

The following speculations will be found quite curious.
Are there more inhabited Worlds than our Globe?

Of the origin and first formation of the sun and planets of our system there has been various hypotheses. That which comes nearest to natural appearances, supposes that the sun was formed out of the chaotic elements, in a state of intense fusion; that having received a rotary motion from the Great First Mover, it shot forth masses of burning matter far into the vastness of space: each of these masses formed by the law of gravitation an orb or planet, the molten matter of which ejected portions of itself that formed its satellites. The farthest from the centre being composed of the lightest materials, as a volcano explodes its smoke and ashes at an immense height, while the more weighty are sent a shorter distance from the centre. This theory is strongly corroborated by the density of the planets, each of which is denser or ponderous, not in proportion to its magnitude, but to its nearness to the centre. Thus compared with the weight of water as unit, Mercury is nine times and a quarter heavier, and Saturn lighter than water.

It has been proved to demonstration, that the earth must have existed, thousands of years a strile rock of granite, before its surface produced vegetables and animals by the creative power of God; & that those successively perished, and others of different generation succeeded, and thus proceeded for many centuries before the creation of man. Every day some new discoveries are made in the different strata of the earth, establishing the truth of these facts. Among the relics of immovable animals which no longer exist, no human skeleton has ever been found.

Our solar system consists of the sun, in the centre, (890,000 miles in diameter,) seven primary planets, and eighteen secondary or satellites, all moving round him. There have been also discovered between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter, four others, but so small as to be seen only through the telescope.—Besides these, there are belonging to the system more than four hundred comets, which have been noted in the annals of astronomy. They move round the sun with incredible swiftness, in orbits very eccentric, having the sun on one of the foci. Their bodies or nucleus appear to be not so solid as those of the planets; in some it seems quite vapoury, and they have tails of many millions of miles in length, not dissimilar to the Aurora Borealis, and through which the stars may be discerned. The periods and returns of these bodies have been attempted to be calculated, but it seems without success. Some are supposed to have fallen on the sun, others to have lost their way in the regions of infinite space, and perhaps to be attracted by some larger body. Their uses have been variously assigned, the hypothesis that supposes them to form and diffuse the electric fluid through the planetary spaces has the greatest share of probability.

It now remains to be examined, how far all or any of these orbs are fitted for the support of animal or vegetable subsistence. It is natural to suppose, that the wonderful appearance of the celestial orbs, as seen through optic instruments, would give rise to new theories and opinions. The first speculation was that the moon, enjoying all the advantages of our earth, was as fitted for the habitation of animals and the growth of vegetables, as its primary. Galileo, strongly persuaded of the great probability of it, made the first map of the moon. It was adopted by most of the astronomers of his time, and they actually began to dispute about the right of giving names of districts and seas, which they fancied they could discover on the disk of that satellite. Milton, with whom Galileo appears to have been a favourite philosopher, alludes to his plausible supposition, though he did not believe it was founded in fact.—“The most probable,” says an excellent French proverb, “is not always the most true.”

There has been a great diversity of opinions on the subject. Many eminent astronomers and philosophers maintain, that not only the moon, but the sun and planets are inhabited. Sir Isaac Newton, indeed, is wholly silent on the subject, but Dr. Herschel affirms with confidence that the body of that luminary is cool enough for inhabitants to dwell there; that its luminous atmosphere is about 2,500 miles from the surface of his orb, which is occasionally seen through the breaches called spots, which fluctuate irregularly on its atmosphere. Huygens, an astronomer and mathematician of the first distinction, has published a work called “Cosmotheories,” in which he populates the moon and planets with inhabitants precisely similar in body and mind to those of the earth. But a little treatise published in France more than a century ago, “Fontanelle’s Pluralite des Mondes,” which has been translated into all the European languages, and even into Greek, was once so fashionable as to be found in all the boudoirs of Paris; being founded, however, on the Cartesian theory, and otherwise erroneous, it is now become obsolete. Others, as Whiston and King, attempting to combine philosophy with religion teach us, that the sun is the abode of the blessed, gathered from all the planets of the system—in short, the New Jerusalem, sparkling with gems and gold; at the same time they suppose that comets are so many places of punishment for the wicked.

