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Rambling Recollections

BY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
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Ut, quocunque loco fueris, vixisse libenter
Te dicas.

Hor. *Epis.* I. xi.

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CHAPTER XXVII

LORD LYTTON'S MEMORANDUM

GEOMANCY

THE figures :—

Acquisitio

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Fortuna Major

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Fortuna Minor

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Dragon's Head

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Dragon's Tail

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Lætitia

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Tristitia

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Populus

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Via

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Conjunctio

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Puer

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Puella

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Carcer

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Amissio

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Albus

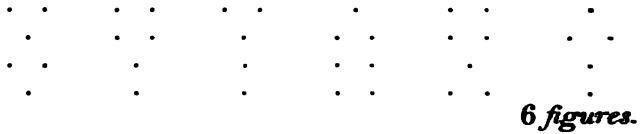
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Rubens

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16 figures.

The good figures generally are :—



6 figures.

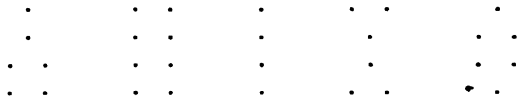
The bad :—



4 figures.

though not bad, is a sign of Mars, and in certain houses signifies quarrel.

The figures more indifferent are :—



Figures, however, vary in signification, first, according to their House, next, according to conjunctions and aspects, and each has a more peculiar meaning according to the question asked.

There are twelve Houses made by the twelve figures, besides the two Witnesses and Judge.

SIGNIFICATION OF HOUSES

- 1st House relates to the personnel of the questioner.
- 2nd House relates to his house, to things movable, to what may shortly happen ; also indirectly to his affections, wishes, etc.
- 3rd House relates to brothers, sisters, letters, short journeys.

4th House relates to parents, legacies, the end of life, and the *final* result of things inquired into: generally also to things secret and hidden. It is under Saturn.

5th House relates to children, to pleasures, to light loves, to society, parties, etc. It is under Venus.

6th House relates to illness, to servants.

7th House relates to marriage, to wife or husband, to a partner in any business or enterprise, and to the special object asked, whatever that may be. For instance, "Shall I see Mr. Jones soon?" or "Is it good to buy that estate?" you would look to the 7th House as forming the direct *object of the question*, though in connection with other Houses more especially devoted to the nature of the objects. The 7th House would thus denote Mr. Jones, or the estate.

8th House relates to death, and advisers of married people and partners; also wars and public enemies.

9th House relates to clerical matters, clergy, all that relates to religion, also to letters and to *long* journeys.

10th House relates to honours, distinctions, etc.

11th House relates to friends.

12th House—a bad house—private enemies, perils, afflictions; also beasts, wild or tame; injury or profit by them, etc. You would look to this House for the question, "Will the horse I have bought turn out well?"

Of these Houses, the strongest and most influential are the 1st, 4th, 7th, 10th. These, in fact, are the four fatal angles in astrology. The Houses most weak are the 3rd, 6th, and 9th. The importance of bad figures is increased when found in the strong Houses; also the importance of good ones.

Some figures, however good, lose their nature and become bad in certain Houses according to certain questions, and *vice versa*. For instance, *Acquisitio*, excellent in most Houses (especially 1st and 2nd), when in the 8th House signifies Death, if the question relate to a death (more especially if the 6th and 10th Houses have bad figures). Thus, "Shall I gain that property?"

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in the 1st House, repeated in 7th House (the House of the object), you have every chance to gain it, provided the other Houses and Judge do not greatly contradict. But, "Will my poor gardener die of this illness?" *Acquisitio* in the 8th House would denote "Yes." Suppose in the 6th House (of sickness) there is

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in the 7th House the object, that is the gardener,

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in the 8th *Acquisitio* ; in the 10th

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(Albus)

the answer would be, "It appears to be dropsy or

vitiated humours," Populus being the sign of the moon direct, which indicates such diseases. It is likely to be lingering, attended with confinement, much weariness and distress, denoted by Carcer in 7th House (House of object). He probably will die of it, but, at last, peacefully and happily,

being in the 10th House, which being in sextile to the 8th should be always consulted in looking to the 8th House. Now Albus and Acquisitio are in themselves good figures, yet here they are the characters of doom. More on this head I will say in describing each figure, but the best way is to make several schemes, learning the names of the figures as set down above and the general properties, and then I will help to construe them. Practice is essential, and experience modifies mistakes.

