

## ASTROLOGY AND ITS EVILS.

Man is prompted by an innate disposition to seek for a knowledge of the future. When properly controlled this desire results in good to himself and his fellow-creatures. When he has a correct knowledge of God and his laws, he is prompted to seek for the Holy Spirit, and when he obtains that, the anxiety of his soul is legitimately and fully gratified. But when he is ignorant of God he is liable to have recourse to practices which bring him under the bondage of superstition, and he is debased and rendered unhappy thereby.

Astrology is one of the means which has been used by men from the earliest ages to pry into futurity and obtain its secrets. Before Abraham emigrated from Chaldea that country was famous for its astrologers. It is called the mother-country of diviners and especially of judicial astrologers—that is, those who pretended to foretell moral events, as if they were directed by the stars. To such a degree of power did this class of men attain in that country, that they formed the highest caste and enjoyed a place at court. So indispensable were they in Chaldean society, that we are informed no step could be taken, not a relation could be formed, a house built, a journey undertaken, a campaign begun, until they had ascertained the lucky day and promised a happy issue. Some have claimed Egypt as the land where astrology had its origin. But, be that as it may, the people of that country at a very early age encouraged its practice as well as other arts of divination.

We find frequent allusions in the Bible to astrologers. Isaiah, in foretelling God's judgments upon Babylon, says in relation to them: "Let now the astrologers, the star-gazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee. Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame." With all their pretended knowledge they could not save themselves, much less their city and nation. They perished, miserably perished with their countrymen, despite all their figures and horoscopes and arts of divination. Every nation which fostered or trusted in them has similarly perished. Assyrians, Egyptians, Grecians and Romans, were all numbered among their believers. Through their agency, those people sought the knowledge of the future. But their knowledge was only partial; just enough of it mingled with the falsehood which they revealed to deceive their credulous victims and lure them on to destruction.

Our object in alluding to this subject at the present time is to put our people on their guard against this system. We understand there are some individuals in this city and elsewhere, who practice it. They impose upon the credulity of the ignorant and unwary by their pretensions to knowledge respecting the future. They contrive to make money by playing upon the superstitions of those who visit them. Besides being able to foretell future events, they profess to describe where lost stock can be found, to tell the proper day and hour when any important undertaking shall be commenced, to inform a young lady respecting her prospects, and a young gentleman whether the alliance he is about to enter upon will be fortunate, and at what particular hour the stars will be propitious for his marriage. All these, and much more that we have not space to enumerate, these charlatans profess to be able to do by the casting of

a figure! Not only do the unwary and ignorant visit them for the purpose of obtaining the knowledge which they profess to dispense; but we are assured that if we saw a list of the names of their visitors we would be surprised. There would be found the names of individuals who would take serious umbrage if they were called either unwary or ignorant.

We do not expect that anything that we may say upon this subject will have the effect upon those who practice this system to deter them from prosecuting it. So long as they can find dupes, and those dupes will pay them for casting their figures, they will continue their operations. But it is not for them we write particularly. Our words are addressed to those who patronize them, who in their credulity, imagine that they can be benefitted by what they tell them. If we could have influence with them, we would warn them of their danger. They tread on slippery ground. Those who practice this system are either complete apostates or are on the verge of apostasy. Those who patronize it, if they persist in doing so, will go the same way. No man who practices astrology or seeks to obtain knowledge through its agency, can retain his confidence in the means which God has appointed, by which the knowledge of the future can be imparted. He will, sooner or later, deny the faith. Like table-rapping, writing mediums, etc., it is a means which God does not acknowledge, but which he has condemned.

There may be some truth in the system. The hold it has retained of the human mind for so many ages could not have been, probably, had it not possessed some correct principles. But it is that truth which makes it the more dangerous. The devil will, at any time, tell nineteen truths, if by doing so he can make the people believe one lie. Under such circumstances the nineteen truths strengthen him and are of far more use to him than lies would be. But such knowledge as Daniel possessed, obtained by him through the proper channel, was of far more avail in the day of need, in revealing the Lord's purposes, than all the astrology of Chaldea.