With our satellite, the moon, we ought to be better acquainted, as she revolves round the earth on her own axis at the same time, and also round the same period as the earth, which she always accompanies; indeed she makes great efforts to be united, and is sometimes one fifth nearer her primary, than at others, her mean distance being 240,000 miles from its centre.

The view of the earth from the moon must be awfully beautiful, being more than thirteen times larger. Our planet exhibits in succession, as she “spins on her soft axle,” the con-

tinents, oceans, seas, islands, mountains and rivers of the eastern and western hemisphere, whilst the polar regions, with their icebergs and snows, and the snowy summits of the Alps and Andes, sparkle like emeralds and pearls in reflecting the solar rays.

The lunarians, if such there be, of one lunar hemisphere, enjoy a day and night, each of fortnight long, but never see the earth, whilst the natives of the other half look in to earth shine, with similar but opposite phases to those of the moon, but they never see the sun.

The refraction of the rays of light from nearer to a denser medium, is amply illustrated by placing a silver coin in the bottom of a basin. It will not be seen at a little distance, but by pouring on water it becomes enlarged and visible over the edge. Thus it is in our atmosphere. The sun and moon descending from the zenith into thicker air, gradually assumes a larger disk as they approach the horizon, when the lower segments appear swelled out in breadth, and when their orbits have actually set, their image will be represented for some minutes in the horizon. Our atmosphere is also the conductor of heat as well as light, yet it only extends about 30 miles in height, at only six miles above the surface, it would not sustain life, even in the torrid zone. The same effect takes place in ascending in a balloon, whilst the ocean of moving clouds and vapours hides from the amount the surface of the globe. Now to apply these facts to the earth in clear weather, they always appear seen and cloudless.—Nothing is so deceptive as optical illusions; we believe we see what we wish to see, and there are mirages among the stars, as well as on the earth. The solar rays are reflected from the cold face of the moon, but produce no warmth. On the observation of a planet or star by her broad disk, it causes no changes in the stars, nor leaves a spectrum of a moment behind, the star immerses in an instant behind the moon such also is the case with the satellites of Jupiter, which are objects of constant observation. Further, if there were seas in the moon, the attraction of the earth, being twelve times greater than hers, would inevitably deluge that portion of her globe nearest the earth, especially when in conjunction with the sun, it would cause spring tides. Now the moon being similar substance to the earth, and moving in the sun’s orbit, it is proved she is without air or water, and cannot, therefore, support animals or vegetables; still less could the other planets of the system, which labouring under the same privations, occupy such sites that no animal could exist in them, even if they could breathe.

Mercury, the smallest and weightiest planet of the system, must be vitrified or calcined from his vicinity to the solar fire, if his matter were less compact. To suppose inhabitants could exist there, one must imagine them to be so many halucinating Memnonians.

Venus is farther removed, and is besides as large, or even larger than the earth. Great expectations were raised that a satellite in its atmosphere would be demonstrated on her famous transit over the sun’s disk in 1759; but neither appeared.

Those astronomers who support the hypothesis of planetary inhabitants, refer to Venus and Mars, as the nearest to and most resembling the earth.—They pretend to see now on the polar regions of Mars, and say, therefore, that the intertropical parts are warm enough for the support of life, and that the polar regions of Venus are cool enough; this weak reasoning confutes itself.

Of the nature of three immense superior planets, Jupiter, Saturn and Herschel, with the magnificent accompaniment of satellites, belts, and rings, we know almost nothing; their distance from the sun is so great, that he must appear but a bright star to them; his light is, however, strong enough to be reflected, but his heat would be scarcely perceptible even in Jupiter. They are formed of light matter, for the orb of Jupiter is but a little heavier, and those of the others are lighter than water.

