

An appeal to the public and especially to the medical public : from the proceedings of the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, vacating the chair of materia medica and pharmacy / by John Redman Coxe.

Contributors

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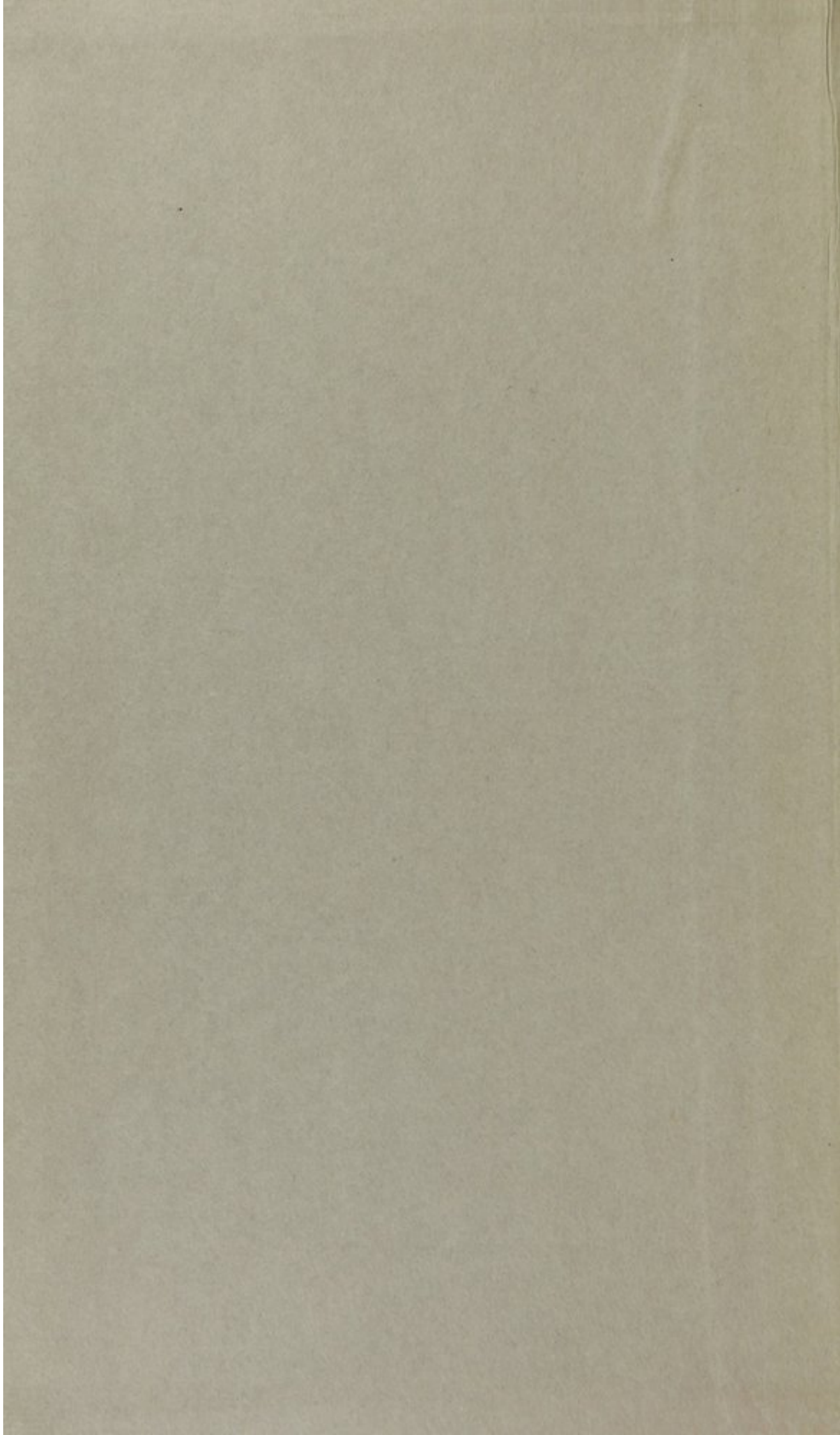
