

PHRENOLOGY EXAMINED

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Phrenology Examined by P. Flourens

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P. FLOURENS

**PHRENOLOGY
EXAMINED**

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PHRENOLOGY EXAMINED.

BY P. FLOURENS,

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OF SCIENCES (INSTITUTE OF FRANCE), MEMBER OF THE ROYAL SOCIETIES OF
LONDON AND EDINBURGH, OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF
STOCKHOLM, OF MUNICH, AND OF TORIN, ETC. ETC.
PROFESSOR OF COMPARATIVE PHYSIOLOGY AT THE NATURAL
HISTORY MUSEUM AT PARIS.

"J'ai un sentiment clair de ma liberté."

BOSSUET, TRAITÉ DU LIBRE ARBITRE.

Translated from the Second Edition of 1845, by

CHARLES DE LUCENA MEIGS, M. D.

MEMB. AMER. PHIL. SOC. ETC. ETC.

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1846.

PHRENOLOGY EXAMINED.

Pamphlet

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A. C. ...

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1845,
By CHARLES D. MEIGS, M. D.
IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN
DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

TO

DR. JAMES JACKSON,

OF BOSTON.

MY DEAR SIR :

Perhaps I have taken too great a liberty in sending to you in this public manner, and in praying you to accept a copy of M. Flourens' ingenious work. I have a very sincere desire that you should read the Inquiry; for I feel sure, that if you approve of it, the studious portion of our countrymen who may peruse it, will concur in the opinion of a gentleman so justly distinguished as yourself in every good word and work, and so capable of judging as

to the salutary or evil tendency of the productions of our teeming press.

Inasmuch as many of our countrymen have heretofore felt, and many do now feel, desirous to know the truth as to the question of the multiple nature of the human mind, I have here translated the Examination, in order that they might have an opportunity to learn what is thought of Gall's doctrines by one of the best and most precise thinkers in Europe.

Professor Flourens, by his writings on the brain and nervous system, by his courses of lectures at the Jardin des Plantes, by numerous writings on various scientific subjects, by his position in the Institute, has acquired a place among the literary and scientific celebrities of the present age. The amiable and elegant manners, and the fine disposition of this distinguished character, coincide with his acknowledged learning, and exactness, and zeal, to accumulate upon him the public respect and

esteem. It is therefore with great confidence that I present to you this copy of his criticism upon Phrenology, since I suppose that every writing of so good a man might prove acceptable to you, and to the studious portion of our countrymen generally.

I invoke your approbation of what I cannot but deem a masterly criticism of the doctrines of Gall. So highly have I appreciated it, that I cannot readily suppose it possible to rise from its perusal, without being convinced that Gall was wholly mistaken in his views of the human mind; and of course, that all the cranioscopists, mesmerizers, and diviners, who have followed his track, or risen up on the basis of his opinions, are equally in error.

In order to have a just view of human responsibility, it is indispensable to entertain the justest notions of the nature of the human mind. If Phrenology *be an unsubstantial hypothesis*, no phrenologist is fit to be a