Nor is it at all extraordinary, that one ſhould have the appearance of being awake, and ſhould even think one’s ſelf ſo, during thoſe fits of doſing; that they ſhould come on ſuddenly, and while one is engaged in ſome buſineſs. The ſame thing happens to perſons much fatigued, or long kept awake, who frequently fall aſleep for a moment, or for a long ſpace, while they are ſtanding, or walking, or riding on horſeback. Add but a lively dream to this ſlumber, and (which is the frequent effect of diſeaſe) take away the conſciouſneſs of having been aſleep, and a ſuperſtitious man may eaſily miſtake his dream for a waking viſion; which, however, is ſoon forgotten when no fubſequent occurrence recals it to his memory; but which, if it ſhall be thought to re­ſemble any future event, exalts the poor dreamer into a Highland prophet. This conceit makes him more recluſe and more melancholy than ever; and ſo feeds his diſeaſe, and multiplies his viſions: which, if they are not diſſipated by buſineſs or ſociety, may continue to haunt him as long as he lives; and which, in their progreſs through the neighbourhood, receive ſome new tinctures *of* the marvellous from every mouth that promotes their circulation. As to the prophetical nature of this ſe­cond ſight, it cannot be admitted at all. That the De­ity ſhould work a miracle in order to give intimation of the frivolous things that theſe tales are made up of, the arrival of a ſtranger, the nailing of a coffin, or the colour of a ſuit of clothes; and that theſe intimations ſhould be given for no end, and to thoſe perſons only who are idle and ſolitary, who ſpeak Gaelic, or who live among mountains and deferts—is like nothing in nature or providence that we are acquainted with; and muſt therefore, unleſs it were confirmed by ſatisfactory proof (which is not the caſe), be rejected as abſurd and in­credible.

Theſe viſions, ſuch as they are, may reaſonably enough be aſcribed to a diſtempered fancy. And that in them, as well as in our ordinary dreams, certain ap­pearances ſhould, on ſome rare occaſions, reſemble cer­tain events, is to be expected from the laws of chance; and ſeems to have in it nothing more marvellous or ſupernatural, than that the parrot, who deals out his ſcurrilities at random, ſhould ſometimes happen to ſalute the paſſenger by his right appellation.

To the confidence of theſe objections Dr Johnſon re­plies, that by preſuming to determine what is fit, and what is beneficial, they preſuppofe more knowledge of the univerſal ſyſtem than man has attained; and there­fore depend upon principles too complicated and exten­sive for our comprehenſion; and that there can be no ſecurity in the conſequence when the premiſes are not underſtood; that the ſecond ſight is only wonderful becauſe it is rare, for, conſidered in itſelf, it involves no more difficulty than dreams, or perhaps than the regu­lar exerciſe of the cogitative faculty; that a general opi­nion of communicative impulſes, or viſionary repreſentations, has prevailed in all ages and all nations; that par­ticular inſtances have been given with ſuch evidence, as neither Bacon nor Bayle has been able to reſiſt; that ſudden impreſſions, which the event has verified, have been felt by more than own or publiſh them; that the ſecond ſight of the Hebrides implies only the local fre­quency of a power, which is nowhere totally unknown; and that where we are unable to decide by antecedent reaſon, we muſt be content to yield to the force of teſtimony. By pretenſion to ſecond ſight, no profit was ever ſought *or* gained. It is an involuntary affection, in which neither hope nor fear are known to have any part. Thoſe who profeſs to feel it do not boaſt of it as a privilege, nor are conſidered by others as advantageouſly diſtinguiſhed. They have no temptation to feign, and their hearers have no motive to encourage the impoſture.

*Second Terms*, in algebra, thoſe where the unknown quantity has a degree of power leſs than it has in the term where it is raiſed to the higheſt. The art of throwing theſe ſecond terms out of an equation, that is, of forming a new equation where they have no place, is one of the moſt ingenious and uſeful inventions in all algebra.

SECONDARY, in general, ſomething that acts as ſecond or in ſubordination to another.

*Secondary,* or *Secundary,* an officer who acts as ſe­cond or next to the chief officer. Such are the ſecond aries of the courts of king’s bench and common pleas; the ſecondaries of the compters, who are next the ſheriffs of London in each of the two compters; two ſe­condaries of the pipe; ſecondaries to the remembrancers, &c.

*Secondary Circles of the Ecliptic* are circles of longi­tude of the ſtars; or circles which, paſſing through the poles of the ecliptic, are at right angles to the ecliptic. See *CIrcles oſ Latitude.*

*Secondary Qualities of Bodies.* See Metaphysics, n⁰ 153.

SECONDAT. See Monte squieu.

SECRETARIES bird, the falco ſerpentarius and ſagittarius of Linnaeus, but claſſed by Latham under the genus Vultur; which ſee.

SECRETARY, an officer who, by his maſter’s orders, writes letters, diſpatches, and other inſtruments, which he renders authentic by his ſignet. Of theſe there are ſeveral kinds; as, 1. Secretaries of ſtate, who are officers that have under their management and direction the moſt important affairs of the kingdom, and are obliged conſtantly to attend on the king: they receive and diſpatch whatever comes to their hands, ei­ther from the crown, the church, the army, private grants, pardons, diſpenſations, &c. as likewiſe petitions to the ſovereign, which, when read, are returned to them; all which they diſpatch according to the king’s direction. They have authority to commit perſons for treaſon, and other offences againſt the ſtate, as conſervators of the peace at common law, or as juſtices of the peace throughout the kingdom. They are members of the privy-council, which is ſeldom or never held with­out one of them being preſent. As to the buſineſs and correſpondence in all parts of this kingdom, it is mana­ged by either of the ſecretaries without any diſtinction; but with reſpect to foreign affairs, the buſineſs is divi­ded into two provinces or departments, the ſouthern and the northern, comprehending all the kingdoms and ſtates that have any intercourſe with Great Britain; each ſecretary receiving all letters and addreſſes from, and making all diſpatches to, the ſeveral princes and ſtates comprehended in his province. Ireland and the Plantations are under the direction of the elder ſecreta­ry, who has the ſouthern province, which alio compre­hends France, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, and Turkey; the northern province includes the Low Coun-