In looking at my general figures, you look first at the four angles, viz. 1st, 4th, 7th and 10th Houses, which in much determine the general nature and character of the scheme. For they are very good. Their power counteracts what is bad in the weaker Houses, and *vice versa*.

The next thing to consult is what astrologers call "the conjunction." This in geomancy is found in the immediate neighbour to the figure asked, and the figure that is formed by summing the two together. Thus, "Shall I admit that Roman Catholic into my house?"

2nd House

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1st House

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These two conjoined form : : 9th House, being the sum of the two conjoined, and also House of religious matters. Answer: "You have kind motives in that notion. You yourself are frank, easy and unsuspecting. The person you would introduce will be treacherous and wily. You would be involved in religious differences that would give you vexation and annoyance, and might linger long in effect." Such would be the answer unless the other figures contradicted or softened it, and the answer is given for these reasons.

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The Dragon's Head, the signification of the sun, is in your 1st House and relates to yourself. It is frank, open, generous in its character. The Dragon's Tail in your 2nd House is the reverse. The two conjoined make Carcer, which finds itself in the House of Religion and denotes weariness, cunning, hitch, and lengthened trouble.

Aspects.—You look next to Aspects, which besides the four great angles—1st, 4th, 7th and 10th—are formed by the figure twice removed (next but one) from that in which the question is asked. Example: "Will my sister's intrigue

be found out, and will my father be angry?"

Suppose Puer . . . in the 3rd House (of brothers
and sisters), and you find in the 5th House, next

but one to it . . . Dragon's Head, and in the

4th House (House of Parents) . . . Rubens, the

answer would be, judging by the aspects in sextile,
viz. the 5th House: "The intrigue will be brought
to light and make great scandal. Your father will be
so furious that he could almost kill your sister." The

answer is given because the . . . in the sister's

House, Mars indirect, shows illicit love, liable to
anger. The aspect in the 5th is the sign of the
House which, though usually good in itself, de-
notes publicity, and, in this question, so posited,
scandal. Rubens is in the father's House—a
sign of deadly wrath.

But a figure is generally told without much
necessity to look at the alternate aspects. The
main decision is formed by the four angular
Houses, the Judge, the Witnesses. The two
Witnesses signify—the first one to the right, things
within you, subjective; the second, things objective.
Sometimes they also signify, the one, the things

for you, the other, the things against. These varieties of construction depend on the general experience and skill of the geomancer. The Judge sums up, and is of immense importance in deciding the figure, though if the four angles be good his evil response is not necessarily fatal to your wish. A good Judge, however, neutralises much that is bad in the figure. Whenever the Judge is an odd figure, such as

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the scheme is torn up and rejected altogether, and no one on the same subject should be made that day, or, at all events, that hour. Better wait at least a day. Whenever Rubens appears in the 1st House, the figure is not proceeded with, but destroyed. The same rule for delay in making a new one applies.

CHARACTERS OF FIGURES

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Acquisitio, implies gain, both in money. in schemes—in the object asked. It is good in all Houses but the 8th.

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Amissio, loss, is just the reverse, and not good even in the 8th House, though not, of itself.

fatal in that. It is, however, a tolerable sign, of itself, in the 12th House (of enemies), implying that enemies are not strong. But supposing it were both in the 12th and the 2nd Houses, it would imply that you have an enemy in your own house or immediately about you from whom you will suffer loss.

Dragon's Head, is a sign of truth, of openness and of gentleness, excellent in the 7th House, as for marriage and the character of wife and husband. In the 10th House (of honours) it signifies distinction, fame, but not positive honours or worldly rank. For

instance, . . . should be in the 10th of Spenser, who had neither honours nor wealth, but who had publicity and fame.