## CHARLES DICKENS.

Mr. Charles Dickens, the English novelist, now on a visit to the United States, is giving readings in the chief cities of the Union. As some account of him and the reception he is meeting with, will doubtless, be interesting to our readers, we condense the following from our exchanges:

Several years ago Mr. Dickens visited this country, and everywhere met with the most flattering reception. In fact the enthusiasm of the people reached such a pitch that his course was marked by an almost continued ovation. On his return to England he inflicted a deep wound on our national self-love by his severe criticisms on American manners and peculiarities in his "Martin Chuzzlewit" and "Notes on America." This caused quite a revolution in the feelings of the people of this country towards him, and since then the American press has occasionally indulged in allusions to what was termed the ingratitude of Mr. Dickens. Since his arrival, however, though occasionally manifested in a slight degree, this feeling has completely disappeared, and his reception generally, is said to be far more enthusiastic than that accorded a few years since to Albert Edward, Prince of Wales.

On his appearance in Boston this coldness was very apparent. Says the correspondent to the Sacramento Weekly Union: "The social thermometer stood at zero. Some of the reader's best potshots were received in dead silence; others kindled grim proper smiles, and a few, a decorous clapping of the hands." In

New York his reception was very different—his audiences were more demonstrative—even enthusiastic, stamping vigorously and shouting and roaring with laughter, and interrupting the reader in the midst of a sentence. In Philadelphia, it is said that no literary man, with the exception of Thackeray, ever received such a reception as he did. The sale of the tickets, two weeks before the readings commenced, almost caused a disturbance of the peace. Every ticket for the six readings was sold the first day, and many of them, getting into the hands of speculators, were sold at exorbitant prices. The Hall in which his readings were given would only contain 1500 people, but these were so anxious to be there in time, that it required a dozen policemen outside to keep order. Here as well as in Boston the recollections of "Martin Chuzzlewit" and "American Notes" damped the ardor of his audience and no signs of welcome greeted his appearance. Mr. Dickens, however, did not seem to notice it at all, but, "Marley was dead to begin with" said he, "and to work he went, and before Scrooge had got through with the first ghost the laughter was general and uproarious."

Mr. Dickens, is pronounced by our citizens to be inferior as a reader to Murdock, Booth, Kidd, Wallack, Devonport, and many others. His voice is cracked and husky, and he reads his descriptions too rapidly, as if in a hurry to get through; but in the delineation of character he raises the enthusiasm of his audience to the highest pitch and is said to have no living equal. His hearers quite forget the reading and are all absorbed in the story. His humor is delicious beyond description, and his pathos is equally powerful, being so intensely and painfully absorbing that his hearers are almost in pain until he gets through.

On the 10th instant Mr. Dickens gave his last reading in New York, and in a column devoted to him and his readings, the Tribune says:

"Some hundred and fifty thousand people will probably hear him before he leaves us. What influence will he have exerted upon them? Interested, amused, we know they will be; no theatre is more attractive than these readings; but will they go away permanently benefitted? more cheerful in spirit? warmer in heart, with impulses more friendly, with benevolence more active? Very surely they will."

Of the Christmas Carol, and the Trial at Scene in Pickwick, the Tribune further says:

"The victory is altogether in the interests of civilization. What a Christmas gift was that Carol to the English people—to the world! What teachings from the pulpit purer, nobler, more Christian! And what sermon half so powerful!"

The welcome we have given Dickens, the unexampled eagerness to hear him, the crowded audiences that have met him and will continue to meet him wherever he goes, are testimonials not to the individual, nor yet to the artist, but to the man who has so often stirred the better part of our nature; whose pages have taught us throughout so many pleasant hours, so many wholesome lessons. An ephemeral popularity may be based on adventitious position and fortuitous opportunities of display; but a reputation like that of Dickens, co-extensive with civilization and enduring through a long life, has a broader foundation, independent of chance, inaccessible to change. He merits all that he receives. Some may set themselves to calculate how many thousands or tens of thousands he earns by a month's readings. Out on such calculation! It is the harvest of a life time he is gathering, and of what a life time! And, as regards ourselves, we pay \$2 for a reserved seat at a theatre, and forget, perhaps, three days afterwards, what play we witnessed. Shall we grudge that sum for an evening of which the charming recollections will haunt us for years?"