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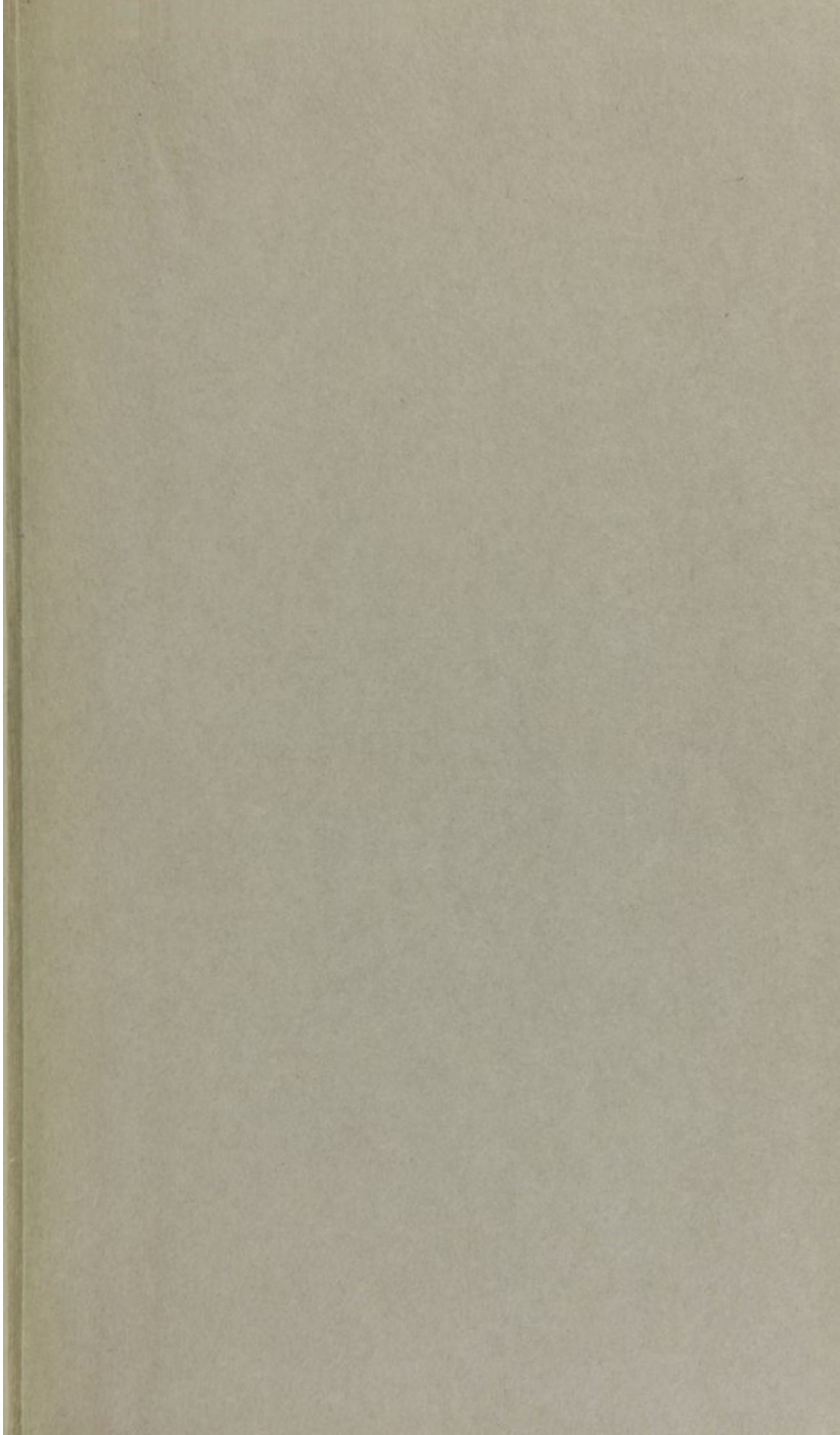
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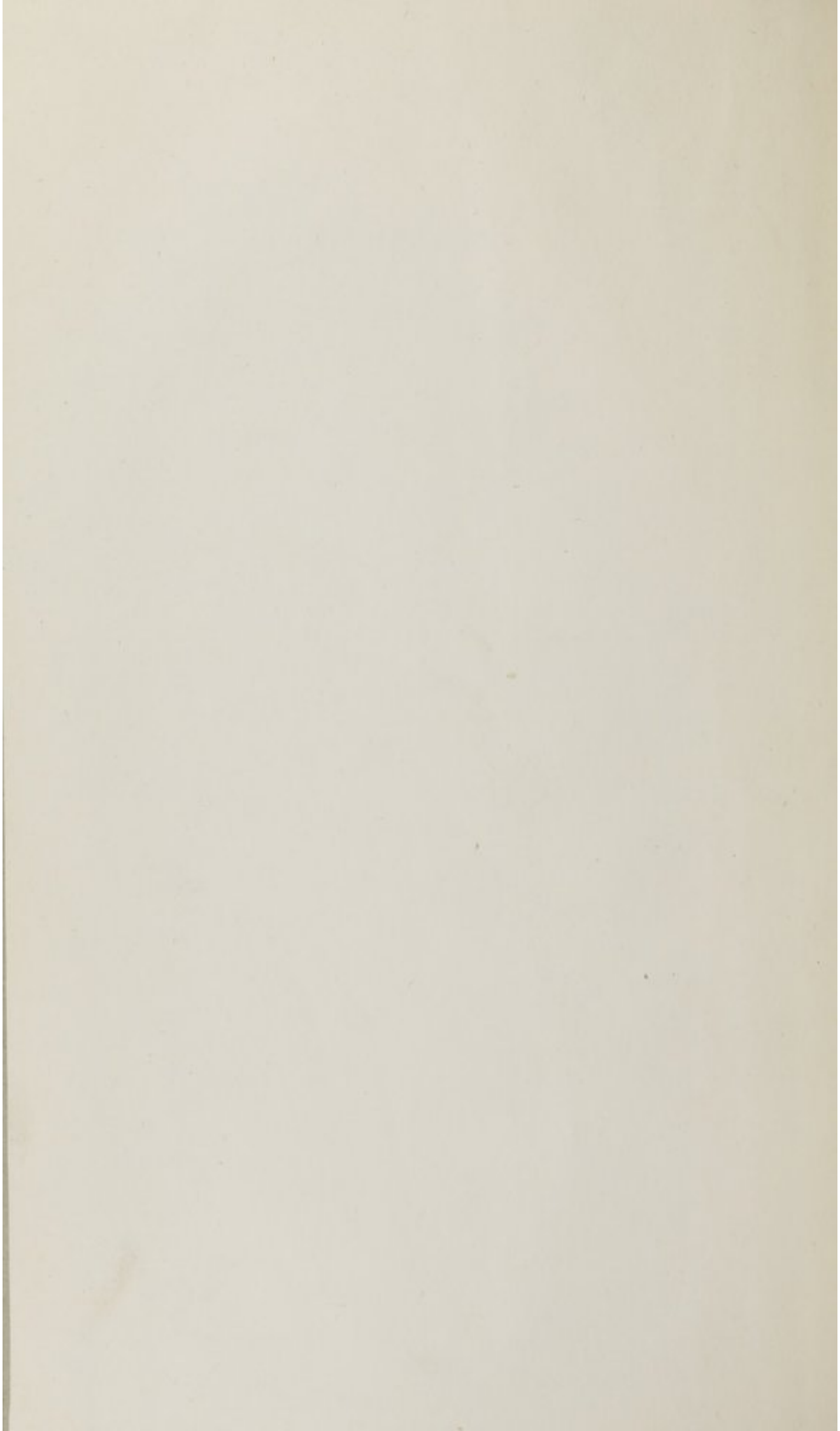
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AN

APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC,

AND

ESPECIALLY TO THE MEDICAL PUBLIC,

FROM THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,

VACATING THE CHAIR OF

MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACY.

BY JOHN REDMAN COXE, M. D.

PHILADELPHIA:

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P R E F A C E.

I PRESENT the following statement to the public, with extreme reluctance and pain. For nearly forty-five years I have been employed in the practice and study of medicine, and in teaching it to others, in the city of Philadelphia; and at the close of this period, myself and my family have been held up to derision, for my alleged incompetency to discharge the duties of the Chair of *Materia Medica*, which I have held for more than fifteen years of that time. No one of common sensibility, can be supposed to present to the public, a statement which records such a result, without extreme pain. But I have a duty, public and private, to perform: and I mean to perform it. I have suffered, and still do suffer from unmerited persecution and contumely; from the gross and scandalous violence of young men, the pupils of the Medical School, to whom its governors have seen fit to yield; and from the insidious artifices of older men, who have been willing to sacrifice me, even at the expense of the character of the University; but no sense of suffering shall deter me from exposing the injustice with which I have been treated. I executed the duties of my station with what I supposed to be general approbation, until it was deemed expedient by some members of the Medical Faculty to supply my place with such as might better suit their views. I have at all times desired to sustain the Trustees of the University in their lawful authority over the Medical Faculty, that they might appoint and control, as they deemed best for the whole. I have never favoured the system of Adjuncts, by which Professors name their successors to the exclusion of all fair competition by the medical profession generally, and of all real selection and choice by the Trustees; and consequently have taken no part in the cabals or intrigues that may have arisen on such occasions. I have never favoured the plan of surrounding the University with Medical Institutes, whose principal posts should be filled by Professors of the University, that they might in this way, sustain themselves even against the Trustees, if that should be necessary. I have taught in the School the doctrines which I deemed the wisest and best, without pausing to consider whether some other Professor had not expressed himself in favour of different doctrines: I have even opposed, (and this is the head and front of my offending,) some of the opinions taught by one of the most active of the Professors, which I thought unsound; but in this, I have followed the known course of the Medical School, when its reputation was at its height. I have done this, however, at all times, respectfully, and not factiously. I have laboriously, faithfully, and to the disregard of all other interests, endeavoured to do my duty, and my whole duty, in the Chair of *Materia Medica*, without giving either my morning or my evening hours, to make favour with any one, still less to combine a party for my support, or for the overthrow of any one else. This course of proceeding has made me obnoxious to a certain portion of the Medical Faculty which governs the rest, and has deprived me of the collateral support sufficient to resist the combined movement that has been made against me. The result is, that I am removed without trial, without a hearing, without the common opportunity of defence. I relied on the justice and firmness of the Trustees, and I have been disappointed. The Trustees themselves, as I conceive, have been the victims of the same injustice and intrigue, by which I have been overthrown, and have had no power, or at least thought they had none, to resist what some of them, I am certain, must have deemed an act of injustice to me, and of great injury to the Institution.

The plan by which this has been brought about, will be shown in the following pages. It began in an attempt by the other professors, to degrade the science of *Materia Medica* itself; not succeeding in this, it assumed the form of an endeavour to enlarge the school, by introducing a new

