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TERMS.

Subscriptions, three dollars per annum—
one half in advance. Subscribers in other States
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Advertisements, not exceeding fifteen lines,
inserted three times for one dollar, and twice
for five cents for each continuation.
Returns to the Editors must be post-paid.

The following article relates some of
the most astonishing facts or abominable
falsehoods ever recorded on paper.
We leave our readers to their own opi-
nions; but as the science or mystery
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 Compo, Tractor, Galvanism, &c.
Byron.

It happens that Byron has here suc-
ceeded 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 sci-
entific 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 coun-
try. 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 excit-
ing little attention, we shall en-
deavor, as far as is in our power, to ob-
tain, both for the volume and its sub-
ject, 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 sensa-
tions, arising from nervous excitement,
and which may have the best effects
upon the health of the patient. The
operations and results of animal mag-
netism 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
from any other cause, seeing that the
French Academy, the most respected
body of scientific men in the world,
have satisfied themselves, by experi-
ments; that, startling as the discovery
is, it is quite true and free from impos-
ture, 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 sit-
ting posture, in a convenient elbow-
chair, or on 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 mo-
ments, 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 estab-
lished between the thumbs of both parties.
He then withdraws his hands,
turning them outward, places them on
the shoulders, where he allows them to
remain about a minute, and then con-
ducts them slowly, with a very slight
friction, along the arms to the extremi-
ty of the fingers. This operation he
performs five or six times, which the
magnetisers call a *pass*; he then places
his hands above the head, holds them
there a moment, draws them down-
wards in front of the face at the dis-
tance of one or two inches to the pit
of the stomach, resting his fingers on
this part of the body; and, lastly, de-
scends slowly along the body to the
feet. These *passes* are repeated dur-
ing the greater part of the sitting; and
when he wishes to terminate it, he pro-
longs them beyond the extremity of the
hands and feet, shaking his fingers each
time. Finally, he makes transverse
passes before the face and breast, at the
distance of three or four inches, pre-
serving his hands approximated to each
other, and separating them abruptly.

There are variations upon this pro-
cess, 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 sensa-
tions of which are thus classified by a
German philosopher, named Kluge:

"The first degree presents no re-
markable 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 activi-
ty. That of the vision only is impair-
ed; the eye withdrawing itself gradu-
ally from the power of the will. This
second degree, in which the sensibility
is partially disturbed, is by some mag-
netisers called the *half sleep* or the *im-
perfect crisis*.

"In the third degree, the whole of
the organs through which our corres-
pondence with the external world is
carried on (the sense) refuse to perform
their respective functions, and the pa-
tient is placed in that unconscious state
of existence which is called the *mag-
netic sleep*.

"In the fourth degree, the patient a-
wakes, 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 connexion
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
somniaambulism*.

"In the fifth degree, the patient is
placed in what is called the state of
self intuition. When in this situation,
he is said to obtain a clear knowledge
of his own internal mental and bodily
state, is enabled to calculate, with ac-
curacy, the phenomena of disease which
will naturally and inevitably occur, and
to determine what are their most ap-
propriate 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 connexion with him. From
this fifth degree all the subsequent mag-
netic states are comprehended under
the denomination of *lucidity*, or *lucid
vision*. (Fr. Clairvoyance; Geim. H.H-
schen.)

"In the sixth degree, the lucid vision
which the patient possessed in the for-
mer 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 im-
perceptible, and residing in the nerves,
and which has a power of expanding
beyond the sphere of the body, and af-
fecting near or distant objects. This
fluid, if it be the seat of the magnetic
power, is probably obedient to the vo-
lition or will, for persons more than
usually susceptible of the magnetic
influence have been operated upon in-
voluntarily, and unexpectedly to them-
selves, by a magnetiser who took his po-
sition 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 walk-
ing, and the intuitive power, independ-
ent of the senses, which is developed
during the fits produced by the mag-
netic influence. Sleep-walkers perform
amazing feats, and execute the most
intricate and delicate operations, with-
out 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 Acad-
emy 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 ob-
jects placed before them; upon other
two who foresaw, several months pre-
viously, the day, the hour, and the mi-
nute of the access and return of epi-
leptic fits, and one who announced the
period of his cure; and upon one who,
when thrown into magnetic somnambu-
lism, and placed in contact with an in-
dividual in unsound health, pronounced
in three several instances the exact in-
ternal state of these 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 operations, and, at least in part,
supplies its place. Instances of per-
sons who could see with the stomach
are frequent, and perfectly well authen-
ticated. The physician Van Helmont,
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 trans-
ferred to the pit of the stomach, where
it is supposed the capital of the nervous
system is situated. M. Petetin, an em-
inent physician at Lyons, had a cata-
leptic patient—a lady—who seemed for
a long time to be in a state of complete
torpor and insensibility. He discover-
ed, however, by accident, that she heard
him perfectly when he spoke upon her
stomach. Having satisfied himself of
this fact by repeated trials, he after-
ward 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 im-
mediately upon the stomach, but it was
quite sufficient to speak at the extremi-
ty 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 ca-
taleptic patients, who exhibited pre-
cisely the same phenomena, with this
difference, that, in some cases, the fac-
ulties 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 immedi-
ately 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 pa-
tients distinguished a letter addressed to
her, which was folded four times,
inclosed in a semi-transparent box,
and held in M. Petetin's hand upon her
stomach.