They are, possibly, hollow oblate spheroids. The enormous orb of Jupiter, more than 80,000 miles in diameter, whirls round his axis in less than ten hours. What rapid mutations must his sky exhibit in his day and night of 5 hours each! The sun, stars, and planets, fly across the celestial arch,—rise and set in quick succession, whilst his four moons appear, sometimes single, sometimes altogether, eclipsing the sun and each other. His year is equal to twelve of ours, and his season invariably. Supposing the rotation of Saturn (if it has not been ascertained) to be equally rapid, it may account for the formation of his ring, in consequence of that prevalence of the centrifugal form of his equatorial parts of which it is composed from the body of the planet. It must be evident that no animal could live in them.

And what then is this grand display—the work of an all wise and omnipotent God—intended for? That must remain among his secret purposes, until in his wisdom and goodness, he may please to reveal them. The world is still young and eternity a long day. These glorious orbs may be now in preparation for inhabitants; the earth revolved round the sun many ages without any.

In taking a final survey of the solar system, it is strikingly evident, that no situation could be so happily chosen, as that which is occupied by the orbit of the earth; midway between the orbits of Mars and Venus. Had it been somewhat nearer the first, the frost and snow of the poles would spread over the temperate zones and compel the inhabitants to occupy solely the torrid zone. On the other hand, if moved a little towards Venus, the heat would be so great, that the tropical regions must become an arid and burning desert, as they were supposed to be by the ancients.

Our little globe, therefore, appears to be highly favoured; and when we contemplate the glorious sun in all its splendor, and the serene majestic moon, “walking in brightness,” and the mingled radiance of the stars,

and the varied charms of our own lovely planet, what heart so insensible as not to feel the profoundest gratitude to the Great Giver of all these gifts? [Amulet.]

Translated for the New-York American.

THE STOLEN BRACELET.

Dr. Transportation For Love, A Recent Fact.
About a week since, a vessel, bound to Botany Bay, sailed from Portsmouth with a number of persons on board, condemned to transportation. Among these, was a young girl, apparently not twenty years of age, whose genteel appearance and faded features formed a striking contrast to the manner and looks of other prisoners. She was well dressed; and so bright, by hiding her face in her handkerchief, to avoid the gaze of the idle and curious.—As they were setting sail, her eyes filled with tears, and with a deep sigh, she gave a parting look to her country, and then followed the other prisoners to the steerage. What a shocking contrast! This young girl, educated in one of the best schools in London, was now thrown in the company of thieves and prostitutes! One of the officers on board came up to her to point out her seat; she did not raise her eyes, but seated herself without saying a word, and then burst into tears. The officer, seeing her thus afflicted, asked her if she had any favour to request of the Captain, promising to use all his influence to have it granted? “Oh no,” she replied in a faint and trembling tone; “I want nothing—I am quite happy.” The vessel being at anchor for the night, the Lieutenant spoke to the Captain about this interesting girl. The Captain sent for her, and inquired who she was? At first, she refused to answer; but at last, overcome by the kind and pressing inquiries of the Captain, she replied: “Sir I was condemned, four months ago, at the Exeter Assizes, to be transported for seven years. I was guilty; and the law has blasted my name forever. Do not recall cruel and heartrending recollections, by obliging me to relate my story.” The Captain gave her a separate berth from the rest of the prisoners, and unable to repress his curiosity, he sent for her a second time, and begged her to confide in him the tale of her misfortunes and of her guilt.—Moved by her kindness, and the interest he expressed for her, she determined to gratify him, and made the following avowal: “My name is Priscilla Dewar, and I belong to one of the first families of Edinburgh. About nine months since I was weak and foolish enough to elope from my father’s house with Mr. George Scott, to whom I was passionately attached, and whose suit my parents refused to sanction. Our finances were very low when we arrived at Newton Bushell; and there my husband soon spent our remaining property, and he went to Exeter in search of employment. But disappointed in his hopes of finding some means of support, and driven to despair, he entered a jeweller’s shop and stole a ring; he was discovered, apprehended, tried and condemned to transportation. Three months have elapsed since he was sent to Botany Bay, and I can no longer live without him. I was the cause of his misfortune, and for that reason I came to share his fate. While he was in prison, I worked for a mantuamaker; I saw him every day, and the profits of my labour supported us both. After his transportation I determined to follow him; and this was the only chance of securing transportation. One day I carried to a lady a dress I had been making for her; and seeing a beautiful bracelet on her dressing table, I snatched it up and left the house. I too was discovered, and condemned, under a feigned name, to be transported for seven years. My family knew neither my fate nor my guilt. I am happy, because I shall soon again be united to my husband; and yet, when I think of my father and sisters, I cannot restrain my tears.”

