

A
REPORT

SUBMITTED TO THE

PHRENOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

CITY OF WASHINGTON,

On the 14th of March, 1828; and printed by order.

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At a meeting of the Phrenological Society of Washington City, held at the Medical College on the 14th of March 1828, Doctor Brereton from the Committee appointed for that purpose, submitted the following Report, which was adopted:

MR. PRESIDENT,

The Committee appointed by the Society at its meeting on the 14th of August last, beg leave to REPORT,

That they have delayed reporting on the subject referred to them, from an expectation of almost daily receiving from Richmond, the manuscript, containing a detail of the histories or lives of the executed criminals, the associates of Tardy, written by one at the dictation of the others. Had it been re-

ceived, the Committee deemed that a general report of the whole would have been more satisfactory to the Society, than the single one that is now presented.

As a preliminary, it is thought expedient, that the following correspondence and facts be exhibited, to shew the authenticity of the cast which is now before you. Soon after the fate of Tardy was known, one of the Committee addressed a letter to Surgeon Everett, stationed at Fortress Monroe, requesting his assistance in procuring the cranium: to which he returned the following answer:

“FORTRESS MONROE, June 29th, 1827.

“*Dear Sir:*—Your letter requesting the cranium of Tardy is received. It will be forwarded as soon as circumstances permit; of which, notice will be given.

“Yours truly,

J. EVERETT,

“JOS. LOVELL, M. D. Surg. Gen'l.

Surgeon U. S. Army.”

A short time afterwards reports reached us of a nature that would lead us to fear a disappointment: under this impression another letter was written to Doctor Everett, for more correct information. The following is his reply:

“FORTRESS MONROE, July 31st, 1827.

“*Dear Sir:*—I am happy in being able to state in reply to your note of the 24th instant, that the report of the newspapers in relation to the decapitation, &c. of Tardy, is no more to be credited than the various statements in matters of fact and opinion with which their columns generally abound.

“The report alluded to originated from some loose ‘camp stories’ in circulation here, and the fact that a similar request to that made by you, was preferred by some gentlemen of Baltimore, curious in that way, to Doctor Archer, but not before the head of Tardy was in my possession.

“As to any mistake about the *person* from whom the head was taken, you may rest perfectly satisfied. I knew Tardy when alive—I knew him and carefully examined him when dead—saw him buried, which was more than a mile from that of any other dead body. There can therefore be no mistake upon the subject.

“Very truly yours,

J. EVERETT.

“Doctor J. LOVELL, Washington City.”

On the 1st of August 1827 the Secretary of the Navy, together with a large company, in which was one of your Committee, left this city to visit the line of battle ship, North Carolina, Commodore Rogers, then but just arrived at Norfolk, Virginia, from the Mediterranean. While at Fortress Monroe, Doctor Everett had completed the preparation of the cranium, and handed it over to him. On his return, during the succeeding week, he presented it to the Society, who directed casts to be made from it. The casts have since been compared, examined and measured, and have been found to agree accurately in every particular, with the original; and this now before you, is one of the number so ordered.

DEVELOPEMENT OF ALEXANDER TARDY.

PROPENSITIES.

1. Amativeness - - - very large.
2. Philoprogenitiveness - large.
3. Concentrativeness - full.
4. Adhesiveness - - - moderate.
5. Combaticiveness - - - full.
6. Destructiveness - - - very large.
7. Constructiveness - - - moderate.
8. Aquisitiveness - - - full.
9. Secretiveness - - - full.

SENTIMENTS.

10. Self-esteem - - - - moderate.
11. Love of approbation - full.
12. Cautiousness - - - rather small.
13. Benevolence - - - full.
14. Veneration - - - - very small.
15. Hope - - - - - very small.
16. Ideality - - - - - rather full.
17. Conscientiousness - - small.
18. Firmness - - - - - full.

INTELLECT.