But . . . *Fortuna Major*, signifies great good-fortune, or great good-luck ; if in the 1st and 10th Houses, and not otherwise contradicted, it shows a brilliant and fortunate career. It is good of itself in all Houses—Jove direct.

Fortuna Minor, is a movable, unsteady sign. It is luck, but not permanent luck. In the 10th House it would show brief and flashy success

or honours. In love and marriage, it denotes hot flames but inconstant.

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· · is good, or bad, according to the figure next
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it with which it forms conjunction—very good, for instance, if next to Fortuna Major, very bad if next to Rubens or Dragon's Tail. It generally denotes a multitude. If the question be "Shall I marry

So-and-So?" and · · is in the 7th House, "Yes."

It is good for marriage, which is supposed to bring people together. It is bad for a question of love because it is the moon's signification and denotes change. "Does that woman still love me?"

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· ·	8th House	· ·	Populus
· ·		· ·	7th House
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The answer by Coniunctio and the figure on the 7th would be: "She is already changing; there is love, but unsteady and fickle." Populus is good in the House of friends (11th), bad in enemies (12th). It means, "You have a great many." Good in the 10th, of honours, if other figures are good.

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· *Via*, is also a signification of the Moon. It
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is more uncertain than Populus. It nearly always denotes a going or passing away. But

in this going away there is some delay or hitch. In the 3rd and 9th Houses (Houses of journeys) it signifies a journey certainly, but perhaps suspended or delayed on the road. It is very bad in the 2nd House, indicating loss and impoverishment; bad in the 7th, whether the question is on marriage or love; good, according to geomancers, generally in the 10th, where they consider it denotes honours, but I have not observed its effect in that House to be so good as alleged.

. . . *Carcer*, bad in most Houses, vexation and

annoyance in 1st and 2nd, confinement and bringing illness in 6th and 8th Houses; disappointment and weariness in society if in House 5; unsatisfactory marriage and love in House 7; honours intercepted and balked in House 8; in 12, foes troublesome and wearing, but not powerful; in 4th House, good for inheritance, and always good for keeping a secret.

. . . *Puella*, good for gaiety, love, amusement;

in House 10, promotion or honours through female influence.

. . . *Puer*, good or bad according to the question:

trouble to hasty loves, and significant of hasty anger. Good in war.

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 . . . *Rubens*, the worst of all figures, except in
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 war and contention. Suppose the question were,
 "Will war be the end of this negotiation, and if
 so will the war be honourable to England or not?"
 Then, *Rubens* in the 4th House (the end or result
 of the thing demanded), if conjoined in the 8th
 House to the Dragon's Head,

4th

8rd

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gives . . . *Fortuna Major* in the 10th House of

Honour. Thus *Rubens*, so conjoined, becomes
 of itself favourable. "There will be war and with
 great honour to England," provided the 7th House
 (the object demanded about, viz. England) be
 good, and that of enemies weak. Suppose, for

instance, there were . . . or . . . in the 7th

House, and . . . in the 12th; but suppose in the

7th House were *Via*, and in the 12th *Fortuna*

Major, and . . . (the same) is in the 10th, and

the Judge were bad, the answer would be: "There

will be war; England will be defeated. She will be put to flight (Via). The honours will be to the enemy." Rubens is worst in the 2nd House. He signifies violence, treachery, even murder if the question relate to it.

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· · · *Albus*, is the signification of Mercury,
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propitious. He is excellent in 1st and 2nd Houses, good indeed in all; in the 10th signifies honours through literature, art, or oratory. He is mild and a lover of peace.

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· · · *Conjunctio*, bad in the 1st and 2nd Houses,
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usually there denotes impoverishment; but much depends on the figure next him and in the 7th and 10th Houses. He denotes the bringing people and things together—reconciliation of friends and enemies, recovery of things lost. In the 8th House he is worse than even *Acquisitio*, and denotes Death if the question relate to death; but if to marriage or partnership, not so. The 8th House is that of advisers to married people or partners, and if the question were, "Will my husband be advised to be reconciled to me, or my partner to forego litigation?" *Conjunctio* in the 8th House would be good.

