

netism—course to consist of one lecture; Phrenology—one lecture, with an entertaining and instructive examination of the heads of the audience; Chemistry—one lecture, to conclude with a brilliant exhibition of the wonders of the pocket magic lantern; Physiology—three lectures, one to be delivered before a mixed audience, one for ladies only, and one for gentlemen exclusively (positively no ladies admitted); each lecture to be appropriately and chastely illustrated by the exhibition of sundry paintings and manikins, far excelling Nature in naturalness and beauty! And, imagine my edification and delight, when, on returning from my scientific tour, I should find the whole country still in a state of mental ebullition; when in one community, I should discover the fruits of my recent labours ripened into learned allusions to Newton's Laws, Kepler's Principia, and the celebrated reply of Ptolemy to his stern persecutors, "It moves notwithstanding"; when in various intellectual families my dinner hour should be occupied, not so much with attending to its ostensible object, as with a discussion of sundry knotty points connected with the dura mater of the stomach, the abscess of the liver, and the auricles of the brain; when in every direction I should be besieged by anxious parents, presenting, for my profound inspection, the remarkable cranial developments of their interesting progeny, in order that their future destinies may be clearly pointed out—whether James Isaac has not good bumps for a lawyer, as he keeps the other children in continual strife and uproar; whether William Thomas, who has the rare fortune to be the seventh son, with no intruding daughters between, ought not to be sent to college, to receive a medical education, especially as he shows a decided taste for torturing flies, and killing frogs; and what profession would be good enough for little Isaac Newton, the pet of the family, who is altogether a most astonishing child.

Bright as are these visions, and rendered brighter too by the prospect of receiving for my lecture tickets a quarter dollar apiece (children under six years admitted at half price) and a good round fee (it takes better to charge well) for cranial examinations, to pay travelling expenses, which, thanks to my talent for shaking hands combined with my capacity for assuming a sociable disposition generally, and to the well known generous hospitality of the country, ought not to be very great, I have never been able to proceed further in my magnanimous undertaking than to the formation of a rude draft of my project, and the contemplation of its undoubted success—in a pecuniary point of view. To tell the truth, I have some little misgivings relative to the real benefits which I should confer upon mankind by my contemplated scheme. I do not base my doubts upon the truth of the threadbare quotation, "A little learning, etc." A little learning is a dangerous thing; but so also are the first locomotive efforts of a child. My misgivings arise partly from a consciousness that the more attractive of my subjects of lecture, stand, to say the least, upon very disputable foundations,