professor of the Institutes, without further expense to the pupils, but at the expense of the Chair of *Materia Medica*. This failing, it became necessary for the Professors themselves to assail my competency, which also failed, as the members who made the charge were all of them unable to say that they had ever attended my lectures, and some of them were without the requisite capacity to decide the question, even if they had attended. A regular assault upon my medical character, was a difficult thing to manage, and it assumed various shapes. Sometimes it was said I taught too much, or crowded my lectures with too much learning; sometimes, that I taught too little, or what every body knew before; even the pupils who perhaps had never read a medical book, nor heard a medical lecture were taught to hold this language. Sometimes it was said I interfered with other Professors, by teaching what they alone had a right to teach, and which, if my own inferiority was such as was stated to be, could hardly have been a ground of very serious objection to the professor from whom it came. It was finally found that I was not likely to be broken down by any proceeding, having regularity of form, or purporting to rest on grounds that could be examined, and above all put forward by *responsible* persons. Hence a new system was adopted—the Medical Class was put into action—young men of no experience, in some instances of no medical learning, of excitable passions and of ardent temper, were made the arbiters in a question concerning the learning of one of their teachers, and the Medical Faculty then appeared, but only appeared, to stand aloof. The plan was tried with too much gentleness at first, and it did not succeed; but at length, in consequence of various false suggestions, and among others, the atrocious calumny that I had used or would use my power unworthily to deprive students of their degrees, the requisite violence was promoted and employed; there was a secession of a large part of the Class, accompanied with gross indecorum to the Professor; the other Professors took no measures as a Faculty, to restrain the Class in its acts of violence and disorder; great efforts were made, as I understand, to abuse the public mind, in regard to my capacity, and finally, the Trustees proceeded to quiet the rebellion by justifying it, and sacrificing me. The public, particularly the medical public, will decide upon the justice of this sacrifice, and parents and guardians, and the Trustees and overseers of collegiate institutions, will ponder upon the tendency of such a precedent to promote the wholesome discipline of Colleges, and the education of youth.

I arraign the Medical Faculty of the University for their connivance at this act of scandalous indecorum and resistance to Collegiate authority. Of this at least they have been guilty. The Professors may say that they did not stimulate it, and such as choose may believe them; but they had, every one knows that they had, the undoubted means to repress the disorder, and they would not use them. The charge of which they stand convicted, is, that they approved of the rebellion and violence, because, however disgraceful to the College, it served their turn. They approved it, and in conscience and common sense it was their act, because they would not repress it when they might. Theirs was the outrage, without the merit of openly assuming its responsibility, and some of them may have occasion to recollect the precedent hereafter.

JOHN REDMAN COXE.

Philadelphia, May 1st, 1835.

AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC, &c.

THE EVENTS that have taken place in the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, since the opening of the course of lectures, on the 3d day of November last, (1834,) have so intimate a connexion with those of a remoter date, that it is imperative on me to take up the subject even from the earlier period of 1829.

On the 10th January, 1831, I received the following note from Jos. Hopkinson, Esq. one of the trustees of the University, and chairman of a committee on the state of the Medical School:

"DEAR SIR—Will you be good enough to meet the committee of the trustees on the state of the Medical School, at my house, on Tuesday evening, at 7 o'clock?"

"Respectfully yours,
(Signed) JOS. HOPKINSON.

"Jan. 10, 1831."

I attended as requested at the time appointed, under the persuasion, that, as it was a meeting "on the state of the Medical School," the whole Faculty would of course be present; and that a free communication and interchange of opinion would be the result. Such, however, was not the case, and the explanation will shortly be seen, in the report of the committee to the Board of Trustees, on the 1st of February ensuing. On this subject I shall hereafter make some remarks; I now merely state, for the information of my readers, that neither in this instance, nor in several other invitations to attend the committee, as will hereafter appear, *was I ever previously informed* of the nature and intent of the meeting; so as, by reflection and due consideration, to be enabled to do justice to myself, who, I have since found, was the sole object of the proceeding; and who, by ignorance of the fact, was for some time exposed to even greater inconvenience than would have sprung from a course of cross-questioning in court.

At this meeting were present, Mr. Hopkinson, Mr. Jos. Ingersoll, Mr. Nicklin, and the Rev. Mr. Mayer. The inquiries made of me, turned chiefly on the wants of the Medical School, and upon what occurred to me as being essential to its benefit. So far as I was concerned, I considered that no wants existed, nor were any regulations required. I was desirous merely that what was

well, might be left alone; and each member of the Faculty be permitted to teach the subject of his professorship in conformity to his own conceptions, and without interference. I adverted to an undue pressure on my chair, and of the attempts that had been made, and were still progressing, to circumscribe my plan of teaching the *Materia Medica*, although founded, substantially, on the plans adopted by my predecessors, Drs. Dorsey, Chapman, Barton, and Griffith. Differing indeed in various theoretical opinions, as well as on some points of fact, from some of them, I presumed it was no heresy in science at the present period; more especially since those from whom I differed, had still further diverged from the footsteps of their own masters in the science.

After retiring from this meeting, I heard nothing further on the subject, until I received the following note from Mr. Hopkinson, on Monday, the 24th January, 1831, asking for *my immediate attendance* on the committee.

"DEAR SIR—The committee on the Medical School *are now in session*, at my house. You will oblige us by giving us a short conference.

"Yours respectfully,

J. HOPKINSON.

"Monday, 5 o'clock, P. M."