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· · · *Dragon's Tail*, bad in all Houses, except in
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questions of war, of success in illicit love, and in getting out of some horrid scrape. It is hasty, perfidious, secret, very bad in 1st and 2nd Houses.

∴ ∴ *Lætitia*, is a sign of content and pleasure,

not very profound nor constant. In the 5th House it is excellent, but if the question be, "Will the woman I love be constant?" it would be unfavourable, as it implies a certain cooling of affection. It is the signification of Venus retrograde.

∴ ∴ *Tristitia*, on the contrary, though a very

bad sign in most things, signifying melancholy and disappointment, is the best of all signs to a lover in answer to a question of constancy. If, for instance, you ask, "Will my marriage with So-and-so be happy?" *Tristitia* in the 7th House would reply, "No, wretched." But if you ask, "Is my wife or sweetheart constant and true in my absence?" then *Tristitia* in that same 7th House answers, "Yes, most constant, and miserable at your absence." Thus the same figures in the same Houses vary in signification according to questions asked, as well as according to aspects and conjunctions.

If the above be carefully studied and learned, the Art is begun, and the rest depends much on practice, and somewhat on a talent for generalising and harmonising details. I say nothing of a peculiar

England is, and will be, for some little time varying and fickle in her inclinations. But she will before very long be much more peacefully disposed towards the Emperor. Those immediately in her counsels are for peace. Female influences will be for peace, and religious influences not less. There will be, nevertheless, many noisy and clamorous opponents to a peaceful policy who will have sympathy with the populace. They will fail. Some causes are now at work to produce a much more cheerful state of things and of feeling between England and France than appears even possible at this moment. Singularly enough some act of violence or treachery on the part of some subordinate agent, whether public servant or other subject *in France*, will conduce to a reaction of kindly feeling between the two countries. The Emperor himself is or will be more than ever anxious to cement the alliance: his confidential advisers will heartily agree with him. The alliance will be confirmed. There is much more unsteadiness in the sentiment of England towards friendship with France than in that of the Emperor towards cordiality with England. The Emperor is bent upon it. With this renewed or re-strengthened alliance there will come a something that will soothe our national vanity, a something that will cause demonstrations of rejoicing. But, in substance, the alliance will inflict on us not actual discredit, but a certain loss that will be felt hereafter. The peace thus cemented will be imposed on us by the force

of circumstances not now foreseen, and by the pertinacious resolve of the French Emperor : its necessity is so strongly implied that even if, in spite of all signs to the contrary, the fickle irresolution or fear of the English, and some popular bravado, should cause sudden hostility, *we* should be quickly the *loser* and as quickly bent on reconciliation. But apparently the people themselves, even when most warlike in talk, are in heart peaceful, and would be the first to denounce their rulers if plunged into quarrel with France.

It will not be long before this change of feeling will make itself known. If a Congress takes place it will greatly tend to reconcile distrustful nations, and either a Congress or some such proceeding will take effect. There will be a great abandonment of military preparations. Financial distress may contribute to this. There will be peace, and a peace policy established in England with all its concomitant measures for good or for evil.

I suspect that the Emperor himself is resolved to pacify Europe ; that he is alarmed at its present aspect ; that he will find an auxiliary to some scheme that may conduce to a general disarmament in the pecuniary difficulties of other nations, and their absolute necessity for retrenchment ; and that in this scheme it is necessary for him to secure the co-operation of England, and that he will secure it. If peace be thus secured, and military preparations thus abandoned, the enemy to England will become her own popular or democratic party, and the end

of all will be popular concessions of a nature ultimately very injurious to the country. Such I conjecture to be the loss or damage which "the Judge" in the figure denotes as the result of that peaceful policy which the scheme so notably predicates.

This was written in the autumn of 1860.