

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 13, 1838.

PHRENOLOGY.—As introductory to a few observations we wish to set before our readers on the subject of Phrenology, we copy the following just though severe remarks from an excellent literary periodical:—

“Whatever conflicts with the opinions or prejudices of mankind must commend itself to public favor by something more than its simple truth, or according to the world’s estimate of its danger or folly, persecution or ridicule will ever wait upon its progress to general belief.

“The phrenologist has not been compelled to ascend the scaffold, nor has he been tortured with ‘a slow fire of green wood,’ for his heretical opinions; and for this mercy, he is indebted to the enlightenment of the age in which he first proclaimed his discoveries: but he has been preserved, in order to be ‘roasted’ by the burning satire of his contemporaries, and to be ‘served up,’ for the gratification of those epicures in wit, who, with the aid of a good tailor, can do more for the cause of truth by a look and a laugh, than a Gall or a Spurzheim, by the labors of a life. To these laughing philosophers, your phrenologist is a very eccentric man indeed—very; to their humble apprehensions his science appears quite stupid—quite; and all he converses about, appears to them to be nothing more nor less than ‘bumpology,’ positively. Moreover, they have heard some amusing anecdotes upon the subject. A travelling disciple of this wonderful science, who wrote out characters for eighteen pence per head, once departed from the scene of his labors without paying his bill, and his landlord was represented as so far becoming a convert to his guest’s theory, as to believe in the organ of ‘unpaysiveness!’

“These philosophers ill conceal their mirth at the frequent occurrence of mistakes made by those gentlemen termed practical phrenologists, and have been known to violate every rule for the suppression of ungentlemanly laughter, when the fact has been related, that a manipulator of heads, supposing himself (being blindfolded,) to be in a prison, pronounced the wealthy mayor of a city to be a thief; a retired butcher to be a murderer; and a minister of the gospel to have been convicted of rape!

“More important opponents have been found among the traders in the current literature of the day; as well your ‘penny-a-liner,’ as the man who has had the courage to write a book, and the good fortune to vend a copy-right, have been unmercifully witty at the expense of my brethren; and without waiting to inquire whether any important truth was concerned in phrenological investigation, they have only sought to know whether any thing ludicrous could be derived from it. These oracles Ignorance consulted, and the response was—a laugh.”

And after all it is best, perhaps, that every new theory or science, should be subjected to the most severe scrutiny. If light and unsound it will by the sifting process, be swept away; if of due weight and importance, and substantiated by numerous incontestible facts, it will command the attention and confidence of all candid and enlightened persons. Whether wit, and satire, and banter, are the most proper means of scrutiny is another question, but it is one which for the present does not need a reply. The fiery ordeal, however, be it of what kind it may, we believe to be of great and manifest utility. We know that there are many sincere, though as we think, weak minds, who feel alarmed at the progress of Phrenology, supposing that it will subvert all morality and religion. To such persons we wish to offer a few remarks, in the hope of dispelling their fears and calming their agitation.

Our timid friends doubtless believe what is now universally admitted, that the brain is the material organ of the mind—the instrument by which the soul acts. Shall we therefore conclude that they think that the instrument is the soul itself, or that the brain and the mind are identical? Take as an illustration the human eye. The eye is the organ of sight, and without it vision cannot be effected, but was it ever supposed that the eye is itself the faculty of vision? Is the man then who asserts that the eye is the instrument of vision, necessarily a materialist? ‘Most certainly not,’ will be the instant response of those whom we address. But with this admission how can they fairly make out the charge of materialism against the phrenologist, when he merely asserts that the brain is the organ of the mind. He does not declare that the material brain can think or reflect, any more than physiologists assert that the humours, or retina, or optic nerves of the eye can see or judge of colours. Shall we then involve all the phrenologists in the sin and folly of materialism, and yet clear the great mass of mankind of such a charge? Without a perversion of reason and common sense, we feel confident it can never be done.

