

we have not investigated or cannot understand a particular science. There is nothing more wonderful in phrenology or mesmerism than our Grandfathers would have considered the telegraph or daguerrotype; and it would be a poor compliment to their memories in our day, to suppose them ranged among the scoffers of these inventions.

As phrenology is a science which now ranks amongst its firmest supporters many of the leading men in those professions who formerly considered it either their duty or interest to oppose it, as many of the leading Divines, and first medical men of the day have yielded to the irresistible proofs of its truth; as it has firmly established itself in the face of opposition, and is actually practiced in many of the public institutions, Lunatic Asylums, and Penitentiaries of Great Britain and the United States, if not elsewhere, with the concurrence and approval of these governments, and with beneficial results to the establishments, and their inmates, it may be thought unnecessary that I should do more than at once enter upon its principles and details.

From a conviction, however, that many unfounded prejudices still exist in the public mind, I am induced to take a different course; and shall endeavour fairly, if not fully, to meet these prejudices, and to answer the leading objections against it; which, together with a few of the rational arguments in its favour, and (should time permit) a slight notice of the advantages, which may be derived from its more general adoption and practice, will comprise this evening's lecture; reserving the more minute investigation of the subject, the various organs and their mutual and controlling influence upon each other, for a future occasion.

The principal objection to Phrenology, is its supposed opposition to Scriptural Religion. Now I do not hesitate to say, that if this or any other science is at variance with Religion, and the plain truths of Scripture, it should not only be opposed by all good men, as baneful in its effects, and prejudicial to our most important interests, here and hereafter; but must also be set down by every reflecting mind, as false and unfounded. And with this opinion not more explicitly stated, than strongly impressed upon my mind, I shall endeavour to show that such an objection does not exist; that this science is in perfect accordance with every principle of sound Religion, its doctrines and duties, and that those overzealous persons who oppose phrenology, are using their influence to the prejudice of Religion, and to the injury of society. To proceed then, with the first objection—*Materialism*. 'Tis sometimes urged that if phrenology be true, it would prove that mind cannot exist independent of matter, and therefore, it would deny the separate existence of an immaterial spirit. Now, those persons who so think cannot surely have reflected much upon the question; for they must upon the same grounds reject the truths of *Anatomy*; and all also that has been observed or written respecting the existence of mankind in this world;—for instance—*Anatomy* proves (and who thinks of denying) that the eye is the organ of sight, the ear of hearing, the nose of smelling, and so on; and that were it not for the possession of these organs, man would not possess those faculties in this life. But surely it does not therefore follow, that all who believe the eye to be the material and necessary organ of sight, are materialists, or persons who deny the separate existence of the spirit which in future life may see and hear, when these organs shall have crumbled into dust. The Phrenologist then contends no more, in this respect, than does the Anatomist, and every reasoning being, when he asserts that the brain is the organ of mind, through which it manifests itself while in the body, and that the perfection or imperfection of such manifestations depend upon the state of that organ.

The difficulty which has arisen upon this point, may be attributed chiefly to the fact, that the "*Manifestations of Mind*," and the "*Existence of Mind*," are not considered as distinct and separate questions.

It is a very different thing, surely, to assert that mind is dependant upon matter for its manifestations in this life; that the body is not only its tenement, but the medium through which it acts while on earth, as Phrenologists do assert; and to affirm, as does the Materialist, that the mind can have no existence separate from the body, which the Phrenologist does not contend. The very language of Phrenology on this subject is, that "The mental qualities and capacities are dependant upon the bodily constitution, *not for Existence*, but for the *power of Acting* in this material world." Now let us apply this language to the organs of the five senses. The power of beholding, comprehending, and enjoying the great works of the Creator, are dependant upon the bodily organs of sense, viz.: hearing, feeling, smelling, tasting, seeing; and without these organs we could have no knowledge of the existence of any such created things while in this material world. What person would deny this statement, or could believe the contrary? shall we brand all who do not deny it with the hated name *Materialist*? Then why abuse Phrenologists, for asserting what every every man of common sense admits and asserts himself?

The nature of the immaterial spirit which thus operates through material organs, is a matter with which phrenology has nothing to do, and one which can never be fully comprehended by mortal. Of its existence we are sure, and of its end we are informed by Scripture; but upon the question of its nature every person may hold his own particular opinions,—mine is, that there exists in every human being, from the *Infant* to the most

erger intellectual mortal, the same individual spiritual essence, the same in quality and immortality, and that the grand reason why the effects produced are different, is the different organization through which this mind is manifested.

This may be considered a bold expression of opinion; but while I assert it as an opinion only, it is one for which I am prepared to give my reasons; not as proving it correct—for that were impossible as already stated—but to show that it is quite as rational as any theory which can be advanced upon the subject, and is at the same time in perfect accordance with scripture.