The following extract is from Abbott’s Letters from Cuba.

COCKFIGHTING IN CUBA.

After leaving the stable, we saw, a few rods further on the street, a volante, orange by men and boys and bustle, as if some extraordinary business was in hand. It was the hour of cockfighting, and there was the pit or theatre. As this is a scandalous trait in the Spanish character, and observable in every town and village, and seems the passion of this people, it was proposed we should look in. In every point of view but one, I could detest the thought of leaving a footprint on such ground; but as a christian philosopher, studying mankind, in the Spanish species, and this barbarous diversion reflects a baleful light on the subject, I consented. It is a round building sixty feet in diameter, well covered, with circular seats and boxes rising from the area one above another, and though not on the Sabbath, the day when it is most frequented, the theatre was well filled.—Twice as many persons, I think there were, as I had seen in the church when it was fullest. Elevated in a dignified pew or gallery, railed in by itself, and projecting a little toward the arena, to give the most perfect view of the combat, sat the judge. This important officer of justice is regularly appointed by the Governor, or Alcadi, or otherwise, and from his decision there is no appeal. The venerable judge was far advanced in years, to hold so important an office; from his white locks, and wrinkled countenance, and bending frame I should think him seventy—ten years older than Chancellor Kent, when he retired from the bench; but to do him honour justice, he did not, like Phillip of Macedon, nor like some of his brethren on republican benches, sleep while the cause was trying. However, there was an omission of one thing; he took no notes. Yet I acknowledge he followed the cause through all its windings and ups & downs and not an argument on either side was disregarded; nor was there, so long as I observed him; for I did not see the cause through, the least sign of favour or partiality in his countenance, nor the slightest relaxation of his gravity.

In glancing an eye round I should think there were present a dozen or twenty cocks.

Tamer birds I never saw. They needed no confinement, but lay reclining on the band of an owner or servant, and now and then crowing from that perch. The shears or tweezers had cleared away all needless excrescences the comb, if they had one, the feathers about the neck and some about the tail, and other parts had been probably for months so rubbed and chafed with aguardiente, a species of spirit, that they were of blood colour. A pair was soon produced, one of them by a planter of two thousand boxes of sugar per annum, and I saw the doubloons, (ounces they call them) clinking in their hands. The pit was cleared. The men approached each other with the cocks, and one bird was permitted to peck the other, to provoke him to combat, and then the provocation being returned with spirit, they were thrown to deadly combat. We soon left the ground, but before we went, both were covered with blood and much spent, and one of them pierced in the breast probably with a mortal wound by his adversary’s dirk. I understand they were separated for a few moments, to inflame their wounds with alcohol, and to give them spirit internally, when the combat would be renewed to death or victory. We had no desire to see the end of the fray, and returned home with a thousand melancholy reflections.

It is to me, a matter of astonishment, that a check is not given to this barbarous diversion and open gambling by the government of a christian country. But, it is, in fact, encouraged by it. I will enquire, so as to be certain that I am not misinformed, but I believe, the government regulates the sport, & appoints the judge of the pit; yes, the pit, rightly named, and a little emblem of the bottomless. And I frankly acknowledge, if this gambling sport is tolerated, and the most savage and selfish passions are allowed to be roused, some presiding influence of government may be necessary, at times, to prevent deadly strife among the gamblers as well as the cocks. You would suppose that sport & gambling of this kind, must be confined to negroes and the populace. No such thing.—The Alcadi of this city keeps ninety trained cocks for the combat, and men of immense fortunes, and some in their volantes, probably therefore, from the country on this important business, mingled in the pit and on the seats and boxes with boys and negroes, in perfect liberty and equality. Bets from one to 12 ounces, (in English, from seventeen to two hundred dollars,) are made on the issue of a duel between two strutting curcubs of the pit. As if the passion had infected every man, the most unfortunate are seen at this diversion; a deaf and dumb man was there, conversing eagerly by signs, and a most helpless being, a man of forty, whom I have often seen in the arms of a negro incapable of walking, was carried to the cockpit.