In addition to the preceding members of the committee, Mr. N. Biddle was now present. I was briefly informed, that the committee, having duly investigated the subject committed to them, had agreed upon a report to be made to the Board of Trustees at their ensuing meeting, conformably to the *unanimous* views of the Medical Faculty; which views were none other than the degradation of the chair of *Materia Medica*, by reducing it to one half the dimensions it had always possessed in the University; and I was urged to acquiesce in the same, after the report had been read to me. Surprised thus, by a measure so totally unlooked for, I refused to be guilty of an act so suicidal to the chair I occupied. I was wholly uninformed of the motives that had led the committee to embrace these opinions. I certainly knew that the proposed measures had not been preceded by any arguments or examinations of a public character; and I also knew, that if it had the support of the other Professors, it was a support obtained through *individual* examinations, and not by any consultation of the Faculty to which I was privy. I professed, ne-

vertheless, to submit respectfully to any orders of the Board of Trustees, and requested a copy of a paper read to me, purporting to be one assented to by the Faculty, in reply to a circular that had been sent to each member, *except myself*, by the committee. This was promised to me, and I then retired. But although of so much importance to me, I did not receive the same, until I called for it by the following note, addressed to the chairman on the 29th, only three days preceding the meeting of the Board.

"DEAR SIR—You were kind enough to promise me a copy of the paper read to me, as having been agreed to by the Professors. May I beg the favour of you to let me have it, that I may determine what to do in the existing state of things.

"I am, &c.

JOHN REDMAN COXE.

"Saturday, Jan. 29, 1831.

"To Joseph Hopkinson, Esq."

The copy asked for, was now sent, and is as follows:

"DEAR SIR—The committee appointed by the trustees of the University, at the request of the Medical Faculty, to examine into the state of the Medical School, are desirous of knowing whether in their conference with you on this subject, they have rightly comprehended your views. They have understood it to be your opinion,

"That the lectures of the Professor of *Materia Medica* are, at present, extended beyond their proper sphere; and that they ought to be brought more strictly within the limits of that department.

"That, when thus reduced, three lectures in each week will be amply sufficient to give all the instruction expected from this branch.

"That the organization of the School will be improved and strengthened, by the appointment of a Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, who shall lecture, alternately, through each week, with the Professor of *Materia Medica*.

"That as, by this arrangement, the time and labour of the week will be divided equally between these Professors, the emoluments should be divided in the same proportion; each to receive ten dollars from every pupil, for his course.

"As the committee wish to report to the Board the result of their examination as soon as possible, you will oblige them by an early reply to the inquiry, whether your opinions are here truly stated.

"Very respectfully,

J. HOPKINSON, Chairman.

"Jan. 20th, 1831."

Not having a copy of the replies of each Professor to the above, (but which are referred to in the report of the committee now to be inserted here,) I could judge of them alone from the tenor of the above, in connexion with the report. It may not be irrelevant to remark, here, that important as the queries above are, and destructive to the interests of the *Materia Medica* chair, yet that I, the most concerned to reply to them, had no knowledge of them at all, until read to me at

the meeting of the 24th, although sent to the members individually (except myself) on the 20th January, as the date imports, and not until five days subsequently to the promise made to send me a copy, was I favoured with it, and too late to prepare a protest in time for presentation at the meeting of the Board on the 1st February. The committee, indeed, in their report to the Board, give a reason for not sending a copy to me, at the time it was sent to the other Professors:—But if, from "obvious reasons of propriety," the letter was not sent me on the 20th, why was it read to me on the 24th, and my consent required thereto, and acquiescence in the replies of my colleagues? Was it obviously less proper to let me know in advance, by a letter, what might possibly ensue, than suddenly to astound me by the surprising and unanticipated results, to which the committee had thus arrived?—Had a degree of forbearance and delicacy towards me been always preserved, I might have ascribed this omission and delay to such a cause; but if such sentiments towards me had any existence at all, it is obvious that the influence of them was but momentary. One thing seems obvious, that, as these asked-for opinions *spring out of the previous and individual examinations* before the committee, some previous concert of the individuals must have taken place; for the unanimity is too precise to have been casual.

As I have above stated, the committee reported to the Board on the 1st February, and on the 3d, I received a copy of that report, enclosed by the Secretary in the following note:

"University of Penna., Feb. 3d, 1831.

"DEAR SIR—I am instructed by the trustees of the University to make you the enclosed communication of a copy of the report of the committee appointed to examine into the state of the Medical School; and to request that you will place before the Board your views on the subject. The papers referred to, I shall be at all times ready to exhibit to you for your examination.

"I am, with respect, your obed't serv't,

J. C. BIDDLE, Sec'ry.

"Professor John Redman Coxe."

The following is a copy of the report alluded to, dated Feb. 1, 1831.

"University of Pennsylvania.

"The committee appointed on the 7th of April, 1829, to examine into the state of the Medical School, in consequence of a communication received from the Medical Faculty of that date, apprized by the tenor of that communication, of the importance of the examination committed to them, have devoted much time, and the most careful attention to the subject of their appointment.

"It was thought necessary by the committee, that they should have from the Faculty a more precise and detailed explanation of the 'evils of a defective organization,' alluded to in their first resolution, as existing in the School, and of the remedies required for their cure.

"In conformity with the suggestions in the second resolution of the Faculty, a call was made upon each Professor for a syllabus of his lectures,

indicating not only the subjects, but also the time appropriated to each.

"On the 15th May, 1830, a letter was received from the Faculty, marked A., and herewith submitted to the Board, accompanied by documents numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, being the Syllabi of the several Professors, with a report on each, by a Committee of the Faculty: also a letter from Dr. Coxe, No. 8—all of which are submitted to the Board.

