

MINERS' & FARMERS' JOURNAL.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY THOMAS J. HOLTON...CHARLOTTE, MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH-CAROLINA.

I WILL TEACH YOU TO PIERCE THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH AND BRING OUT FROM THE CAVERNS OF THE MOUNTAINS, METALS WHICH WILL GIVE STRENGTH TO OUR HANDS AND SUBJECT ALL NATURE TO OUR USE AND FLATTERY.—DR. JOHNSON.

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All communications to the Editor must come free of postage, or they may not be attended to.

The following article relates some of the most astonishing facts of abominable falsehoods ever recorded on paper. We leave our readers to their own opinions; but as the science or mutuality referred to has attracted very considerable attention in Europe, and more formidable ridicule every where, we have deemed it no more than just to allow it a hearing from the mouth of one of its votaries:

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

Now see the various wonders as they pass, The Compa, Tractors, Galvanism, &c., &c. Byron.

It happens that Byron has here snored at four scientific discoveries in their first blush, which afterwards have been established (at least three of them) as among the most valuable that ever were developed for the service of mankind. In the word "tractors," he refers to what is called animal magnetism, a scientific wonder which, though practised on the continent for upwards of fifty years, and hinted at by many medical writers during the last three centuries, is almost entirely unknown in this country. Within the last few months, a book of great research and reflection has been published on this subject; and as it seems, notwithstanding its exceeding great interest, to be exciting little attention, we shall endeavor, as far as is in our power, to obtain, both for the volume and its subject, the notice which they so eminently deserve.

Animal magnetism—an incorrect but convenient phrase—refers to a power which a stronger is supposed to be able to exert over a weaker person, or a healthy over a diseased, whereby, thro' a mere exertion of the will in some cases, but more generally by this means accompanied by stroking with the hands, the former throws the latter into a state of sleep, during which there are experienced certain peculiar sensations, arising from nervous excitement, and which may have the best effects upon the health of the patient. The operations and results of animal magnetism altogether resemble what we conceive of magic; and they are still a subject of general doubt and suspicion, but rather from want of knowledge than any other cause, seeing that the French Academy, the most respected body of scientific men in the world, have satisfied themselves, by experiments; that, starting as the discovery is, it is quite true and free from imposture, and have here testified that such is their belief to the whole world.

The process of animal magnetism is generally performed in the following manner: the patient is placed in a sitting posture, or in a couch; sometimes even in a common chair. The magnetiser seated on a chair a little more elevated and at the distance of about a foot from the patient, collects himself for some moments, during which he takes the thumbs of the patient between his two fingers, so that the interior parts of the thumbs are in contact with each other. He fixes his eyes upon the patient, and remains in this position till he feels that an equal degree of heat is established between the thumbs of both parties. He then withdraws his hands, turning them outwards, places them on the shoulders, where he allows them to remain about a minute, and conducts them slowly, with a very slight friction, along the arms to the extremity of the fingers. This operation he performs five or six times, when the magnetisers call a pass; he then places his hands above the head, holds them there a moment, draws them downwards in front of the face at the distance of one or two inches to the pit of the stomach, resting his fingers on this part of the body; and, lastly, descends slowly along the body to the feet. These passes are repeated during the greater part of the sitting; and when he wishes to terminate it, he prolongs them beyond the extremity of the hands and feet, shaking his fingers each time. Finally, he makes three or four passes before the face and breast, at the distance of three or four inches, presenting his hands approximated to each other, and separating them abruptly.

There are variations upon this process, but it is unnecessary to notice them here. The result, where there is no obstacle or deranging cause, is that the patient falls involuntarily into a kind of trance, the progressive sensations of which are thus classified by a German philosopher, named Krug:

"The first degree presents no remarkable

phenomena. The intellect and the senses still retain their usual susceptibilities. For this reason, this first degree has been denominated the degree of waking.

"In the second degree, most of the senses still remain in a state of activity. That of the vision only is impaired; the eye withdrawing itself gradually from the power of the will. This second degree, in which the sensibility is partially disturbed, is by some magnetisers called the half sleep or imperfect crisis.

"In the third degree, the whole of the organs through which our correspondence with the external world is carried on (the sense) refuse to perform their respective functions, and the patient is placed in that unconscious state of existence which is called the magnetic sleep.

"In the fourth degree, the patient awakes, as it were within himself, and his consciousness returns. He is in a state which can neither be properly called sleeping or waking, but which appears to be something between the two. When in this state, he is again placed in a very peculiar connection with the external world. This fourth degree has been distinguished in the writings of the animal magnetisers, by the name of the perfect crisis or simple somnambulism.

