APPEARANCE OF SPECTRES OR PHANTOMS OCCASIONED BY DISEASE.

Nicolai, a member of the Royal Society of Berlin, some time since presented to that Institution, a Memoir on the subject of a complaint with which he was affected, and one of the singular consequences of which was, the representation of various spectres. M. Nicolai for some years had been subject to a congestion in the head, and was blooded for it by leeches. After a detailed account of the state of his health, on which he grounds much medical as well as physiological reasoning he gives the following interesting narrative:

In the first two months of the year 1791, I was much affected in my mind by several incidents of a very disagreeable nature; and on the 24th February a circumstance occurred which irritated me extremely. At ten o'clock in the forenoon my wife and another person came to console me; I was in a violent perturbation of mind, owing to a series of incidents which had altogether wounded my moral feelings, and from which I saw no possibility of relief;—when suddenly I observed at the distance of ten paces from me a figure—the figure of a deceased person. I pointed at it, and asked my wife whether she did not see it. She saw nothing, but being much alarmed, endeavored to compose me, and sent for the physician. The figure remained some seven or eight minutes, and at length I became a little more calm; and as I was extremely exhausted, I soon afterwards fell into a troublesome kind of slumber, which lasted for half an hour. The vision was ascribed to the great agitation of mind in which I had been, and it was supposed I should have nothing more to apprehend from that cause; but the violent affection having put my nerves into some unnatural state, from this arose further consequences which require a more detailed description.

In the afternoon, a little after four o'clock, the figure which I had seen in the morning again appeared. I was alone when this happened; a circumstance which, as may be easily conceived, could not be very agreeable. I went therefore to the apartment of my wife, to whom I related it. But thither also the figure pursued me. Some times it was present, some times it vanished: but it was always the same standing figure. A little after 6 o'clock several stalking figures also appeared:—but they had no connection with the standing figure. I can assign no other reason for the apparition, than that, though much more composed in my mind, I had not been able so soon entirely to forget the cause of such deep and distressing vexation, and had reflected on the consequences of it, in order, if possible, to avoid them; and that this happened three hours after dinner, at the time when the digestion just begins.

At length I became more composed with respect to the disagreeable incident which had given rise to the first apparition; but though I had used very excellent medicines, and found myself in other respects perfectly well, yet the apparitions did not diminish, but on the contrary, rather encreased in number, and were transformed in the most extraordinary manner.

After I had recovered from the first impression of terror, I never felt myself particularly agitated by these apparitions, as I considered them to be what they really were, the extraordinary consequences of indisposition! on the contrary, I endeavored as much as possible, to preserve my composure of mind, that I might remain distinctly conscious of what passed within me. I observed these phantoms with great accuracy, and very often reflected on my previous thoughts, with a view to discover some law in the association of ideas, by which exactly these or other figures might present themselves to the imagination. Some times I thought I had made a discovery, especially in the latter period of my visions: but on the whole I could trace no connection which the various figures that thus appeared to my sight, had, either with my state of mind, or with my employment, and the other thoughts which engaged my attention. After frequent accurate observations on the subject, having fairly proved and maturely considered it, I could form no other conclusion on the cause and consequence of such apparitions than that, when the nervous system is weak, and at the same time too much excited, or rather deranged, similar figures may appear in such a manner as if they were actually seen and heard; for these visions in my case were not the consequence of any known law of reason, of the imagination, or of the otherwise usual association of ideas; and such also is the case with other men, as far as we can reason from the few examples we know.

The origin of the individual pictures which present themselves to us, must undoubtedly be sought for in the structure of that organization by which we think; but this will always remain no less inexplicable to us than the origin of those powers by which consciousness and fancy are made to exist.