A letter was placed upon the fin-
gers of one of the patients who immedi-
ately said, 'If I were not discreet, I
could tell you the contents; but to
prove that I have read it, there are
just two lines and a half.' 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 experi-
ment afforded still more surprising re-
sults. Another patient, Madame de
St. Paul, was in a state of as perfect
somniaambulism as the preceding, only
that, during the crisis, she was inca-
pable 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 pla-
cing the chain, 'says M. Petetin, 'up-
on 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 counte-
nance, and produced a great change
upon that of the interrogator. She en-
ded by smiling, and making two ap-
proving signs with her head. M. Dolomieu
declared that this lady had answered
categorically to his thoughts."

"M. Dolomieu then requested the pa-
tient to answer, by affirmative or neg-
ative signs, to the questions which he
was about to put to her aloud. He suc-
ceeded 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 pa-
tient, and the first, who is at the great-
est distance, speak in the hollow of the
loudest voice, if the communication be-
tween 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 susceptibili-
ties in our frames with which we are
yet imperfectly acquainted, but which
may be developed hereafter to such a
degree as to be eminently serviceable
to mankind. That there is a connec-
tion between the magnetic phenomena
and those described immediately above,
seems beyond a doubt; and that electri-
city enters into the latter, is evident
from the fact of a non-conducting sub-
stance deranging the effect. Little
else is yet known on this curious sub-
ject; but when more facts shall have
been amassed, it will both be more easily
reduced to a system, and more gener-
ally 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 oracu-
lar system of Greece, the evil eye a-
mong the Mussulmans, the false mira-
cles of early opponents of Christianity,

the glamour of the modern gypsies,
witchcraft, the royal touching for scrofu-
la, 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 ex-
tent above described, free from impos-
ture, and if such have so pronounced
from observations and experiment, it
would be hard, indeed, if common
minds without those means of judg-
ment, were to be allowed to deny the
theory, merely because it does not tally
with the preconceived ideas of their
imperfect understanding.

From the Evening Star.

LETTER IV.

Albany, Sept. 24, 1834.

To the Hon. Martin Van Buren:

Sir—It is not proposed to discuss
the merits or demerits of either the
friends or the opponents of the late
war. So far, however, as the inci-
dents connected with that contest
have become a part of the history
of our country; and so far as their
notice is deemed necessary to a true
development of your character, a re-
trospect will be taken.

I now charge you, sir, with aid-
ing and abetting those men who were
opposed to the war; with using your
efforts to elevate to power those who
condemned it, and with assailing those
who were instrumental in producing
an open and manly resistance of
British aggressions. Yes, sir, you
were the uncompromising opponent of
Mr. Madison's re-election, as Pres-
ident of the United States, on the
ground, that he had involved the na-
tion in an unnecessary war; that he
was incapable of conducting it, and
that if he was left in power, he would
soon be compelled to sign a disgraceful
and ignominious treaty of peace.

It has been remarked in a pre-
ceding letter, that no charge would
be made against you, on vague asser-
tion. This pledge shall be redeem-
ed. After showing your hostility to
those men who had hurled back upon
the British ministry, a proud
defiance of their boasted power, I
will exhibit you in the prostituted
aspect of a vindictive foe to the
late Governor Clinton, in concert
with whom you had been acting; and
then, as the pliant sycophant of Mr.
Madison, whom you had endeavor-
ed to destroy, and whose measures
you had reprobated and condemn-
ed.

During the year 1811, our fore-
ign affairs were approaching a crisis.
The apprehensions of the patri-
ot were depicted in his counte-
nance. The wrongs which were in-
flicted upon the persons, as well as
upon the commerce of our unoffend-
ing people, were daily increasing;
while the minions of Britain taunt-
ed and insulted our government.—
Our national honor was suspended
by a slender thread. Indulging the
hope, that peace might yet be pre-
served, we had faulted; and hesitat-
edly too long. It had been imperi-
ously announced on the floor of Con-
gress, by a distinguished and leading
federalist,—"that we could not be
kicked into a war." At the close
of 1811 it was, therefore, evident
that a base and degrading sub-
mission to Great Britain or a patri-
otic and manly resistance was inevit-
able.