“We understand,” says the Miner’s Journal, “a gentleman of this place has sent an order to Philadelphia to procure fifty or an hundred tents, to pitch on the Sharp Mountain, to accommodate visitors. We heartily wish him success in the undertaking, and by way of encouragement we will rent one of them, as we have not seen any thing in the shape of a bed for the last two weeks.”

FOREIGN.

EXTRAORDINARY PASSAGES.

Since our last publication there has been a further succession of arrivals from England, in passages of extraordinary quickness. The ship Liverpool, at Boston, brings Liverpool advices to the 25th March inclusive; she made the run across the Atlantic, from land to land, in only thirteen days.

The packet ship, William Thompson and George Canning, and ship Concordia, all at New York on Thursday, sailed from Liverpool on the 25th March.

The ship Walter M’Michael, of Baltimore, arrived at New York on Thursday, brought Liverpool advices to the 26th March inclusive. And by yesterday’s mail we have still later intelligence, by the arrival at New York of the ship Jubilee from Liverpool, whence she sailed on the 29th March.

The English markets, at the latest dates, show a further improvement in Cotton and Breadstuffs. The intelligence by the Jubilee is contained in brief postscripts in the New York afternoon papers of Friday, the contents of which are subjoined:
New York, Friday, 2 o’clock, P. M.
FROM ENGLAND.

The ship Jubilee, Chadwick, was announced by Telegraph this morning, as below, from Liverpool. Our boat has just come up, and reports that the J. sailed on the 29th of March, which date she brings Liverpool papers.—We have only time to make a few extracts.
Liverpool, March 27. (Saturday evening) Cotton. The import this week is large, reaching 26,130 bags, and the sales are also very extensive, being 24,240 bags at an advance of full ½ on Americans, and ¼ to ½ on Brazils, viz: 500 Sea Islands at 12½ to 16½; 240 Stained do at 7 to 12½; 8300 Bowed at 6½ to 7½; 6000 Orleans at 9½; 1120 Alabamas at 6½ to 7½.

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE.

The debate on the distresses of the country, was resumed in the British House of Commons, on the night of the 23d March, when Mr. O’Connell succeeded in delivering the speech which he endeavoured to give utterance on the 19th. After a long debate the motion for an inquiry was voted down, 253 to 87—majority for Ministers, 168.

Meetings continued to be held in various parts of England on the state of the country. In Leeds, Mr. J. Foster, of the Leeds Patriotic, proposed a resolution in favour of triennial parliaments, universal suffrage, and vote by ballot.

The Society of Friends in Ireland have petitioned Parliament for the abolition of the punishment of death in cases of forgery. Mr. Peel has announced his intention to bring in a bill in which the punishment of death, in many cases of forgery will be done away with.

Four Half and county Rate in England, York, Wales.—From papers submitted to Parliament, and published in the London papers, it appears that these rates amounted, in 1835 to 26,703,601 etc, and that in 1836, they had increased to 28,966,366 etc, or nearly three millions of dollars.

Lady Byron has published a vindication of her father and mother from the charge of having instigated her separation from Lord Byron. The step was deliberately taken after legal advice, and upon her own responsibility.

Paris advices are received to the evening of Sunday, March 21st. The Messenger des Chambres of that evening, says, the deputies assembled on the preceding day for the third & last time in the rue de Richelieu, and the meeting was more numerous than the first two. Before returning to their respective provinces they resolved to recommend to their constituents the greatest prudence and firmness, and to resist every attempt at violence, fraud and corruption, by all the means which honour and the laws prescribed. They separated with the conviction of having conscientiously fulfilled their duty towards the throne, and vindicated their country from the calumnies of a faction.

