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THE HONEY BEE: A LESSON IN PHILOSOPHY.

A NEW VERSION OF AN OLD SONG.

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1. How doth the little busy Bee
 Befool some men of note,
Their logic shake, their "laws" unmake,
 Their "data" turn to nought.
2. They say—good *Isaac Watts*!—they say,
 That that which feels and wills,
In man or dog, is Brain in act—
 A product it distils.
3. That Brain is Mind—its source—its gauge,
 These *savans* teach and hold;
That love and joy, and grief and woe,
 Are from its cells evolv'd.
4. The Honey Bee within her hive
 Such teaching laughs to scorn;
Go, ask of her, sage Ph. D.'s,
 If Mind of Brain is born?
5. A Mind she has, a will and choice,
 But not a brain has she:
Insight and foresight, taste and skill,
 Possess this brainless Bee.
6. Just take your knife and glass,—dissect
 And search her—every atom;
Of brain you'll find not e'en a trace
 On which to fix a *datum*.
7. Nor she alone: Ten thousand more,
 All various in their kind,
A brain denied, aloud proclaim
 The sovereign sway of Mind,

8. Facts such as these are Nature's ways
 Of bringing truth to light :
 So taught the Baron Cuvier,
 A man of clear insight.
9. Experiments in aid—they are,
 Made ready to man's hand,
 Whereby to reach and seize God's Truth,
 And stamp it with His brand.
10. But take the Bee : For she transcends
 All others in her gifts—
 The dog, the horse, the elephant,
 In which a brain exists.
11. 'Tis Mind that moulds the plastic wax,
 Contrives the matchless cell ;
 'Tis brainless Mind that rules the hive,
 And orders all so well.
12. So well ! How well and wondrous too
 What's done within her borders,
 Within this model Monarchy,
 By divers ranks and orders !
13. Here conscious Mind its sway maintains,
 Here beauty all doth grace ;
 Here pleasure reigns,—here good obtains,—
 Here evil has no place,
14. My stars ! she is—this tiny Bee—
 A mighty thing of power ;
 She sails along, on wing so strong,
 A hundred miles an hour.
15. And as she plies her daily task,
 Fulfilling Heaven's desire,
 She gaily shines—by Heaven array'd—
 In holiday attire.
16. Her days are few ; yet, as they glide,
 In lively joys they're spent ;
 Though short her life she hourly hums
 A song of sweet content.

17. "The good, the beautiful, the true,"
 Her life throughout displays ;
 And good and beautiful and true
 Are all her works and ways.
18. Mind these bespeak—a Mind Supreme—
 A God—the LORD of Nature ;
 Mind they bespeak, a mind bestow'd—
 Inherent in the creature.
19. Hail, tiny Bee ! A type thou art
 Of all of sentient kind ;
 In which throughout—and everywhere—
 The ruling power is Mind.
20. The world of sentient life, in fact,
 A world it is of MIND,
 A world in which mere matter is
 Brute, passionless, and blind.
21. The world of sentient life, still more,
 A world it is of Joy,
 Where life in all that breathe, save Man,
 Is bliss without alloy.
22. In May and June the woods resound
 With melodies, how sweet ;
 'Tis thus the birds at pairing time
 In love their mates do greet.
23. To Bird, and Bee, and creeping thing,
 This earth is still the home—
 The happy home— the Eden
 God gave them for their own.
24. 'Tis all the same which way we look—
 Above, beneath, around—
 'Tis Mind that stirs the sentient forms
 That spring from out the ground.
25. "From out the ground." Yes, true ; but, then,
 Mind springs not from the ground ;
 That stuff is but its coil : Its source
 Is elsewhere to be found.

26. Here matter serves, and it subserves,
 No higher end or purpose
 Than that it gives to Mind, on earth,
 A place, a home, a *corpus*.
27. "Thinkers advanc'd!" In thought profound
 Let your best years be pass'd;
 Yet have a care your wisdom prove
 But folly at the last.
28. For Satan finds some mischief still
 For subtle minds to do;
 Subverting truth, ensnaring youth,
 Through agents such as you.
29. In logic vers'd; by logic arts
 His hellish craft he plies:
 "Thinkers advanc'd!" take heed, beware,
 Your path he strews with lies.

ALEX HARVEY, M.D.

NOTES.

1. "In those of the Articulated animals that are associated in families, such as the Bee and Ant, we observe indications of *mental acts*, perhaps more closely resembling those of man than those observed in any of the higher parts of the scale, but *unconnected with any organ resembling a brain.*" ALISON—*Outlines of Human Physiology*, 3d. Ed., p. 351.

2. "There is not the least trace in Articulata generally of anything that can be fairly considered homologous with the cerebrum and cerebellum of Vertebrata." CARPENTER—*Principles of Physiology, General and Comparative*, 3d Ed., p. 1017.

3. "The more I study the lower animals, the more firmly am I persuaded of the existence in them of *psychical faculties*—such as consciousness, intelligence, will, and choice; and *that even in those forms in which, as yet, no nervous centres have been detected.*" GOSSE—*A Year at the Shore*, p. 247.

4. "When the fresh-water polype is seen capturing, struggling with, and finally swallowing a worm, yet

refusing to swallow a bit of bread, we cannot deny that it manifests both sensibility and contractility, unless we deny these properties to all other animals. Nevertheless, the highest powers of the best microscopes fail to detect the slightest trace of either muscle or nerve in the polype." LEWES—*Sea-side Studies*, p, 389.

5. "The different forms of animals may be regarded as so many kinds of experiments ready prepared by Nature, who adds to or deducts from each of them different parts, just as we might wish to do in our laboratories, showing us herself, at the same time, their various results." CUVIER—*Regne Animale*.

6. "MIND, as conjoined with an animal organization, is that which lives, not merely as vegetable structures live; but more than this: for, it is related to the outer world by organs of sensation; it moves, and it moves from place to place, by an impulse originating *within* itself; and it has also a consciousness, more or less distinct, of its own existence—that is to say, it possesses, in a greater or less degree, a reflective life; and it is capable of enjoyment and of suffering.

"The WORLD of Mind comprehends all orders of beings that exhibit those conditions of life which we here specify. The World of Mind is, therefore, a wide world. It constitutes a community that is incalculably extended and multiplied on all sides." "It is co-extensive or nearly so, with the animal creation." And, as regards the lower animal orders (countless millions they are), it is a world on which decoration and ornament have been lavished with a regal hand; in which the work that is done daily is done perfectly, and nothing left undone; and in which the life that is spent is enjoyed thoroughly—in its own way—by each after its kind: a world "throughout which *good* prevails; into which *evil* makes no inroad; and upon which *organic pain* glances only for an instant." ISAAC TAYLOR—*The World of Mind*, p. 2, *et passim*.

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