19. Individuality { Upper, moderate.
Lower, full.
20. Form } - - - unascertained.
21. Size } - - - unascertained.
22. Weight } - - - unascertained.
23. Colouring - - - - - very small.
24. Locality - - - - - full.
25. Order - - - - - moderate.
26. Time - - - - - moderate.
27. Number - - - - - rather full.
28. Tune - - - - - full.
29. Language - - - - - unascertained.
30. Comparison - - - - - full.
31. Causality - - - - - moderate.
32. Wit - - - - - rather full.
33. Imitation - - - - - moderate.
- Wonder - - - - - moderate.

The head is large, broad, and flat at the vertex, which gives it a low forehead: a large preponderance of measurement behind the meatus. It forms a striking similarity with the heads of Vitellus and Pope Alexander VI.

MEASUREMENT OF THE CRANIUM.

	Ins.	10ths.
From Occip. Spine to Lower Individuality	7	1
“ “ to Ear	4	5
“ Ear or Meatus to Lower Individuality	4	3
“ “ to Firmness	5	3
“ Destructiveness to Destructiveness	6	2
“ Cautiousness to Cautiousness	5	2
“ Ideality to Ideality	5	0

COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENT.

	Occip. Spine to Lower Individuality.	Occip. Spine to Ear.	Ear to Lower Individuality.	Ear to Firmness.	Destructiveness to Destructiveness.	Cautiousness to Cautiousness.	Ideality to Ideality.	
American -	7.7	4.4	5.1	5.7	6.0	5.7	5.7	From Combe's Table.
Scotch - -	7.5	4.3 $\frac{3}{4}$	4.9 $\frac{1}{2}$	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Tardy - -	7.5	4.9	4.7	5.7	6.6	5.6	5.4	

As the above measurements of the American and Scotch were taken over the integuments, two-tenths of an inch have been allowed to each point of the callipers for the same on Tardy's cranium. It is deemed a very small allowance.

Measurements of the Skulls of criminals executed for Murder.

	From Meatus to Philoprogenitiveness.	From Meatus to Lower Individuality.	From Destructiveness to Destructiveness.	From Cautiousness to Cautiousness.	From Ideality to Ideality.	
1. Matthew Osborne	5	4	5 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{4}{8}$	4	From the Phrenological Journal, vol. 1, page 119. For Bellingham, see Transactions, page 339. Murderers of the crew and passengers of the Brig Crawford, on the 1st of June 1827.
2. Bridget Butterly	4 $\frac{4}{8}$	4	5 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{4}{8}$	4 $\frac{5}{8}$	
3. Bridget Ennes -	4 $\frac{2}{8}$	4 $\frac{1}{8}$	5 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{1}{8}$	4 $\frac{2}{8}$	
4. James Gordon -	4 $\frac{3}{8}$	4 $\frac{2}{8}$	5 $\frac{1}{8}$	5 $\frac{2}{8}$	4 $\frac{2}{8}$	
5. John Bellingham	4 $\frac{5}{8}$	4 $\frac{4}{8}$	5 $\frac{5}{8}$	5 $\frac{3}{8}$	4 $\frac{3}{8}$	
6. Don Felix - -	4 $\frac{8}{10}$	4 $\frac{7}{10}$	5 $\frac{6}{10}$	5 $\frac{3}{10}$	5 $\frac{1}{10}$	
7. Couro { Left } { Right }	4 $\frac{6}{10}$ 4 $\frac{8}{10}$	4 $\frac{5}{10}$	5 $\frac{5}{10}$	4 $\frac{7}{10}$	4 $\frac{9}{10}$	
8. Pepe - - - -	4 $\frac{5}{10}$	4 $\frac{4}{10}$	5 $\frac{4}{10}$	5 $\frac{6}{10}$	4 $\frac{5}{10}$	
Alexander Tardy -	4 $\frac{5}{10}$	4 $\frac{3}{10}$	6 $\frac{2}{10}$	5 $\frac{2}{10}$	5	

Measurements of Full Casts, or over the Integuments, of criminals executed for Murder.