Again, it is urged that if Phrenology does not favor Materialism, it at least tends to *Fatalism*; and that if its doctrines be true, man would not be master of or accountable for his own actions, they being the necessary consequence of his brainular organisation.

This again is a most mistaken view, both of the doctrines and effects of Phrenology, which, on the contrary, contend and prove that we are not only accountable for our actions but are in a great measure accountable for the peculiar organisation which produce them; because, upon the cultivation of those organs which are deficient in power (and more particularly the moral and intellectual organs,) in early life, and before the character has become confirmed, will much depend not only their size, but their activity, and by consequence their ascendancy and control over the animal propensities, which might otherwise lead to evil deeds.

The Doctrines of Phrenology most distinctly are, that mankind (though formed by nature with different organisation of brain from each other,) have much within their own power as to their characters and abilities at maturity. That the difference in the child will not necessarily produce good or evil—powerful intellect or dull stupidity in the man; because the organs depend much for their superiority and power upon the cultivation which they respectively receive.

The healthy and a sickly child may change places in their constitutional superiority, if the healthy child be neglected and exposed, while the sickly is nourished and protected. We can easily understand how the sickly child may become a hale, hearty, if not a robust man, though his superior by nature may present, at maturity, a picture of pale and squalid wretchedness, or premature disease. And just as easily can the phrenologist understand how it is that the child which by nature is capable of proving an honor to his parentage and his country, as a patriot, philanthropist or philosopher, may, by improper or neglected cultivation, become an inmate of the Gallies, or the madhouse.

It is a too common thing for us to save over our consciences, in cases of misfortune or error, by attributing directly to the decrees of providence, those things which are owing in a great measure to our own misconduct or neglect. And we are often pleased to term this scape-goat of our own folly—"a meek and christian resignation." Such, however, is not the teaching of phrenology, which affirms that all created things have been so created for good; and that it is the abuse alone which produces the evil;—that by a strict adherence to the decrees of providence, the moral and physical laws of nature, good would result from all created things; and that if those laws be violated or neglected, the consequent evil is not in accordance with, but in direct opposition to, those laws, as caused, not by them, but by their infringement.

'Tis urged again, that the organs cannot increase after maturity, when the skull has formed hard above them; and that phrenology would make such persons incapable of moral or intellectual improvement.

(To be continued.)

United States News.

THE FRENCH MAIL STEAMERS.—The Courier des Etats Unis, contains the articles of agreement for the establishment of the four Government Steamers to run between Havre and New York; they consist of 29 items, regulating the days of sailing, the duties of officers, agents, &c. The agreement is made for ten years; and the ships are to leave New York and Havre twice a month, from April to November, and once a month from November to March. It is understood that the first packet will leave Havre on the 1st May.

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH THE WEST INDIES.—We understand that a company has recently been formed in our city, with a capital of some \$50,000, the whole of which has been taken, for the purpose of establishing a communication with Havana. It is in contemplation to build a suitable boat for this purpose which will also touch at Key West—*Charleston Courier*.

Colonial News.

Newfoundland.

Halifax Morning Post, May 6.

By the arrival of the Unicorn we have received Newfoundland dates to the 24th April, from which we condense the following items:

The success of the Seal and Cod Fisheries has produced a general buoyancy of feeling in the community.

The inhabitants of Bonavista are represented to be in a most deplorably desti-

tute condition. Out of a population of about 7,000, no fewer than 900 are said to be in actual want, both of food and clothing. The Morning Courier highly commends the government for the promptitude with which supplies have been sent to the destitute of the outports, and indignantly denounces the sordid grumbling of a portion of the press at so charitable an expenditure, while such a scramble has been going on in town for a participation in the large sums sent from Britain and the neighbouring Colonies. Encouragement to Agriculture through the country, and the erection of a Workhouse near the town, are earnestly advocated.

The Margaret, David Power, Master, belonging to Messrs. Panton & Munn, of Harbour Grace, which vessel was fishing off Greed's Pond, has been lost, and lamentable to add, the Master and Twenty of the Crew lost their lives. The survivors have returned to Harbour Grace.

Spring weather, it seems, has visited Newfoundland earlier this season than it has the other Colonies.

His Excellency Sir John Gaspard Le Marchante, the newly appointed Governor of the Island, arrived on the 22d in the Unicorn.

Novascotia.

Fires.—A fire broke out yesterday morning in a house belonging to Alexander Barry, below the Town Clock, and which had been advertised to be sold. It was got under after considerable damage had been done.

Last evening about 11 o'clock, a fire broke out in the large brick building at the corner of Hollis and Sackville streets known as Stevens's Corner. The engines were promptly at the scene of danger, and after some trifling delay in procuring water, they began to throw it into the flames with great effect, and in ten minutes placed the premises out of danger.—May 5.

New Brunswick.