At this perilous crisis, where was
Martin Van Buren? His supple bi-
ographer, referring to this period,
says—"His support of the government
was not merely active, but zealous;
and was his zeal of ordinary men.
It absorbed his whole soul; it led to
untiring exertion; it was exhibited
on all occasions, and under all cir-
cumstances." It is not my habit to
use vulgar and ungentlemanly lan-
guage. If it was, this quotation
would receive harsh epithets. It
shall be demonstrated, however, that
every sentence of it is untrue.

In April, 1812, you was a candi-
date for the State Senate. Your
opponent was Edward P. Living-
ston, then branded as a thorough
federalist; but since recognized by
you and others, as a pure Jackson
democrat. Your election depended
on the county of Rockland, the other
counties in the district being oppos-
ed to you. In that county, the
friends of De Witt Clinton had an
overwhelming influence. It was ex-
erted in your behalf, and you were
elected by a small majority. You
were known to be their man. The
question of war, or no war, now agi-
tated the whole country. Where
was Mr. Van Buren's "zeal and un-
tiring exertion?" I will point to it.
On the 29th of May, 1812, a few
days before the declaration of war,
a caucus was held in this city. You,
sir, was a promoter of that caucus,
and a supporter of its doings. Mr.
De Witt Clinton was opposed to the
war. He was nominated in that cau-

cus, as a candidate for the office of
President, in opposition to James
Madison.

To a right understanding of the
whole case, it is necessary, perhaps,
to retrospect. In 1812, and previ-
ous, the caucus system prevailed at
Washington. Mr. Jefferson had been
twice nominated by a Congressional
caucus. Mr. Madison had, in like
manner, been nominated and elec-
ted. The caucus, therefore, by
the Democratic party, was the
test of party men. Those who
would not abide its decisions, were
considered politically heterodox, if
not federal. Such were the "usages
and discipline of the party" in those
days. Did you act with the Demo-
cracy, in supporting James Madi-
son? Or did you act with the feder-
alists against him? Did you sup-
port, or oppose "regular nomina-
tions?"

In June, 1812, war was declared.
It was the act of the party. It was
an Executive recommendation, in a
special message transmitted to Con-
gress on the first of June. It was a
measure adopted by every branch of
the Government. Where was your
zeal, spoken of by your puny
biographer? Did you sustain, at that
period, that measure, or the men
who had boldly and fearlessly adopt-
ed it? Did you, on that occasion,
"support the government?" Did you
defend Congress and the adminis-
tration, inasmuch that "it absorbed
your whole soul?" Did you unite
your energies with the friends of the
war for the purpose of securing the
re-election of the man who had haz-
arded the high and exalted station
he then filled, rather than behold his
country's honor trodden by dust and
ashes, by a foreign foe? Or did you,
recrunt-like, flee the banner which
the democracy of the land had gal-
lantly unfurled to the breezes of hea-
ven? I pause, because my indigna-
tion is excited, when I hear you
spoken of as an early friend of the
war. I have done, however, with
this branch of the subject. It shall
be resumed in my next letter. But
first I shall take occasion to notice
and explain the movements, during
the summer of 1812, of your then
friend and counsellor, James A. Ham-
ilton. He too, with equal truth
and propriety, might be pronounced
an advocate of the war. *Par nobile
fratrum.*

PATRICK HENRY.

LETTER V.

Albany, Sept. 15th, 1834.

To the Hon. Martin Van Buren:

Sir—During the year 1812, and
for sometime previous, you was a
resident of Hudson. Mr. James
A. Hamilton was also a resident of
the same place. Congenial spirits,
an intimacy was formed, which has
ripened into a most affectionate and
tender friendship. The ties which
now bind you together are indis-
soluble. They are the ties of policy
and of interest. Each to the other
is known. At that period you were
nominally rallying under different
standards; but really, had the same
objects in view. It was the design
of both to discredit the war; of both,
to bring into disrepute the authors
and advocates of the war; of both, to
decry Southern men, and Southern
measures; of both, to destroy the
well earned popularity of Jas. Madi-
son, and thus defeat his re-election.

On the 8th of July, 1812, an ad-
dress of the Hudson federalists was
published. The object was, to con-
vene a meeting of the party in the
county, for the purpose of denounc-
ing the President and the war.—
Among other federalists, it was
signed by James A. Hamilton, and
the convention referred to.