"After an examination of these documents, it was considered by the Committee, that it would conduce to a better understanding of the matters they were investigating, if they should have a free personal conference with the Professors separately, according to their invitation, 'to institute inquiries either of the members individually, or of the Faculty at large.'

"Upon the request of the Committee made to each Professor, an interview and full conference was held with them separately, upon the state of the Medical School;—the evils complained of, and the remedies proposed. The inquiries of the Committee were direct and explicit, and the answers of the Professors equally so.

"That there might be no misunderstanding of the opinions of the Professors, as given to the Committee, a letter was written and addressed to each of them, a copy of which is herewith presented, marked B., (the preceding letter,) to which answers were received, numbered 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14.

"For obvious reasons of propriety, this letter was not sent to Dr. Coxe: but *after the answers were received*, the Committee had a meeting with Dr. Coxe, and read to him the letter, and informed him of the replies of his colleagues of the Faculty, as *well as the result to which the Committee had come*, and would report to the Board, in conformity with the views and opinions of the Faculty.

"Having thus put the Board in possession of all the information known to the Committee on the subject entrusted to their examination, they beg leave to report the following resolutions, which they unanimously recommend to the adoption of the Board.

"1. That there shall be appointed a Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in the University, who shall be a member of the Medical Faculty, and that the office and appointment of an Assistant to the Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Medicine shall cease and determine.

"2. That the Professor of Materia Medica, and the Professor of the Institutes shall each lecture to the class three times in each week alternately.

"3. That the said Professors of Materia Medica and the Institutes shall each receive for his course, from every pupil who attends him, ten dollars.

"4. That the sum heretofore paid by the Professor of Materia Medica to the Trustees of the University for the rent of the building used and occupied by the Medical Faculty shall, from and after the first day of April next, be paid equally by the Professor of Materia Medica and the Professor of the Institutes.

"5. That the arrangements herein proposed

shall not go into operation during the present course of lectures.

(Signed) JOS. HOPKINSON,
PHILIP F. MAYER,
J. R. INGERSOLL,
N. BIDDLE,
PHILIP H. NICKLIN."

This report, it will be observed, refers to a period even more remote than that from whence we have taken our departure:—viz. to 1829. And, for the complete elucidation of the subject, it becomes essential to go back to that point of time, and to preface what I have to say, by the remark, that although the committee of the Trustees had been acting for the space of *one year and nine months*, under an appointment of the 7th of April, 1829, before they addressed to me their note of the 10th of January, 1831, yet that with the single exception of the call for the syllabus and the letter from the Faculty and myself on that subject, there was no communication, private or official, by the Committee *with me*, until January, 1831, nor the slightest intimation that the chair of Materia Medica and my mode of performing its duties were the sole cause of their appointment; or that the object to be attained was none other than to degrade me and it. *Obvious reasons of propriety* may account for this also; but it is a propriety that if obvious at all, is more so to those who sought to attain the object, than to one who was to be ruined by it, and whose opinion, as the Professor who filled the Chair, was at least worth asking in the progress of a revolution in the Faculty, if it was not worth following. I have no conception of justice and fair dealing, if in this respect I was justly and fairly dealt with by the Committee. I will, however, proceed to this matter of the syllabus.

The Committee, in their report, refer to their appointment, two years before, in consequence of a communication from the Medical Faculty; and further reference is made to the call by the Committee, on each Professor, for a syllabus of his lectures, in conformity with the suggestions of the Faculty; which was accordingly delivered on the 15th May, 1830, with a report on each, by a Committee of the Faculty—and a letter from myself.

Having no copy of the different syllabi adverted to in the report, I have no remarks to make upon them, save only, that having had an opportunity of reading that of Dr. Jackson, my opinion of it is embodied in my letter of the 14th May, 1830, addressed to the Dean of the Faculty—and is that alluded to in the Report. As the opinions of the different Committees of the Faculty, on the various Syllabi, were (with the *single exception* of that which reported on the Syllabus of Materia Medica,) extremely favourable, I may come at once to the notice of that, which drew down the animadversions of the gentlemen appointed to report upon it, and which must now be presented to the public as then to the committee.

The following is the report on the Syllabus of Materia Medica, by Dr. Physick and Dr. Chapman—in whose hand-writing it was.

"The Committee to whom was referred the Syllabus of the lectures of the Professor of *Materia Medica*, have to report:—That it appears that *sixteen lectures*, constituting about one-fourth of the course, are appropriated to preliminary discussions, having a relation *mainly to Physiology and Pathology*. Whatever may have been the privilege of any Professor to introduce such inquiries into his course, whilst the Institutes of Medicine were neglected in the School, it seems to the Committee to be now an improper *encroachment* on that Department, since a special provision has been made by the Trustees for the teaching of the subject. The Committee therefore respectfully suggest that *this part of the Course* should be omitted; and if these lectures are deemed by the Professor of general importance, or peculiarly calculated to illustrate any of his own views, that they be published.

(Signed) PHILIP S. PHYSICK,
N. CHAPMAN.

"May 3d, 1830."

As I remonstrated against this report, it was recommitted to the whole of the Medical Faculty—and on the 5th inst. the following report was handed in.