We are informed that an unfortunate occurrence, resulting in the death of a soldier belonging to the 33rd Regiment, took place a few days since. Three men of the Regiment deserted, in pursuit of whom others went from the city, but the runaways refusing to surrender, were fired at, and one was so badly wounded, that he has since died; the others were captured.—*Chronicle*.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI.

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1847.

The Subscriber having been compelled to consume a large amount of time, and incur considerable expense, in his too often fruitless endeavours to collect his far-spread Outstanding Debts, hereby notifies all persons to whom he is not indebted, and with whom he has not a running account, that orders for advertising in the Gleaner, and for Printing, in future, must be accompanied with the CASH, otherwise they will not meet with attention.

JAMES A. PIERCE.

NORTHUMBERLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

—This excellent institution was examined on Monday the 3rd instant, in presence of the Trustees, and many ladies and gentlemen, parents and friends of the pupils. The exhibition throughout was most gratifying, and afforded much pleasure to all present on the occasion. The arrangements were highly judicious, and reflected much credit on Mr Millar. There were classes in English Reading, English Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography, History, Latin and Greek; and in each of these the boys acquitted themselves remarkably well. They read and spelt correctly, and in good taste; and in Arithmetic they displayed such facility in solving the problems that were proposed to them, as called forth the warmest approbation of the spectators. In English Grammar all the exercises were readily performed; and the more advanced scholars, in particular, showed themselves to be intimately acquainted with the elements of that science; so much so, indeed, that it was almost impossible to puzzle them. In English History, the pupils were plied with a great variety of questions, extending over a long period

of time, and the result was highly satisfactory. The classes in Greek and Latin did ample justice to themselves and to their leader; and there were exhibited some specimens of penmanship which we have never, perhaps, seen surpassed. On the whole, the examination was such as to confirm and strengthen the good opinion which we have often expressed of Mr Millar's success in conducting the general business of the Northumberland Grammar School.—*Communicated*.

COUNTY OF KENT.—Coroner's Inquest.

—An Inquest was held at Richibucto, on the 24th ult., by George Pagan, Esq., Coroner for the said county, on view of the body of Francis Flynn, who was discovered lying quite dead at the lower part of the saw mill occupied by Messrs. Powells, situate on the Kouchibouguac River. From all the evidence produced, it appeared that the deceased had, about half an hour before he was discovered, left the gang which he worked, to go outside the mill; and it is supposed he unfortunately came in contact with the lower part of the machinery, and was thrown into the water below the mill, and was drowned. His remains were taken to his friends the next day, who reside in Nelson, Miramichi. Verdict—accidental death.

LATE FROM MEXICO.—By the arrival of the Cambria at Halifax from Boston, on her voyage to Britain, very late news from the seat of war in Mexico has been obtained. We copy below some of the extracts given:

FROM VERA CRUZ.—Our advices by Iona are up to the 5th instant. General Twiggs, with a division of the army left Vera Cruz on the morning of that day for Jalapa. There was the same doubt in the army as to whether there would be any more fighting, as has always prevailed amongst our troops after a fight.

The remaining divisions were to proceed rapidly in the direction of the city of Mexico. Although the opinion was quite current at Vera Cruz that the Mexicans would not make a stand between that city and the capital, yet there were some who regarded future collisions as certain. Amongst those was Colonel Kennedy, who had recently been as far into the interior as Mango de Clava, Santa Anna's hacienda.

Rumours from the city of Mexico represent Santa Anna as more intently bent on war than ever. The reports are not the best authority in so far as the wishes of Santa Anna are concerned; but they indicate the temper of the public mind, which is as good an index of his purposes as any other.—*New Orleans pa*.

NEW YORK, April 30, 9 at night.

We have received Vera Cruz dates to the 14th instant. Accounts state that Santa Anna is strongly fortified at Carrow Gordo, with 15,000 men.

General Twiggs was within a few days march and General Scott close behind. A great battle was expected.

There is a Mexican rumour that Santa Anna has with him four members of the National Congress with whom to negotiate.

No Vomito in Vera Cruz—Diarrhoea is very severe.

PHILADELPHIA, April 29.

The rumours are confirmed of Santa Anna's advance from the capital towards Jalapa, breathing vengeance, and refusing pacification.

EUROPEAN NEWS.—The steamer Caledonia, with the second April British mail, arrived at Halifax at six o'clock on the evening of Tuesday last, after a passage of 14 days. She brought out a large number of passengers.

The papers in our possession are to the 20th of April, from which we have gleaned a very large number of extracts, which embrace all the news of any moment the British journals furnish. Parliament, it was stated, was to be dissolved in July. The financial statement for the year was very satisfactory, shewing that the mother country had suffered but little from the trials through which she has passed during the last six months. The news from Ireland is still very distressing, but affairs have improved considerably, and were rapidly mending.

For a more detailed account of matters in general in the old world, we refer our readers to the European head, in another part of to-day's paper.