	Meatus to Philoprogenitiveness.	Meatus to Lower Individuality.	Destructiveness to Destructiveness.	Cautiousness to Cautiousness.	Ideality to Ideality.	
1. John Thurtell	5	$5\frac{6}{8}$	$6\frac{4\frac{5}{10}}{10}$	$6\frac{3}{8}$	$5\frac{3}{8}$	Phren. Jour'l. v. 1, p. 329.
2. John Pallet	5	$4\frac{6}{8}$	$6\frac{1}{10}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{6}{8}$	Do. do. do. 427.
3. John Slade	$4\frac{4}{8}$	$5\frac{3}{8}$	6	$5\frac{6}{8}$	$4\frac{6}{8}$	} From the Cambridge Chronicle, (an English paper.)
4. John Keppel	-	-	$6\frac{1}{8}$	-	-	
5. John Johnson	-	-	6	-	-	
6. B. Ennis	-	-	6	-	-	
7. Liscombe	-	-	6	-	-	
Alexander Tardy	$4\frac{9}{10}$	$4\frac{7}{10}$	$6\frac{6}{10}$	$5\frac{6}{10}$	$5\frac{4}{10}$	

Such then is the development and measurement of the individual under consideration: the task of deducing from them their corresponding traits becomes easy to the Phrenologist; but we deem it not necessary to detain you on this subject as the history, &c. of the individual is two well developed in this book, I now hold in my hand, and which we beg leave to submit as our report, *in part*.* The public newspapers also, during the last summer, contained abundance of information and were not *tardy* in gratifying the insatiable thirst of their patrons in detailing all the minutiae of the “*tale of horror*.” A collection of those are also submitted; but it is to be remarked, however, that the former contains all in a better dress, than that which may be found in the latter, with the exception of two paragraphs, which it is deemed necessary to notice in this report. The first is from “*The Portsmouth Commercial Advertiser*” of the State of New Hampshire, viz:

“TARDY—THE PIRATE.—This fellow came into Portsmouth in the Congress Frigate in the autumn of 1813, and remained here a considerable time. If we remember right he was the Cabin-steward of that ship, and was called Captain Stew-

* See the annexed “Brief Sketch of the occurrences on board of the brig Crawford, &c. &c.”

“ard on account of his French pronunciation. Captain Smith of the Congress, it will be recollected, came in here in ill health, and we have heard that his subsequent death was attributed to poison administered to him on board that ship. Tardy mixed with the most abandoned company here, and was in frequent broils. He afterwards went to Boston, and was there arrested for stealing the pocket book of the late Captain G. W. Balch, at Colonel Wilde’s stage-house, of which theft he was convicted and punished with three years confinement in the State Prison.”

Now all this may be very true with the exception of the insinuation of poison being administered to Captain Smith. I speak from personal knowledge,* and I will do Tardy the justice to observe, that I believe he faithfully performed his duty to Captain Smith, during the whole time he served on board of the United States Frigate Congress, with but one or two exceptions; one was in purloining some of Captain Smith’s private stores and selling the same to one of the petty officers, in which he was detected and *flogged* severely by order of Commodore Warrington, who was at that time the first Lieutenant of the Congress. It appears by the “Muster rolls” of that vessel now in the archives of the Navy Department, that Tardy was *shipped* at Norfolk, Virginia, in March 1812, and discharged at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on the 8th of March 1814, having fully served the term of his enlistment. As Tardy was discharged in March 1814, we saw no more of him, and Captain Smith remained in command of the Congress. Captain Smith was, sometime afterwards, ordered to the command of the Franklin 74, then lying at Philadelphia, where he died on the 6th of August 1815, nearly eighteen months after his separation from Tardy. You will acknowledge, that if the insinuation be believed, it must have required a most wonderful and insidious poison to produce effects so very remote from its administration, and of such qualities too as are unknown to the faculty, or even to Orfila himself. The fact was, that Captain Smith had been for several years laboring under all the grades of dyspepsia and general derangement of the chylipoietic organs, which eventuated in his final dissolution.