"The Committee of the Medical Faculty, charged by a resolution of the 3d inst. with the report of the Committee on the Syllabus of *Materia Medica*, have had the same under consideration, and recommend its adoption by the Medical Faculty. They further recommend that the Syllabi of the several Courses, with the reports respectively thereon, be laid before the Committee of the Trustees on the state of the Medical School.

(Signed) W. E. HORNER,
Chairman,
WM. GIBSON,
N. CHAPMAN,
P. S. PHYSICK,
THOS. C. JAMES,
ROB. HARE.

"Philada. May 5th, 1830."

By a law of the University, *no Adjunct* has a voice in the proceedings of the Faculty, when the *Principal* is present—yet here we have the monstrous anomaly, that, not only does an *Adjunct* sit in judgment on a primary Chair, even at the same time with his *Principal*, but that *Adjunct* is constituted *Chairman* of the Medical Faculty! If by chance (as has since happened) a *Principal* resigns, the *Adjunct* ceases his functions altogether, and is no longer permitted (or at least ought not to be) to attend the meetings of the Faculty, being no longer a member thereof, in any respect, until, if such should be the case, he is reinstated by the Board of Trustees. It might have therefore been expected that the *Adjunct* of *Anatomy* should, from a due sense of decorum, have absented himself entirely from this meeting, as well as from every other, in which the merits or demerits of a separate and independent Chair were to be taken into consideration! Yet it will be found, that the individual referred to, was always present, on the plea, we presume, of being

Dean of the Faculty—as if a temporary presiding officer could not readily have been chosen!

On the 14th May, 1830, I addressed the following letter to the Dean of the Faculty to be laid before them—and transmitted with their other documents to the Trustees.

"DEAR SIR—Had I seen Dr. Jackson's Syllabus (herewith returned) before the reports of the Committees, I should have had less difficulty in acceding to the views in the report on mine. So perfectly do I appreciate the merits of Dr. Jackson's lectures, as evinced by the outlines, that I shall have great pleasure in so modifying mine, as chiefly to refer to him in those parts wherein it is asserted I have *encroached* upon the Institutes. Had the Committee referred to my fuller lectures, it would have been readily seen, that they were not entitled to the term employed; even had my lectures not been (now nearly ten or twelve years,) founded on the same basis, *when no Institutes were taught* in our School, and, therefore, long anterior to Dr. Jackson's connexion therewith.

"In submitting to the views of the Medical Faculty, I deem it, however, a duty to *protest* on behalf of the Chair of *Materia Medica*: and I conscientiously think, equally in behalf of every Chair in this or any other School of Medicine, against the measures adopted by the Faculty, in assuming the privilege of censors of the lectures of their associates; and in pointing out what, in their estimation, may be right or wrong, in individual modes of instruction: and that, without any authority emanating from the source from which each department holds its appointment. The proceeding is, so far as I know, *new*. The Schools of Edinburgh, Leyden, and others, in so far as I can gather from their records, have never, by the sole authority of a Faculty, undertaken what has been thus assumed by our own; and although it appears to be the adoption unanimously of the Faculty, in respect to each individual report, yet it is, I believe, true, that no one knows even the outlines presented by the different Syllabi, except the respective committees on each.

"I have moreover to remark, that in the haste of the communications on the *Materia Medica*, it would appear, that however evident it was to them, that the preliminary lectures of the *Materia Medica* were an encroachment on those of the Institutes, they have not noticed what was certainly due to the former, that under the head of Therapeutics, every particular of the *Materia Medica* is embraced; and, consequently, that if taught by both Chairs, the same difficulty exists as the reports of the Committee were intended to obviate; and the further views of the Faculty, or of the Board of Trustees, may be required to exactly apportion the range of either.

"If the very slight portions of physiology and pathology incidentally introduced into my lecture, with a view to the better elucidation of the subject, according to my ideas, are misplaced, or an encroachment; surely, if the Institutes embrace so fully the department of the *Materia Medica*, it ought, on the principles of reciprocity, to have been restrained.

"I must request that this, or a copy of it, be permitted to accompany the documents to be laid before the Committee of the Trustees.

"I am, dear Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN REDMAN COXE.

"Dr. HORNER, Dean, &c."

At a meeting of the Faculty, on the 14th of March, 1831, present Drs. Chapman, Gibson, James, Hare, and Horner, a letter was read from the Trustees, or a resolution, that the Medical Faculty be called on for the reasons of their opinions, as to the alteration proposed for the *Materia Medica* chair; and that a copy of Dr. Coxe's communication be sent to the Faculty. The reading of this communication was dispensed with—and a motion was made by the Professor of Chemistry, that Pharmacy be not taught in the University of Pennsylvania. I was present at the early part of this meeting; but in the progress of the discussion that ensued, I took occasion to state, that, as the business connected with the chair I held was now in the hands of the Trustees, I presumed, that when the reasons asked of the Faculty were given, I should have the opportunity of seeing and replying thereto.—I then left the Board.