The figure of the deceased person never appeared to me after the first dreadful day; but several other figures shewed themselves afterwards very distinctly; some times such as I knew, mostly, however, of persons I did not know, and amongst them those known to me were the semblances of both living and deceased persons, but mostly the former; and I made the observation, that the acquaintance with whom I daily conversed, never appeared to me as phantasms; it was always such as were at a distance. When these apparitions had continued some weeks, and I could regard them with the greatest composure, I afterwards endeavored, at my own pleasure, to call forth phantoms of several acquaintances, whom I for that reason represented to my imagination in the most lively manner, but in vain. For however accurately I pictured to my mind the figures of such persons, I never once could succeed in my desire of seeing them externally: though I had some short time before seen them as phantoms, and they had perhaps afterwards unexpectedly presented themselves to me in the same manner. The phantasms appeared to me in every case involuntary, as if they had been presented externally, like the phenomena in nature, though they certainly had their origin internally; and at the same time I was always able to distinguish with the greatest precision phantasms from phenomena. Indeed, I never once erred in this, as I was in general perfectly calm and self collected on the occasion. I knew extremely well, when it only appeared to me that the door was opened, and a phantom entered, and when the door really was opened, and any person came in.

It is also to be noted, that these figures appeared to me at all times, and under the most different circumstances, equally distinct and clear. Whether I was alone, or in company, by broad day light equally as in the night time, in my own as well as in my neighbour's house; yet when I was at another person's house, they were less frequent; and when I walked the public street, they very seldom appeared. When I shut my eyes, sometimes they remained even after I had closed them. If they vanished in the former case, on opening my eyes again, nearly the same figures appeared which I had seen before.

I some times conversed with my physician and my wife, concerning the phantasms which at the time hovered around me; for in general the forms appeared oftener in motion than at rest. They did not always continue present, but frequently left me altogether, and again appeared for a short or longer space of time, singly or more at a time; but, in general, several appeared together. For the most part I saw human figures of both sexes; they commonly passed to and fro as if they had no connection with each other, like people at a fair, where all is bustle; sometimes they appeared to have business with one another—Once or twice I saw amongst them persons on horseback, and dogs and birds; these figures all appeared to me in their natural sizes, as distinctly as if they had existed in real life, with the several tints on the uncovered parts of the body, and with all the different kinds of colours of clothes. But I think, however, that the colours were somewhat paler than they are in nature.

None of the figures had any distinguishing characteristic; they were neither terrible, ludricous nor repulsive;—most of them were ordinary in their appearance—some were even agreeable.

On the whole, the longer I continued in this state, the more did the number of phantasms increase, and the apparitions became more frequent. About four weeks afterwards I began to hear them speak: Sometimes the phantasms spoke with one another; but for the most part they addressed themselves to me: their speeches were in general short, and never contained any thing disagreeable. Intelligent and respected friends often appeared to me, who endeavored to console me in my grief, which still left deep traces in my mind. This speaking I heard most frequently when I was alone; though I sometimes heard it in company intermixed with the conversation of real persons; frequently in single phrases only, but sometimes even in connected discourse.

Though at this time I enjoyed rather a good state of health, both in body and mind, and had become so very familiar with these phantasms, that at last they did not excite the least disagreeable emotion, but on the contrary afforded me frequent subjects for amusement and mirth; yet as the disorder sensibly encreased, and the figures appeared to me for whole days together, and even during the night, if I happened to awake, I had recourse to several medicines, and was at last again obliged to have recourse to the application of leeches to the anus.

This was performed on the 20th of April, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon. I was alone with the surgeon, but during the operation the room swarmed with human forms of every description, which crouded fast one on another; this continued till half past 4 o'clock, exactly the time when digestion commences. I then observed that figures began to move more slowly; soon afterwards the colours became gradually paler; and every seven minutes they lost more and more of their intensity, without any alteration in the distinct figure of the apparitions. At about half past six o'clock all the figures were entirely white, and moved very little; yet the forms appeared perfectly distinct; by degrees they became visibly less plain, without decreasing in number, as had often formerly been the case. The figures did not move off, neither did they vanish, which also had usually happened on other occasions. In this instance they dissolved immediately into the air; of some even whole pieces remained for a length of time, which also by degrees were lost to the eye. At about 8 o'clock there did not remain a vestige of any of them, and I have never since experienced any appearance of the same kind. Twice or thrice since that time I have felt a propensity, if I may be so allowed to express myself, or a sensation, as if I saw something which in a moment again was gone. I was even surprised by this sensation whilst writing the present account, having, in order to render it more accurate, perused the papers of 1791, and recalled to my memory all the circumstances of that time. So little are we sometimes, even in the greatest composure of mind, masters of our imagination.