It does not in the least diminish the force of our argument to advert to the peculiarity in the belief of phrenologists, concerning the division of the brain into a series of organs. As it is now universally conceded that the whole mass of the brain as one entire organ is material, there can be no increase of materialism in separating the brain into parts. To us the vast amount of difference

between phrenologists and others, seems to be this—the general belief is that the brain as whole and entire, performs all the functions of thought, perception, volition, etc. etc., while phrenologists divide the brain into compartments, and to each part assign its own peculiar function. The one that the brain is undivided—the other that it is divided. But how this latter theory makes either for or against materialism, is a problem we shall not attempt to solve. Nor are we alone in this view of the case. Dr. Johnson in his late work on ‘The Economy of Health,’ observes—

“That the doctrine of a plurality of organs for the manifestation of several faculties of the mind should favour materialism more than the doctrine of one organ for all the faculties, is so utterly absurd as to be entirely unworthy of notice;—nor can I see that the said doctrine weakens in the slightest degree, any moral or religious precept. Suppose it were asserted by a phrenologist that there is an organ of DESTRUCTIVENESS, and that the greater development of that organ in one individual than in another indicated a greater propensity to cruelty in that one than in the other—does this doctrine diminish the responsibility for the crime of cruelty or murder, or the necessity of controlling that bad disposition, any more than the doctrine of propensity to cruelty in the soul itself—a doctrine which no anti-phrenologist will deny? If a man should claim an excuse for crime because he has an organ of criminality in his brain, another may claim, with equal justice, an irresponsibility, because he has a propensity to crime in his soul! But there are good and bad organs in the brain, as well as good and bad propensities in the mind; and the obligations we are under to cultivate the good and control the evil, are just as great in the scheme of phrenology as in the systems of ethics and religion established before phrenology was heard of.”

Here our limits oblige us to draw to a close. Into the merits of phrenology as a science we shall not enter—nor shall we even assume its correctness. It is enough for us to shew that phrenology is not the monstrosity many imagine—that it does not conduct the sober inquirer into the chilly region of materialism. And our object will be realised, if we prove successful as a mediator between the phrens and the anties. We are not believers in phrenology—oh, no! Yet we are not exactly skeptics, either. A ‘state of betweenity’ aptly expresses our situation in regard to these craniological matters.

FROM ENGLISH PAPERS.

CONSTANTINA.—Constantine, or Constantina, as it is usually called, which has so recently been taken by the French, is the capital of the territory of the same name, and constitutes a portion of the state of Algiers. It is considered to be by far the largest and strongest of the towns in the eastern part of Algiers, is seated on the top of an immense rock, and can only be reached by steps cut out of it. Criminals are usually executed by being thrown from this precipice, or African ‘Tarpeian Rock.’ It contains numerous Roman antiquities, particularly a triumphal arch in a state of good preservation.

THE QUEEN.—Captain J. Goode formerly of the 10th Hussars, supposed to be insane, insulted her Majesty by holding up his fist and uttering highly disgusting language, on Saturday 4th of November.

DUKE OF WELLINGTON.—The subscription for a national memorial of the Duke of Wellington’s military achievements nearly approaches £12,000.

THE VICTORIA, a new Three-Decker of dimensions larger than those of any ship at present in the British Navy, has been commenced at Pembroke Yard.

THE ILLUMINATION of Temple Bar alone, on the occasion of her Majesty’s visit to the city, cost £800.

ANTISLAVERY EXERTIONS.—Public meetings have been held in various cities of England to obtain the entire disfranchisement of the colonial apprenticed population in the present session of Parliament. The address of the ladies of Great Britain to the Queen on behalf of the suffering apprentices, received upwards of 400,000 signatures.

PROFUSION.—The city dinner consisted of 220 tureens of turtle Soup, 50 boiled turkeys and oyster sauce, 60 roast turkeys, 10 sirloins of beef, 40 dishes of partridges, etc. etc.

MAGNIFICENCE.—The gold plate used at the Queen’s table and sideboard, supplied by Messrs. Brook & Son, Poultry, was valued at £150,000. Vast quantities of gold and silver plate for the general company lent by different private gentlemen amounted in value to £400,000.

HANOVER.—The King of Hanover has formally and finally taken the step of disowning the constitution which was given in 1833 by his late Majesty William IV.

A coach has been constructed on a new safety principle, which it is said, is impossible to be overturned.

SIDE ARMS.—The representation lately made to the military authorities by Lord John Russel, relative to Soldiers wearing side arms when not on duty, has been successful. The practice will in future be discontinued. The Spectator humorously remarks, “Soldiers are no longer to walk the streets armed. When drunk or passionate, they must fall to fisty cuffs, like true John

Bulls, and give and take thumps upon equal terms with civilians.”

RIOT.—A serious disturbance has occurred in Bradford, in consequence of an attempt to introduce the Poor laws into that town and neighborhood. In addition to the Metropolitan police the military were called on to protect the Guardians. Twelve of the rioters were wounded, two of them seriously. According to the statement in the Times, the Soldiers were intoxicated when they were ordered to clear the streets.