Resolved, That the war is impo-
litic, unnecessary, and disastrous;
and "that to employ the militia in an
offensive war" (that is to enter
Canada), "is unconstitutional."

It was with such men that you
were acting during the summer and
autumn of 1812, in opposition
to James Madison; and yet, your
adherents have impudently repre-
sented you as the early friend of the
war. It is not alone the policy
which you pursued in 1812, that I
am anxious to hold up to condem-
nation; but the profligacy, also, of
assailing and traducing the oppo-
nents of the war, after having acted
in concert with them at its com-
mencement; and not having aban-
doned them until they and you, were
defeated in the presidential contest.

The whole summer and autumn
of 1812, the enemies of Mr. Madison
were indefatigable, throughout the
state of New York, in their efforts
to prevent his re-election. Nor was
you, sir, a calm or an idle spectator.
Your denunciations of the war, and

its authors, were loud and strong.
The papers which were supported
by you and your friends, (I do not
allude to acknowledged federal jour-
nals) were in the constant habit of
using language, such as the follow-
ing, which is extracted from one of
them:

August, 1812. "An administra-
tion which enters into war, without
revenue, without preparation, and
without plan, or with preparation
worse than none, pursues a miserable
course," &c. Again.

October, 1812. "Madison has
begot war, war begets debts; debts
begets taxes; taxes begets bank-
ruptcy," &c.

"Clinton will beget peace; peace
begets riches and property; property
begets harmony," &c.

Such was the language of the pub-
lic prints (in this State) which ad-
vocated your views and your policy.
Is it unfair, or uncandid, to infer
that it was done by your authority,
and with your approbation?

These references are made for the
purpose of shewing how the war, in
1812, "absorbed your whole soul."
It has already been remarked, that
Mr. Clinton was nominated at a
caucus held in this city, on the 29th
of May, 1812. Mr. Madison was
nominated in Congressional caucus,
on the 22d of May, 1812; and here
I have a word for your friend and
champion, Mr. Ritchie, of Rich-
mond. The old man is good at a
somerset. His present support of
you is evidence of the fact. Do you
believe, as he evidently does, that
Virginia can be made to follow his
bidding? While you were thus op-
posing, Mr. Ritchie was, with equal
zeal, supporting Mr. Madison. On
the 12th of February, 1812, the Vir-
ginia legislature held a caucus to
nominate electors. It continued,
during the evenings of the 13th and
14th.

Andrew Stevenson, was Chairman;
Thomas Ritchie, was Secretary.

After giving the ticket the editor
of the *Enquirer* remarks, "It is
proper to say, that but one sentiment
reigned, through the meeting, and
that the only test laid down, whe-
ther they should or should not vote
for such and such an elector was—
whether he would or would not vote
for James Madison as President of
the United States."

On the 3d November, 1812, the
legislature met in this city for the
purpose of choosing electors. You
took your seat as a member of the
Senate. Governor Tompkins, in his
message, announced, that since the
last session war had been declared,
a committee consisting of Messrs.
Wilkins, Van Buren, and Platt,
were appointed to draft a respectful
answer. That answer is frosty,
cold, and heartless. It contains no
sentence approving the war, or
complimenting the patriots who had
the firmness to assert the nation's
rights. It contains no denunciation
of that government who had plun-
dered our property, incarcerated in
floating dungeons our defenceless
citizens, and who by their wrongs
had driven us to take up arms in self-
defence. And yet with this official
document, staring us in the face,
you are unblushingly pronounced a
friend to the late war.

The following is your chilling
language:

"The Senate fully concur with
your Excellency in the sentiment,
that at a period like the present,
when our country is engaged in a
war with one of the most powerful
nations of Europe, difference of opin-
ion on abstract points, should not be
suffered to impede or prevent our
united and vigorous support of the
constituted authority of the nation."
Condemnate modestly!

In this manner you refer to the
war in 1812. But in 1814 you had
abandoned your late friends. You
were again on a committee to answer
the Governor's message. How
changed your tone. Speaking of
Mr. Madison and his cabinet, you
say—"An administration selected
for its wisdom and its virtues will,
in our opinion, prosecute the war
till our multiplied wrongs are re-
venged, and our rights secured."
Indeed! how patriotic. But why
was not this discovery made in 1812?
Why did you oppose an administra-
tion selected for its wisdom and its
virtues? Why did you attempt to
overthrow and cast it down? Why
did you not in 1812, speak of re-
venging our "multiplied wrongs"
and "securing our rights?"

In 1816 you was on a similar
committee. Peace had now been
proclaimed. In your reply to the
Governor, you say—"The war in
which the nation has been involved,
was not only righteous in its origin,