WASHINGTON CITY.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

We this day present our readers with a Census of the Inhabitants of the City, taken by the direction of the City Council. By the result of this enumeration it is demonstrated that the City has progressed very rapidly within these few years. In the year 1800, when the General Census was taken, the inhabitants amounted to 3 210.—In the year 1803, when the Census now stated was taken, the inhabitants amounted to 4,352.—It is to be observed that when the former Census was taken, the permanent population of the City was considerably increased by the number of workmen engaged on the Public Buildings but for a time, and who on their suspension removed. These, including their families, may fairly be estimated at 400.—Deducting 400 from the number given by the first census there remain 2812, which, taken from the present population, leaves 1,540, which is equal to an increase of about fifty-five per cent. in a period of three years, and will double any given population in a period of five years.

CENSUS OF 1803.

White Males			
From	1 to 10 years old		546
	10 to 18	——	256
	18 to 30	——	485
	30 to 45	——	433
	45 to 60	——	170
	above 60	——	12
			1902
White Females			
From	1 to 10	——	522
	10 to 18	——	230
	18 to 30	——	418
	30 to 45	——	237
	45 to 60	——	77
	above 60	——	26
			1510
Male Slaves			
From	1 to 10	——	89
	10 to 18	——	84
	18 to 30	——	97
	30 to 45	——	47
	45 to 60	——	13
	above 60	——	8
			338
Female Slaves			
From	1 to 10	——	102
	10 to 18	——	95
	18 to 30	——	95
	30 to 45	——	50
	45 to 60	——	28
	above 60	——	9
			379
Free Black Males			
From	1 to 10	——	36
	10 to 18	——	16
	18 to 30	——	25
	30 to 45	——	16
	45 to 60	——	2
	above 60	——	8
			103
Free Black Females			
From	1 to 10	——	28
	10 to 18	——	24
	18 to 30	——	35
	30 to 45	——	21
	45 to 60	——	7
	above 60	——	5
			120

Total Whites,	3,412
Total Slaves,	717
Total Free Negroes,	223
Grand Total,	4,352

In our next we shall exhibit a statement of the professions of the inhabitants, taken from the Census.

The above statement marks an increase of numbers which more conclusively establishes the progressive improvement of the city than could be done in any other way. Few, if any towns, in the United States, have risen with such rapidity. When too, it is considered, that this augmentation of numbers has arisen without trade, without the investiture of much capital in extensive manufactories, and without the aid of a fostering local government, it will shew that the place must possess great and peculiar advantages over other towns. If its rise, amidst circumstances so little propitious, has not been surpassed what may we not expect from the rise of commercial adventure to which natural position holds forth inducements so powerful, from numerous manufactories, which might at the present moment be advantageously conducted, and from the important powers recently given to the local government of the city?

The prompt interposition of the First Consul and Emperor of Russia to aid the liberation of our captive citizens at Tripoli is an evidence of the friendly relations subsisting between those governments and our own that will be only fully appreciated by those who from reflection or experience are acquainted with the difficulty of remaining on good terms with those who from rival interests, imaginary or real, are generally at variance with each other. In the accuracy of this statement we have every reason to confide from the concurring representation of letters received from abroad, as well as from other sources of information. It is the undoubted interest of the United States to be just in her dealings with all nations: and from many recent indications we have reason to felicitate ourselves on the growing conviction entertained by the powers of Europe that it is likewise their interest to be just to us. It must be a source of peculiar gratification to the friends of our republican institutions to find the most sanguine predictions ever made in the closet fully realised—The peace and prosperity of a nation never stood on a firmer basis than they do at present in the United States. This is undoubtedly in the highest degree owing to the virtues and intelligence of our citizens; but next to them we are indebted to our rulers for the faithful discharge of their duty. The whole aspect of our foreign relations demonstrates the falsehood of the dogma that Republics are deficient in energy in their intercourse with foreign powers. We have often said, and we profit of this occasion to repeat it—a republican government, in the upright discharge of duties delegated by a wise constitution, is the most energetic of all governments.