Mr. O’Connell has addressed a letter to the Protestant Clergy of Ireland, with a new plan for settling the Tithe question.

THE BALLOT.—Numerous meetings have been held in various parts of Great Britain in favour of the Ballot system. Lord John Russel declares that he is bound to oppose it.

TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.—The French government have taken up the subject of these Societies, and they are warmly patronised by the King of Sweden and the King of Prussia. The Rev Mr. Craig the moderator of the Synod of Ulster, at a late meeting in Belfast, announced his intention of joining them.

BRITISH SEAMEN.—In a tract just issued for gratuitous distribution, by the British and Foreign Sailors Society, it is stated that in those dens to which they resort in the Port of London, 365; seamen are sacrificed every year by the introduction of stupefying, deadly narcotics; and that the SUBJECTS now procured for dissection at one of our metropolitan hospitals, are chiefly Sailors.

CITY MEDAL.—In commemoration of the royal visit, a massive and beautiful medal has been struck by Messrs. Griffin and Hynns, which is to be published to-morrow. The obverse presents a bold and life-like profile of our maiden Queen, the head encircled with a wreath, in which the rose, thistle, and shamrock entwined, and are tastefully combined with the emblems. The reverse exhibits an allegorical representation of her Majesty, in classical costume, beneath a triumphal arch, accompanied by Plenty, Fame, and Britannia, receiving the city sword from the chief magistrate.

AMERICAN SLAVERY.—At the late Anti-Slavery meeting in London, Mr. O’Connell denounced in the following strong terms the iniquitous Slaveholders of the United States. ‘I care not in what country Slavery exists. I hate it in all countries, the slavery of the Poles in Russia under their miscreant tyrant, and the Slavery of the unfortunate men of colour under their fellow men, the boasted friends of liberty, in the United States.

Only cast your eyes across the Atlantic, and see what is taking place on the American shores! (Cheers.) Behold those pretended sons of freedom—those who declared that every man was equal in the presence of his God—that every man had an inalienable right to liberty—behold them making, in the name of honour, their paltry honour, an organised resistance, in four or five slave states, against the advocates of emancipation. Behold them aiding in the robbery committed on an independent state. See how they have seized upon the territory of Texas, taking it from Mexico, Mexico having totally abolished slavery without apprenticeship, (loud cheers,) in order to make it a new market for slavery. (Shame!) Remember how they have stolen, cheated, swindled, robbed that country for the audacious and horrible purpose of perpetuating negro slavery. (Cries of ‘shame!’) Remember that there is a treaty now on foot, in contemplation at least, between the Texans and the president of the United States, and it is only postponed till this robbery of Texas from Mexico can be completed. Oh! raise the voice of humanity against these horrible crimes. (Cheers.) There is about republicans, a sentiment of pride—a feeling of self-exaltation. Let us tell these republicans, that instead of their being the highest in the scale of humanity, they are the basest of the base, the vilest of the vile. (Tremendous cheers.) My friends there is a community of sentiment all over the world, borne on the wings of the press; and what the humble individual who is now addressing you may state, will be carried across the waves of the Atlantic; it will go up the Missouri—it will be wafted along the banks of the Mississippi—it will reach infernal Texas itself. (Immense cheering.) And though that pandemonium may scream at the sound, they shall suffer from the lash of human indignation, applied to their horrible crime. (Cheers.) If they are not arrested in their career of guilt, four new states in America will be filled with slavery. O! horrible breeder of human beings for slavery!

SIR FRANCIS HEAD is re-called from the government of Upper Canada—Col. Arthur is appointed Governor.

VELOCITY.—Messrs. Stephenson of Newcastle have constructed a splendid and powerful locomotive engine, for the Great Western Railway Company. It is called the North Star, and is calculated to run 50 miles an hour with 50 tons burden attached, and with the tender only, at the immense speed of 80.

THAMES TUNNEL.—Another irruption of water into the Thames Tunnel has lately occurred. Out of 75 workmen one only was lost.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.—Sir Robert Peel, Bart. M. P. has been re-elected as Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow. Lord John Russel, Sir John Campbell, and Mr. O’Connell it is said were put in nomination by the Whigs.

A CIGAR MAN.—The proprietor of one of the Mile-end Omnibuses discovered that the conductor belonging to the vehicle