The second paragraph that claims attention is furnished by a correspondent of the “*Fall-River Monitor*,” a paper published in the State of Massachusetts, and is as follows:

“The notorious Alexander Tardy was one of those unfortunate persons who have inhabited the island of Hispaniola, and been compelled to leave the place during the convulsions which that ill-fated island has experienced. Finding he could

* Dr. Brereton was late a Surgeon in the Navy, and attached to the Frigate Congress, before and during the late war with Great Britain.

"no longer remain there in safety, he agreed with the Captain of an American vessel
 "to take himself and such of his property as could be removed to the United States,
 "and as it was not prudent for Tardy to be on board at the time of sailing, he was to
 "leave the harbour in a boat, the vessel to sail immediately and take him on board at
 "the mouth of the harbor. Every thing being in readiness, Tardy procured a boat
 "and two negroes and got to sea; the vessel sailed according to agreement; Tardy saw
 "her, rowed for her, waved his hat and hailed her; but the Captain, (perhaps at that
 "time not understanding French,) paid him no attention—but proceeded on and ar-
 "rived in the United States. He had made a great voyage; and from limited circum-
 "stances, had thus become suddenly rich. Tardy, not daring to return to land, was
 "three days at sea, when he was taken up by a British man of war, treated kindly,
 "and landed at Havanna. He afterwards came to the United States to look after his
 "property; but the Captain and Mate at that time blessed with short memories, pre-
 "tended to have no recollection of him, or of the circumstances which he related.
 "He, however, by dint of threats and entreaties, obtained of the Captain two thousand
 "dollars which was not supposed to have been a bare tythe of the original value.

"Tardy, finding himself suddenly reduced from a state of affluence to indigent
 "circumstances, destitute of the means of gaining a livelihood, and without friends or
 "or a home, resolved to resort to the means for obtaining property similar to
 "those that had been so successfully practised upon himself: and from what is known
 "of him since that time, he appears to have kept that resolution in strict observance.
 "The event is, he has died by his own hand, and left behind the character of a demon.
 "The American Captain has lived and died with his own family, and many are willing
 "to bestow on him the title of a gentleman."

It was but yesterday in conversation with the Honorable
 J. Pearce, a member of the House of Representatives, from
 Rhode Island, that I was made acquainted with facts sufficient
 to rebut so formal a statement. His politeness induced him
 to leave, on my table, the following note:

"Tardy came to Newport, Rhode Island, some twelve or fourteen years
 "ago, and passed by the name of a French gentleman, who fled from St. Domingo,
 "during the massacre, at that place; his object was, in personating the character of the
 "French gentleman, to recover some property alledged to belong to the French
 "gentleman, in the hands of a ship master at Newport. Tardy employed the honor-
 "able Mr. Hunter, late a Senator from Rhode Island, to commence a suit; but in ex-
 "amining his pretended claim, Mr. Hunter discovered him to be an impostor, pro-
 "nounced him to be such, and Tardy left the town in haste."

I will state in conclusion, that Tardy, in his deportment,
 was harsh, uncouth and awkward; this was the more remark-
 able from his being a Frenchman: he was quarrelsome—often
 wrangling with his equals, but more particularly with his
 inferiors to whom he was overbearing and extremely severe.
 I am induced to believe that he could not have been long in
 this country before my cognizance of him, from the circumstance

that when he first appeared on board the Congress, he spoke the English language so badly, as to render him nearly unintelligible and his difficult enunciation was considerably augmented by the loss of all the incisors of his superior maxillary jaw: and when he was discharged, after two years service, he spoke the language with fluency and ease.

All which is respectfully submitted,

J. A. BRERETON,

March 14, 1828.

Chairman.

E. DE KRAFFT, PRINTER, Washington.