An impotent attempt is making in the northern part of the union to excite local resentment against the general government by inveighing bitterly against the measures of Congress in relation to Judge Pickering. Take the following, extracted from the Repertory, as a specimen:

"Have the federalists ever denied the irregularities of judge Pickering's conduct? Never. Have they ever justified profanity and intemperance? Never. Have the democrats, when publishing these facts, informed their readers that judge Pickering was strictly moral and eminently examplary, until, by physical misfortunes, he became deprived of the exercise of his reason? Never. And yet the latter has been as fairly substantiated as the former. It is thus these unfeeling wretches, these habitual enemies to truth and justice, criminate, where they ought to sympathise. Thus they retort our charges against their chief, who is possessed of all the senses ever Heaven gave him, by insulting the miseries of an unhappy being, labouring under a distressing dispensation of Providence".

Our readers all know that judge Pickering was charged by the House of Representatives with gross neglect of duty, with a palpable violation of law, and with habits of intemperance—The charges were amply proved before the Senate. The evidence given on that occasion has recently been offered to the public. On it the Senate have judged, and we presume before this time every unprejudiced reader has ratified their decision. The charges are not denied by the federalists; but they insist that although judge Pickering is habitually a drunkard, yet that inasmuch as his intemperance flows from insanity, the Senate had no power to convict him of high crimes and misdemeanors, and that consequently, though habitually drunk, and even reproachfully so on the bench, they possessed no power to remove him from office. It is the best test of an absurd principle to inquire into the length to which it may be carried. In this case the federal principle goes to this monstrous length, that those, on whom are devolved the sacred duties of administering justice, those who, it is contended, possess the uncontroullable power of declaring all laws unconstitutional and null, shall be suffered without molestation to enjoy and exercise their exalted power, to the subversion of all law and justice. The madman or the drunkard may disgrace himself and the government, may sport with the property of others, may rave or reel; and yet, being a judge, he shall be permitted, with impunity, to exercise his sovereign will and pleasure. This is an unexaggerated picture, not of what may happen, but of what has happened. Can there be a human being, endowed with one particle of reason, that will seriously support such a doctrine! If there is, he must himself be moon struck. Such is, however, the deplorable effects of party, that many of its victims stand in need of all the rigors and scourges of a madhouse to bring them back to their right reason.

We appeal to the recollection of every intelligent man, whether the republicans were the first to expose the frailties of judge Pickering. The reverse was eminently the case. The documents in support of his intemperance were not circulated in the newspapers for a whole year after their partial publication for the use of the members of the House of Representatives. The members of that body who urged the impeachment exhibited no disposition, by empassioned speeches, to wound unnecessarily the feelings of the judge. In their proceedings before the Senate they said little—witnesses were examined and their evidence was suffered to speak for itself. The Senate declared him guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors and removed him from office. But they did not, as they might, disqualify him from holding in future any office of profit or honor under the United States.—It was the federal prints—his *professed* friends, but in truth his worst enemies, that drew the curtain from between the public eye, & the frailties of the man; & which, by charging the republicans with inhumanity and injustice, produced a necessity on their part of exposing the truth.

We owe the following interesting extract from Middleton's view of the agriculture of Middlesex, (England) to a respectable correspondent. With him we hope it will operate as an incentive to the intelligent cultivator in this county to prudent enterprise and experiment.

Observations on Gardens between Westminster and Chelsea.

Soon after Christmas when the weather is open the gardeners begin by sowing the borders & then the quarters with radishes, spinnage, onions, and all the other seed crops. As soon afterwards as the season will permit which is generally in February, the same ground is planted with cauliflowers from the frames, as thick as if no other crop had then possession of the ground. The radishes, &c. are soon sent to market, and when the cauliflowers are so far advanced as to be earthed up, sugar loaf cabbages are planted from the aforesaid seed crops. When these are marketed the stalks are taken up, the ground cleared and planted with endive and cellery from the aforesaid seed crops, and daily as these crops are sent to market the cellery is cropped for winter use. The gardeners agree in one maxim to *dung plentifully, to dig the soil well, and to sow good seed.*

The following is the estimate.—

Radishes	£. 10	
Cauliflowers	60	often 70 and more.
Cabbages	30	
Cellery first crop	50	frequently more than 60.
Endive	30	
Celery	40	

Total annual produce per acre £. 220 sterl.

"This estimate is stated as under the mark some seasons occasion a considerable deduction, but as they do not often occur, £. 200 pound per acre is a very low estimate. The expences are—

Labor	35
Teams and dung	25