"In the fifth degree, the patient is placed in what is called the state of self-illumination. When in this situation, he is said to obtain a clear knowledge of his internal mental and bodily state, is enabled to calculate, with accuracy, the phenomena of disease which will naturally and inevitably occur, and to determine what are their most appropriate and effectual remedies. He is also said to possess the same power of internal inspection with regard to other persons who have been placed in magnetic connection with him. From this fifth degree all the subsequent magnetic states are comprehended under the denomination of lucidity, or lucid vision, (Fr. Clairvoyance; Germ. Hellsehen.)

"In the sixth degree, the lucid vision which the patient possessed in the former degree extends to all objects, near and at a distance, in space and time: hence it has been called the degree of universal lucidity."

The source of the phenomenon is by some supposed to be in a circulating fluid, analogous to the blood, but imperceptible, and residing in the nerves, and which has a power of expanding beyond the sphere of the body, and affecting near or distant objects. This fluid, if it be the seat of the magnetic power, is probably obedient to the volition or will, for persons more than usually susceptible of the magnetic influence have been operated upon involuntarily, and unexpectedly to themselves, by a magnetiser who took up his position in another room, and only exerted an energetic and intense desire to produce the effect. This is no doubt mysterious, and very like superstition; but is there any better explanation at the present day for mineral magnetism, for the cause and nature of disease, for the simple phenomenon of mortal life? Animal magnetism, in fact, appears to us as not more unintelligible than any of these things, and it would certainly have been long ago received, like them, into the sphere of acknowledged truths, if it had not been so very wonderful as to excite suspicion even where the senses were satisfied of its existence.

It is obvious, from the experiments reported by the French Academy, that there is an intimate connection between ordinary somnambulism or sleep walking, and the intuitive power, independent of the senses, which is developed during the fits produced by the magnetic influence. Sleep-walkers perform amazing feats, and execute the most intricate and delicate operations, without the natural sight which would be necessary, in a waking person, even to attempt such hazardous and difficult processes.—Some persons, on the other hand, who have been artificially thrown into this state, or something like it, by magnetism, have shown themselves to possess senses and powers of action distinct from those which we use in our waking moments. The French Academy report upon four individuals who exerted greater strength and agility while magnetised than in their usual state; upon two who, with their eyes closed, distinguished and described objects placed before them; upon other two who foresaw, several months previously, the day, the hour, and the minute of the access and return of epileptic fits, and one who announced the period of his cure; and upon one who, when thrown into magnetic somnambulism, and placed in contact with an individual in unusual health, pronounced in three several instances the exact internal state of those persons, one of which descriptions was confessed by the gentleman so inspected to be correct so far as he knew, and another was found equally so, upon dissection after death.

Perception without the use of the senses is well known to have frequently taken place in diseased persons; and it is a familiar fact, that where one sense is extinguished another—sometimes takes up its opera-

tions, and, at least in part, supplies its place. Instances of persons who could see with the stomach are frequent, and perfectly well authenticated. The physician Van Helmot, by tasting a particular poisonous root, ceased for several hours to hear, think, know, or imagine any thing by means of his head or brain, and found that all the functions of that organ were transferred to the pit of the stomach, where it is supposed the capital of the nervous system is situated.

M. Petetin, an eminent physician at Lyons, had a cataleptic patient—a lady—who seemed for a long time to be in a state of complete torpor and insensibility. He discovered, however, by accident, that she heard him perfectly when he spoke upon her stomach. Having satisfied himself of this fact by repeated trials, he afterwards perceived that the case was the same in regard to the senses of sight and smell. His patient read with the stomach, even through an intervening dark body. At last he found—that it was not necessary for him to speak immediately upon the stomach, but it was quite sufficient to speak at the extremity of a conductor, of which the other extremity rested upon that part of the patient's body. Petetin published an account of these facts above forty years ago. He subsequently found other cataleptic patients, who exhibited precisely the same phenomena, with this difference, that, in some cases, the faculties were found to be transferred, not only to the epigastrium, or pit of the stomach, but also to the extremities of the fingers and toes. In others, where these phenomena took place, there was a prodigious development of the intellectual powers, and a foresight of their future diseased symptoms. An account of some of his experiments is thus given from his posthumous volume by Mr. Colquhoun:

"M. Petetin secretly placed pieces of cake, biscuit, tart, &c. upon the stomach of one of these patients, which was immediately followed by the taste of the particular article in the mouth. When the substance was enveloped in silk stuff, no sensation was felt by the patient, but the taste was immediately perceived on removing the covering. An egg was covered over with varnish, and the patient felt no taste until the varnish was removed. One of the patients distinguished a letter addressed to her which was folded four times, enclosed in a semi-transparent box, and held in M. Petetin's hand upon her stomach.

A letter was placed upon his fingers of one of the patients who immediately said, 'If I were not discreet, I could tell you the contents; but to prove that I have read it, there are just two faces and a hat.' The same patient enumerated exactly the most remarkable articles which were in the pockets of a whole company.

