced generally becomes more active. In such a case he attributes some remarkable power to the particular angle. Water will crystallize at the angle of 60° , but not at 50° or 55° , nor is any change in the temperature to be noticed when the Sun and Mars reached 50° or 55° . In all cases the observations are based on apparent astronomy—that which passes before the eye, irrespective of the Copernican, or of any other system.

Before concluding the subject of Astrometeorology, I may remark that the principle involved is now in some measure admitted by the scientific men. The *Athenæum* of 12th September, 1857, contains an article in favour of lunar influences, and of the doctrine that—as I have mentioned respecting the planetary hour—Saturn influences the Saturday in each week;

and Dr. Daubeny, at a meeting of the British Association at Oxford, has hinted lately that the supposed connection between the stars and the earth may really exist. Some scientific men, however, still may allege that, in all cases, the doctrine of the precession of the equinoxes, whereby the stars slowly change their places, destroys the astrological doctrine ; but the objection is untenable, as the beginning of the zodiacal circle is assumed to be the commencement of the sign Aries, which commences at the vernal equinox, and from which zodiacal position all astrological deductions are made.* I have merely to add, before concluding this part of the subject, that, simple and foolish as it may seem, that the light of stellar bodies, thousands of thousands of miles away in space, should influence this earth, it is a fact admitted by scientific men, as Professor Wheatstone has shown, that the electric agent travels at the same rate as light ; from which it may be inferred that mental action, if it is electric, travels at the rate of 192,000 miles per second : hence, if the astrologers be correct in their idea that the planets act upon the mind through the brain by means of electricity, it is clear that there is nothing magical or superstitious in the notion so encouraged.

I have not alluded in this letter to the innumerable objections, religious and secular, which have been alleged against astrologers and their works ; as every person is at liberty to form an independent opinion upon this point. My experience has informed me that the chief objection consists in the uncongenial character of the doctrines, when considered with respect to the habits and customs of this age. For this reason, I should hesitate to recommend any person to become entangled in their

* I cannot here enter upon this question, for want of space. The objection has been answered frequently.

meshes even as an amateur, unless prepared for social ostracism, and the life of a literary Robinson Crusoe. Such is the penalty to be paid by all who affect to be wiser than the rest of the world, and probably so it will ever be.

As I have hinted in the commencement of this letter, my attention has been directed towards these matters for many years, by reason of personal experience, and also, on account of an original inspection of figures connected with Astrology; and afterwards having, with more enthusiasm than discretion, as the legal champion of a persecuted *savant*, performed the desire of the enemy by publication of my views, it was right to give a reason for the faith which was in me, it being personally a matter of indifference whether the Creator acts or does not act by means of the stars as his instruments. The matter was settled before my birth, and it will doubtless continue to remain for some years after my time, unless Dr. Cumming's millennium should intervene, which may or may not be.

As it is my maxim that the shoemaker should stick to his last, and the blacksmith to his anvil, probably, as a private admirer of Nature's works, I should have remained in my legal retirement, without venturing to tread upon the consecrated ground from which angels and wise mortals are said to shrink abashed; but having acted, for the reasons above mentioned, in a different spirit, and feeling that you are treated as a scientific Gorilla, in common with other persons who defend Astrology, I further explain my sentiments, fortified by the experience of seven additional years; for ten years on the 10th instant elapsed since the illegal *savant* before mentioned was imprisoned, and all evidence in his favour was rejected, as appeared at the time in an article which appeared in the *Sun* newspaper; * and seven years have passed

* 19th January, 1852. See also my letter, 20th January, signed "Lex."

since I was induced to publish, anonymously, an essay upon astral science, at considerable expense, it having been distinctly intimated to me before writing one word that the subject would be fairly inquired into, and the question of the legality or non-legality of Astrology finally settled. As recent events have shown that the same system of hocus-pocus and delay, mystification and evasion, prevail now as formerly, I have determined to publish this brief and quite independent statement as the best means of obtaining justice for the people even from a timid and partial press.* The question is not selfish, for it affects all, from the Queen on her throne to the peasant in his cottage; and it ought not to be smothered nor trampled upon by our recognised leaders. It was mooted, twenty-five years since by Mr. Ewart, M.P., in the House of Commons, but the subject has slept.

The learned, but versatile and eccentric Lord Brougham has well stated that "extreme cases try principles." My additional experience has convinced me of the truth and wisdom of this maxim, which, if vouchsafed an hour's audience, I could verify; and as the "principles" have been fairly tested, and have been proved to have survived the assaults of slander and the trial of time, I venture to hope that ere another ten years have passed away, some legislator may be found with a sufficient sense of right to cause a fulfilment of the promise made ten years since, and that this tardy act of public justice may put an end to a popular grievance and a social wrong.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

CHRISTOPHER COOKE.

London, 58, Pall Mall,

25th Jan., 1862.

17 MA 67

* The question at issue is always shirked by the newspapers. Letters are refused insertion, &c. But the Astrometeorologists are heard, as before-mentioned.

The word *Zadkiel* or *Zedekiel*, means the Angel, or Genius of the planet Jupiter. *Tao-Sze*, means Doctor of Reason. As a general rule, it is better to avoid anonymous writing; but until the legal question of Astrology is quite settled, no individual can publish his views except anonymously, if he value his reputation. Some astrometeorologists have seceded, simply on account of the word *astro*, as savouring of these astrological doctrines! *Alas!* for human nature.

LONDON :
ROBERT E. SNEY, PRINTER,
HOLBORN HILL.