According to the Journal du Commerce, M. Dudon is to succeed M. de Chabrol; but we have heard from a good source that the portefeuille Finances is to be given to M. de la Bourliere.

On the 20th of March, 27 Surgeons, Adjutants, Majors, and Sub Adjutants, received their commissions for the expedition against Algiers, and they have had notice that the day of their departure will be fixed upon hereafter.

The Count de Rossi has written letters to several of the Paris papers, stating that he has not married M’le. Sontag.

SPAIN.—The new Expedition to Mexico. A letter from Cadiz of March 5, says: “The Spanish expedition to Cuba has not yet sailed, but is to be ready to put to sea by the 8th.” “The men who are to compose the land forces have arrived from Valencia and Grenada, and the expedition itself will consist of one ship of the line, two corvettes, and a brig of war, besides the transports.

El Senor Don Edmundo Morat has the contract for provisions, and he is actively engaged in affording them a supply for at least 18 months. It is now well known that it was longer, and not the Mexicans, that conquered Barradas. It is this gentleman who is to have the contract for the grand expedition also, which is to be ready to put to sea in August, and to consist of 22,000 land forces, all destined for Mexico, and there is not a doubt entertained here of its success. The quintas which are to compose it are being raised in Cadiz.”

PORTUGAL.—Private letters from Leighorn, dated 8th March, state that Lord Cochrane was on the point of embarking for Terceira, where he was to take the command of the expedition projected by the Emperor Don Pedro against Portugal.

It is stated that an autograph letter of Don Pedro has, within a few days, been sent to the sovereigns of the different courts of Europe, notifying to them the establishment of the Portuguese Government, under Donna Maria, at Terceira, to which island the Marquis de Palmella has lately gone.

EGYPT.—A letter from Alexandria (Egypt) says: “Public rejoicings have just taken place on occasion of the Circumcision of three young Princes, two of whom are sons of the Pacha, and the other of his son Ibrahim. The festal lasted seven days, and in the evenings there were illuminations and fireworks.—Only two foreigners mixed with the Mussulman guests—the Consul-General of Sweden, and Mr. Briggs, an English merchant. Most of the European ladies were dressed in male attire.”

There was a press for Cotton at Alexandria, in February, and several houses offered important sums as advances, in order to gain a preference in the disposal of it. The crop of Cotton has been diminished for several years. This is to be attributed to the disappointment which the Vice Roy has experienced in the adventures made on his own account. The distaste thus created, has caused the neglect of this cultivation, which has conducted so much to the wealth of Egypt, and contributed powerfully by its abundant production to the resources of the government. All this exhibits distinctly the inconvenience of monopoly.

Although the cotton crops were much injured by the inundation of the Nile last season, yet the produce was estimated at 60,000 bales.

GRECE.—*Navarino, March 1.*—Naples has lately been desolated by earthquakes, which were renewed for several days. Some of the houses could not resist the violence of the shocks. We have not felt them on this coast.

HAVANA.

By the brig Spark the editors of the American have received a letter from Havana, under date of 3d instant, which says: “The last Correo, (No. 3) from Cadiz, brought us intelligence that the ninety gun ship Hero was to sail immediately after from Cadiz, for this port, with transports and about 2200 men, to relieve these garrisons, weakened by loss of men whose term of service has expired.—She and her convoy are daily expected. The frigate Casilda sails to-morrow for Cadiz, giving convoy to seventeen Spanish vessels. The frigate Restauration has returned from her cruise, and nothing more is heard of any privateer on the coast of the Island. The Spanish brig Doris, from New York is missing, but probably foundered or wrecked, and possibly captured. The U. S. frigate Brandywine arrived on the 1st instant. The Frigate mouth is at Key West, to be here on the 5th. Of the late conspiracy nothing is now said. It is of no importance—we are perfectly quiet. We have no news here of the approach of a new governor, except from extracts from Madrid papers, copied into the American papers. No change is desired; more for the better could be.”