

from: A. de Morgan, A Budget of Paradoxes, Vol II, by Sophia Elizabeth de Morgan et al., 1915

A child beginning to read by himself may owe terrible dreams and waking images of horror to our spelling, as I did when six years old. In one of the common poetry-books there is an admonition against confining little birds in cages, and the child is asked what if a great giant, amazingly strong, were to take you away, shut you up,

And feed you with vic-tu-als you ne-ver could bear.

The book was hyphened for the beginner's use; and I had not the least idea that vic-tu-als were vittles: by the sound of the word I judged they must be of iron; and it entered into my soul.

The worst of the phonetic shorthand book is that they nowhere, so far as I have seen, give all the symbols, in every stage of advancement, together, in one or following pages. It is symbols and talk, more symbols and more talk, etc. A universal view of the signs ought to begin the works.

cannot be put into few words of explanation.<sup>2</sup>

Comets considered as volcanoes, and the cause of their velocity and other phenomena thereby explained. London (circa 1856), 8vo.

The title explains the book better than the book explains the title.

1856. A stranger applied to me to know what the ideas of a friend of his were worth upon the magnitude of the earth. The matter being one involving points of antiquity, I mentioned various persons whose speculations he seemed to have ignored; among others, Thales. The reply was, "I am instructed by the author to inform you that he is perfectly acquainted with the works of Thales, Euclid, Archimedes,..." I had some thought of asking whether he had used the Elzevir edition of Thales,<sup>3</sup> which is known to be very incomplete, or that of Professor Niemand with the lectures, Nirgend, 1824, 2 vols. folio; just to see whether the

<sup>1</sup> See Vol. II, page 68, note I.

<sup>2</sup> It involves the theory of non-Euclidean geometry, Euclid's postulate of parallels being used in proving this theorem.

<sup>3</sup> Referring to the fact that none of the works of Thales is extant.

last would not have been the very edition he had read. But I refrained, in mercy.

The moon is the image of the Earth, and is not a solid body. By The Longitude.<sup>4</sup> (Private Circulation.) In five parts. London,



A budget of paradoxes

by De Morgan, Augustus, 1806-1871; De Morgan, Sophia Elizabeth, 1809-1892; Smith, David Eugene, 1860-1944

