

Dr. James McCune Smith.

The New York Commercial Advertiser, says:

On Monday evening, we had the pleasure of attending a lecture on the "fallacy of phrenology," by Dr. James McCune Smith, at the Philomathean Hall, in Duane street. Dr. Smith is a 'colored American,' who has lately returned from Glasgow, whither he repaired, a few years since, and where he has received the bachelor's and master's degree in the arts, and since graduated in medicine. He has now returned to this city, and is about to settle here, as a practitioner of physic and surgery. The testimonials he brings from Scotland afford ample evidence of his qualifications, by professional education, as well as by literary and moral character.

As a lecturer, Dr. S. possesses many points of excellence. His modest demeanor, the ease of his address, the absence of all pedantry, and the facility of his elocution, were all calculated to bespeak the favor of his audience, among whom were a number of gentlemen belonging to the several learned professions, all of whom appeared to be interested, and indeed highly gratified. The arguments he advanced against the "science, falsely so called," denominated phrenology, were, some of them, entirely new, and all of them pertinent and forcible.

With the single exception, that the Doctor in his zeal to overthrow phrenology, attempted to show that the brain is not the organ by which the mind acts, or at least that it is not proved to be such, there was nothing in the lecture, either in matter or manner, to which the most fastidious critic could take exception.

We are sure that all good men must rejoice in the improvement and elevation of individuals among our colored fellow-citizens, of which Dr. Smith is an illustrious example; and we do but express the wish of many of the audience, when we call for a repetition of the lecture in some more eligible place. And should Clinton Hall or some similar building be procured for the purpose, there can be little doubt that hundreds of our fellow-citizens would avail themselves of the opportunity and privilege of hearing it. If there are any who still doubt the competency or capacity of a man of color, because he is such, they will have ocular and auricular demonstration that there is one at least, who has just claims to the character of a scholar and a gentleman.

The testimony of Col. Stone is scarce inferior in value, to that of a prosecuting attorney, for the prisoner at the bar. How he can reconcile it, or the fact it goes to prove, with the doctrine he has so long and so strenuously maintained, that the colored man must go to Africa, to be elevated and improved, we leave for shrewed minds than ours to discover. For our part, we can imagine no good reason that a colored man cannot be educated

and prepared for usefulness, in America, as well as in Europe. The only reason assignable, is the unwillingness of white Americans to give their darker countrymen a fair chance. "If there be any who still doubt the competency and capacity of a man of color" to win by his own meritorious exertions, "the character of a scholar and a gentleman" in the midst of an enlightened white community, they may "have ocular and auricular demonstration that there is one at least who" can do so. Are Americans so much better, or so much worse than the people of Scotland—that what is possible in the one country should be impossible in the other?