An Ohio sexton burst a blood vessel just as he had finished a grave, and tumbled into it.

[Special to the Deseret Evening News.]

## By Telegraph.

## Congressional!

TALK OF DISORGANIZING MONTANA BY CONGRESS!

HEAVY STORM IN SCOTLAND!

THE FRENCH DO NOT LIKE THE NEW ARMY BILL!

THE DUBLIN FENIANS VISIT A GUN-SMITH'S AND TAKE POWDER!

Washington, 27.—Senate.—A number of communications and petitions were presented and referred. Several private bills were introduced, and also resolutions calling for information on various matters. A bill to remove the political disabilities of R. M. Patton, of Alabama, was discussed till the expiration of the morning hour. Stuart, Pomeroy, Johnson and Howard supported the bill; Drake and Buckalew, opposed it, the latter, on the ground that he opposed special legislation on individual cases. A resolution, detailing naval officers to attend the International Maritime Exposition at Havre, was debated and laid on the table. The supplementary reconstruction bill was taken up. Wilson took the floor in support of the bill, and expressed the opinion that before the fourth of July next, the Southern States would be represented here by loyal men.

House.—A large number of bills, none of very special importance, was introduced and referred. One was to provide a temporary government for the Territory of Wyoming; another to give the right to vote in Presidential State elections to every citizen of the United States who had resided ten days in the district; another, for granting land to aid the Middle Pacific Railroad. One bill introduced, provides, that in case a Senator becomes Vice-President by reason of being President of the Senate pro-tempore, in case the senatorial term expires before the presidential term expires, he shall continue in office till the expiration of the presidential term of office, the office of senator alone becoming vacant. Several financial bills were introduced. A resolution was also introduced, reciting the alleged action of the Montana Legislature in denying the elective suffrage to negroes, instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the facts and report such measures as may be necessary to secure obedience to the laws of Congress on the part of the Legislature and Governor of Montana. Washburne, of Illinois, suggested that the Committee be instructed to report a bill repealing the act organizing the Territory. The subject was finally referred to the Committee on Territories. The House proceeded to consider the bill to prevent the payment of claims arising from the rebellion. After repeated votes on different motions, the bill passed without amendment. Banks reported a bill concerning the rights of American citizens abroad; ordered printed and recommitted. It differs but slightly from the bill, an abstract of which has already been telegraphed. It excepts from the provisions of the act any naturalized citizen who fails to make an annual return of his property to the Assessor. A resolution was adopted instructing the Reconstruction Committee to inquire whether combinations have been made or attempted to be made, to obstruct the due execution of the reconstruction laws, with power to send for persons and papers.

London.—It is now asserted that the new French loan of seven hundred and fifty million francs will be placed in the market to-day.

Edinburgh.—A very heavy gale passed over the southern counties of Scotland yesterday; houses were unroofed and blown down, much damage done and several lives lost. The storm was very heavy in the city of Glasgow and it was thought the shipping must have suffered terribly.

Montgomery.—Orders have been issued providing an election for the adoption of the Constitution. The polls will be opened in three places in each county and will remain open four days, beginning Feb. 4th.

Columbus, 27.—Col. Beatty, Republican, has been elected to Congress in the 8th district of Ohio, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Hamilton.

York.—Theophilus Callicott has brought an action against the New York Times, in the King's County Court, for libel, in charging him with having been bribed, by a promise of the Speakership of the Assembly, to join the Republicans. Damages are laid at fifty thousand.

Washington.—The Secretary of War informs the House that no information