

**REMINISCENCES OF DR. SPURZHEIM AND
GEORGE COMBE: AND A REVIEW OF THE
SCIENCE OF PHRENOLOGY, FROM THE
PERIOD OF ITS DISCOVERY BY DR. GALL,
TO THE TIME OF THE VISIT OF GEORGE
COMBE TO THE UNITED STATES, 1838, 1840**

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NAHUM CAPEN

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JOHN GASPAR SPURZHEIM, M.D.

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TO
GEORGE H. CALVERT
This Volume
IS INSCRIBED BY HIS FRIEND OF MANY YEARS,
The Author.

P R E F A C E.

THE origin of these few pages, designed to impart and perpetuate the teachings of three of the greatest philosophers of modern times, is sufficiently explained in the correspondence which closes this Preface.

Since their preparation, Mr. Calvert, to whom this volume has been dedicated, has added another volume to his many admirable productions. To his "First Years in Europe," his numerous "Essays," to his volumes on GOETHE, RUBENS, CHARLOTTE VON STEIN, WORDSWORTH, and SHAKESPEARE, he has just added one on COLERIDGE and SHELLEY, and closed with his address on GOETHE, delivered before the GOETHE CLUB of New York, Jan. 10, 1877.

As an author of high tone, poetic conception, clear analysis, deep philosophy, and pure thought, he is to be ranked among the ablest in the country. It was his high privilege to be one of the first in the United States to ask public attention to Phrenology. In 1832 he edited and published a volume entitled "*Illustrations of Phrenology; being a selection of articles from the Edinburgh Phrenological Journal, and the Transactions of the Edinburgh Phrenological Society. With twenty-six wood-cuts. With an Introduction.*" By GEORGE H. CALVERT."

In his Preface, dated Baltimore, Md., September,

1832, he says: "The conviction the editor entertains of the vast importance of the Phrenological discoveries and of the beneficial results to be produced by a diffusion of a knowledge of them, has entered largely into his motive to undertake the task."

We speak of *this task* with peculiar interest, in this connection, as it was executed nearly fifty years ago, and as it enables us to make quotations from his interesting volume on Coleridge, just published.

He says: "That there is a close connection between brain and mind, especially intellectual mind, has always been vaguely acknowledged, or, rather, indistinctly felt. Toward the end of the last century Dr. Gall, a physician of Vienna, proved, by a thoroughly Baconian method, not only that there is a connection, close and indissoluble, between them, but that the brain is the indispensable organ of every kind of mental power; and further, that, instead of being one single organ, it is a congeries of organs, and that every intellectual aptitude, every animal propensity, every aspiration, every sentimental movement, has in the brain its individual instrument. What a helpful auxiliary was here offered to the metaphysician, to the psychologist, to the theologian, to the moralist! Kant's rare intuition would have caused new delight in Coleridge, who, by means of this new potent objective discovery of Gall, could have given precision, enlargement, definiteness, depth, to the subjective conclusions of Kant and of himself."

.....

"Through Spurzheim, a pupil of Gall, who was in London about the year 1826, Coleridge got a glimpse of the great discovery. But whether from being too