

rate may continually approach the pole without a possibility of ever arriving at it! And many writers on optics, that children see objects in an inverted position, until they rectify the illusion by handling them! These writers, however ridiculous their opinions may appear, differ from you in reasoning with some plausibility. The first is supposed to follow from the equality of action and reaction; the second from its being rigorously true in theory; and the last from the fact that the image of an object is inverted on the retina, or wherever it has its seat in the eye. Suppose a body situated at the distance of *one diameter* of the sun from the sun, then since the earth is at the distance of 106 of these diameters, and heat diminishes as the square of the distance increases, it must be 11,236 times as hot at *this body* as it is at the earth. But you suppose it to be just that number of times as hot at the sun as it is at the earth; therefore, it is as hot at a body placed upwards of 860,000 miles from the sun as it is at the sun, though heat varies as the square of the distance! This ingenious application of indirect reasoning to prove the utter absurdity of your hypothesis, was suggested by the person to whom I alluded on a former occasion. Now divest yourself of prejudice, and take a candid and impartial view of your own conduct and of mine. You committed an error which you can have no real interest in upholding; I corrected it, and thence you received no injury; you asserted without proof that the result I obtained depended upon one supposition, while your's depended upon another; I proved the assertion to be false, by showing the result to be the same on either supposition; you then insinuated that I brought false charges against you, and I now spurn the ignoble charge with proud contempt. I do not believe that you incurred blame by giving a wrong solution, on the contrary, I think you deserve praise, not only for the questions you solved accurately, but for attempting that in which you failed. Your youth must shelter you from censure for your other mistakes, but should not shelter the mistakes themselves. The charity which permits error to stalk abroad undetected, whether in a moral or scientific point of view—whether from a school-boy or a boy of forty, is spurious, and in my opinion, unworthy of the name. I wish you to understand perfectly, that I make a complete distinction between yourself and your opinions; with yourself I have nothing to do, you may believe or not believe what I say, just as you please. With regard to your opinions the case is different, when you give them in a

periodical which I purchase they become my property. I shall examine their quantity, quality, and ingredients; I shall weigh, measure, and analyze them, and publish my views when I think proper, and you are at liberty to do the same with mine. It has been hinted to me that some person backs you in this controversy. I hope he will accept this challenge, and if he can show that I am wrong, I shall apologize to you, and thank him; as I scorn an act of injustice, despise the pride that will not acknowledge, and pity the ignorance that cannot be enlightened.

I am yours, sincerely,

St. John, April.

R. MATTHEWSON.



The Lady alluded to, in the letter of J. T., has too much good sense to notice the satire referred to,—and we are quite sure that the author had no intention of wounding her feelings—the great popularity attached to her writings are proof against all anonymous attacks; we can also say, that the author of the address “to Clara,” had not the most distant idea of giving offence.

“The Maid of St. Vincent,”—a Tale by J. M., came to hand too late for insertion in our present number.

Henricus' Sonnet to his “Lady Love,” would answer very well if sent to the lady, but it cannot appear in print.

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