These phenomena are sufficiently wonderful; but the following experiment afforded still more surprising results. Another patient, Madame de St. Paul, was in a state of as perfect somnambulism as the preceding, only that, during the crisis, she was incapable of speaking. She carried on a conversation, however, by means of signs, with the Chevalier Dolomieu, brother to the celebrated naturalist, who interrogated her mentally. After placing the chain, says M. Petetin, upon the epigastrium of the patient, I gave the ring to M. Dolomieu. No sooner had this gentleman touched his lips, than the features of Madame de St. Paul expressed attention. Every question addressed to her mentally gave a new expression to her countenance, and produced a great change upon that of the interrogator. She ended by smiling, and making two approving signs with her head. M. Dolomieu declared that this lady had answered categorically to his thoughts.

M. Dolomieu then requested the patient to answer, by affirmative or negative signs, to the questions which he was about to put to her aloud. He succeeded in making her express that what he had in his pocket was a silver seal with three sides, and the name of the animal engraved on his arms.

Finally, it was found, in the course of these experiments, that if several persons form a chain, the last having his hand upon the stomach of the patient, and the first, who is at the greatest distance, speak in the hollow of the hand, the patient will hear perfectly well, but will cease to hear even the loudest voice, if the communication between the chain be interrupted by a stick of sealing-wax.

Such facts as these—for that they are facts is not to be disputed—testify that there are powers and susceptibilities in our frames with which we are yet imperfectly acquainted, but which may be developed hereafter to such a degree as to be ultimately serviceable to mankind. That there is a connection between the magnetic phenomena and those described immediately above, seems beyond a doubt; and that electricity enters into the latter is evident from the fact of a non-conducting substance deranging the effect. Little else is yet known on this curious subject; but when more facts shall have been amassed, it will both be more easily reduced to a system, and more generally and readily believed.

Animal magnetism will yet, in all probability explain many things which we now look upon as the superstitions of a former and less enlightened age—the magical powers of remote antiquity, the oracular system of Greece, the evil eye among the Mussulmans, the false miracles of early opponents of Christianity, the glamour of the modern gypsies, witchcraft, the royal touching for scrofula, and second-sight. Let no one be unduly sceptical on this subject: the most philosophical minds in Europe have acknowledged that it is to the extent above described, free from imposture, and if such have pronounced from observations and experiment, it would be hard, indeed, if common minds without those means of judgment, were to be allowed to deny the theory, merely because it does not tally, with the preconceived ideas of their imperfect understanding.

From the New-York Transcript.

A BROKER IN BONDAGE.
William Manks, broker of 32 Park-row, was brought up, for the fifth time in a fortnight, for being "a leetle the most" drunk of any man we have seen these six months. When put to the bar, he gave a peculiarly penetrating look at Justice Wyman through a pair of "large, dark and dreamy," got to say drunken eyes, as much as to say

We have met—'tis even so,
And 'twas then you did commit me;
And I now should like to go—
That is, if you'll permit me.

But not to anticipate, we will state what passed on the occasion:

Judge.—Well, Manks, I am sorry to see you here again.

Manks.—Not more so, Judge, than I am to be the subject of your sorrow.

Judge.—Why is it that you will so frequently get in liquor?

Manks.—It would be more reasonable if you were to ask why liquor will so frequently get into me.

Judge.—Why, it is scarcely a week since you last signed a bond for your better behaviour.

Manks.—Very true; but I've signed many bonds since then. Besides, bonds of all kinds are now at a great discount, and it's therefore too much to expect that mine should be at par. Besides I am now under bonds of betrothment to a young lady, who will cancel her contract if she hears of this scrape.

Judge.—Well, have you any money to pay your fine?

Manks.—In fact, Judge, I have not.

Judge.—Then I must be under the painful necessity of committing you.

Manks.—I am sorry that you should be put to any pain on my account, and therefore hope that you will not invest my bankrupt body in Captain Swain's miscellaneous stock, for he is the most ungallant swain to man or woman I ever met with.

Judge.—You say you are without funds, and yet you venture to speculate in the bonds of Hymen—that smacks of a misnomer.

Manks.—It's a different Miss from Miss Nower that I mean to smack, if I don't miss my mark. (Miss Nook is the name of the young lady to whom he is betrothed.)

Judge.—Well, I'll let you go this time, but if you get so severely shot in the neck as you were last night, you'll be very apt to shoot over the mark. Now, go, and don't let me hear of your honoring any more drafts upon the rum bottle, or at least let them be of a smaller amount than hitherto.

Manks.—I had the misfortune to receive a classic education, sir, and my old prejudices still cling to me.

"That shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
But drinking largely sobers us again."

And as we are not likely to agree upon this difficult point, we'll agree to differ and I'll cut short the controversy by cutting my stick.

Manks, (who was once a respectable broker in Wall st.) then politely bowed to the Magistrate, walked out of the office, and walked into the first rum hole he saw.

A Man without Money.—A man without money is a body without a soul—a walking death—a spectre that frightens every one. His countenance is sorrowful, and his conversation tedious. If he calls upon an acquaintance he never finds him at home, and if he opens his mouth to speak he is interrupted every moment, so that he may not have a chance to finish his discourse, which it is feared may end with his asking for money. He is avoided like a person infected with disease, and is regarded as an incumbrance to the earth. Want wakes him up in the morning, and misery accompanies him to bed at night. The ladies discover that he is an awkward body—landlords believe that he lives upon air, and if he wants any thing from a tradesman, he is asked for cash before delivery.

The Dayston Democrat mentions that a lad, eighteen years of age, sojourned at a public house in that place one day last week, who is six feet, seven inches in height and proportionably built.

A Female Lawyer.—A lady by the name of Bradstreet, has for some years been prosecuting claims for land in the neighborhood of Utica, New York, with a zeal and ability which have won for her the admiration of the disinterested, and the dread of the occupants of the property in dispute. She claims in right of her grandfather, who held under grants from the proprietary government. The estates are of great value, and embrace many of the most beautiful seats in and around the place above named. For many years, she and her daughter occupied a hut on some of the wild lands comprised in the grants of her grandfather, with a view of retaining their legal possession. While thus situated their sufferings were great, as the neighbors, in order to rid themselves of such unwelcome residents, refused to sell them even the common necessities of life. Indeed, it is said their lives were frequently threatened, and more than once the humble domicile was fired upon with the view of ousting them. Driven to the utmost extremity, she offered to compromise her entire claim for \$30,000; the proposition being rejected, she persevered, and being too indigent to employ counsel, she prosecuted her suit herself, arguing dry law points before courts and juries, with a force and ingenuity which excited the admiration and wonder of both bench and bar. Her efforts at last have been successful; and now, forsooth, the persons in possession, have offered a much larger sum in the way of compromise, than they had scornfully rejected; but she in turn has spurned the tender, and determined to trust to the justice of her cause and skill in the law, to assert and vindicate her rights. Resistance to what she conceived to be justly her due, the oppression of those who withheld her property from her, and the indomitable courage of a woman's heart, have made her not only a successful suitor, but a profound ejection lawyer, and special pleader. The pleadings in the various cases are said to be drawn up by herself, and evince a perfect knowledge of all the forms and intricacies of the most difficult art.

The entire property claimed by her is said to be worth one million of dollars.

U. S. Telegraph.

A singular fact in Natural History.—In the Western part of Virginia, are dens, where the rattlesnakes and other serpents retire on the approach of cold weather, into winter quarters, and where, in a torpid state, like others of the serpent tribe, they while away that dreary season, in a state of cold and hunger. In the spring, when the genial influence of the sun quickens them into active life, they crawl forth from their brumal retreats, and enjoy the pleasure of a renovated existence in their own peculiar manner. In their travels through the woods and fields, they generally wind their serpentine way along the paths, previously made, and there not unfrequently meet with travellers of a character and species very different from themselves. Among the members of the animal kingdom, that frequent that district of the country, is the wild deer, between whom and the rattlesnake there appears to subsist a most inveterate, instinctive hatred. When the deer, in the elevated pride of his character, moves gracefully along the path where the rattlesnake is travelling, they both instantaneously halt in their course, and prepare for a combat which is to terminate in the death of one or the other of the combatants.—The snake immediately coils and prepares for the fatal spring, the deer slowly recedes, and coming up with lofty but graduated bounds, leaps with as much precision as is possible, with his hard and horny feet upon the serpent; and if he miss, passes rapidly on, and returning, renews the contest, and attempts to spring upon him again. The serpent, on seeing the deer moving towards him patiently awaits his approach, and as soon as he conceives him to be within striking distance darts with the most venomous intent upon him, and if he strikes the deer, the latter is soon put hors de combat and swells and dies. On the contrary, if the deer strikes the rattlesnake with his hoofs the latter has his back bone broken, discomfited, expires. And it is a fact, well known to many that these two hostile animals never separate, after they meet until one of them dies. This fact is derived, originally, from a former Reverend President of a College, whose reputation for knowledge and variety is of two lofty a character to be impeached.—N. Y. Sun.

For the Ladies, an importation is expected by the ship Washington, from Canton, which will have the charm of novelty, at least—a Chinese lady with little feet! It is even so—Yankee enterprise never lags behind any demand, and as little feet are all at just now—it has occurred to one of our the rage—though not within the reach of Eastern brethren to show how little feet really can be. The lady will have a Chinese attendant with her, and receive company in a parlor, furnished *ala Chinese*. She will need, we are sure, a spacious apartment. N. Y. American.