I may here remark, that this was not the first attempt of the Professor of Chemistry to remove Pharmacy altogether from the school—and thus, to strip himself of the sole and solitary link, by which chemistry can in any way be presumed, or shown, to be connected with the medical department of any school. A few years before, the Professor read a paper to that effect, to a Committee of the Trustees, then assembled in meeting with the Faculty, to consider the state of the Medical School; and it was also discovered that an assistant was required, to deliver lectures on the Institutes that had been *so long neglected*. Their necessity and value to the reputation of the School was amply insisted on—and led, finally, to the recommendation of it by the Faculty, and its adoption by the Trustees of the University, who permitted the Professor of the Practice to select his own assistant, without its being thrown fairly open to public competition. This recommendation was made in a long communication, which is doubtless on their files, in which the encroachments of *Materia Medica* on Chemistry were loudly proclaimed, and the separation of Pharmacy from the School as earnestly urged!—It was not, however, agreed to by the Trustees, and we shall presently see, that the same idea is sedulously held forth in the reply of the Medical Faculty, dated March 22d, 1831, to the resolution of the Trustees, requiring their reasons for the opinions expressed in their various answers to the Circular of the Committee, of January 20th, and enclosed by the Secretary, in the following note, without date.

"University of Pennsylvania.

"DEAR SIR—I was on Friday evening last directed by the Trustees of the University, to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a communi-

cation from the Medical Faculty. The time occupied in copying it has occasioned the delay in sending it.

"With much respect, I am Yours, &c.

JAS. C. BIDDLE, Sec'y.

"Professor J. R. COXE."

The communication referred to, is as follows:

"To the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

"The Medical Faculty have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a Resolution of the Board of Trustees, requiring them to give their reasons in writing for the opinions they have expressed, relative to a change in the organization of the Medical Faculty.

"In proceeding to discharge this duty, it may be proper to trace the course of events which has led to the present posture of the transaction. It will be recollected by the Board, that in the spring of 1829, on an application from the Medical Faculty, a Committee of the Trustees was appointed to confer with them as to the improvement of the system of Medical Education confided to their care. The first step in this investigation had for its object, such a definite limitation of the several branches of medicine taught in the school as to prevent, as far as practicable, *all unnecessary interferences*, from which great inconveniences had long been experienced. As the consequence of a want of a proper regulation in this respect, we had seen the province of one Professor invaded by another, sometimes to the neglect of his own—*doctrines and modes of practice inculcated* diametrically opposed—calculated to perplex the students, as well as to induce *occasionally*, very unpleasant altercations among the Faculty, in the examinations for degrees; the whole concurring to the subversion of the harmony and order which ought to prevail in every plan of medical instruction.

"By the authority of the Trustees, a syllabus of the lectures of each of the Professors, was submitted to the Faculty; and on examination, with the exception of that of Dr. Coxe, the whole approved. As regarded the chair of *Materia Medica*, it was discovered, that at least one-fourth of the course had been appropriated to discussions *entirely alien to the subject—unwarrantable in themselves*, and operating directly to the prejudice of a department, for the teaching of which an appointment had been specially made. To correct this abuse, attempts at friendly remonstrances having proved unavailing, for even the privilege of protesting against it was denied, it was natural that the Faculty should resort to you, as the only competent authority to abate the evil, protect their rights, and secure the best interests of the school thus involved in these collisions.

"The Committee of your Board, to which we have alluded, after a considerable interval, finally met, and *each member of the Faculty having been summoned separately before them*, was called upon to state the precise reformation which, in his opinion, was demanded in the school. To this interrogatory *one common answer* was given, that the course on *Materia Medica* should be reduced to

three lectures a week, and the residue of the time allotted to the Institutes of Physic, to be erected into an independent chair, with an equal division of the present fee.

"The grounds of this recommendation are now to be presented. It is a fact of sufficient notoriety, that in the revolutions of our science, certain branches lose their importance, and become depressed, while others are correspondently elevated, and attract the utmost attention. The *Materia Medica* has met with the former fate. During the dark ages of medicine, when idle credulity and the superstition of ignorance had usurped the place of philosophical inquiry, remedies were infinitely multiplied, and the treatises on them swelled to enormous dimensions. This was the season of its highest estimation. But as we advanced in knowledge, and a severe scrutiny was instituted, confidence ceased "in thousands of these articles," and an expurgation so general came to be practised, that a very small portion only remains. On this point we are assured of the full concurrence of Dr. Coxe himself. It cannot be denied, we think, that his lectures are remarkably characterized by such views; the constant denunciation of remedies, as important or valueless, and by an eager desire to narrow in this way, by expulsion, the confines of the *Materia Medica*. These opinions we frequently have heard him express, and which are again and again reported to us by the class. Treating of the subject in a *formal essay published some years ago*, the following conclusive language is employed by him:—"I believe," says he, "it will be very generally admitted, that no physician, however extensive his practice, does actually employ more than fifty different and distinct articles, probably not even a third part of this number. If such is the fact, it may admit of a question, why we are so anxious to extend the boundaries of this branch of our profession, and whether everything that can be anticipated from a greater variety of less active articles, may not safely be expected from a very few of the most efficient." He then goes on to enumerate, under separate heads, the articles he deems worthy to be retained, which do not exceed the amount specified above.

"Entertaining such sentiments, it follows that his course must be *extended and enriched by trespasses* on other departments, constituting one of the grievances of which we complain. It is *partly true*, as he affirms, that similar invasions, though *not to an equal extent*, were made by his predecessors. But for this there was an apology, which can no longer be pleaded. It so happened, that from 1796 to 1806, the *school had no Professor of the practice of medicine*. The vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Kuhn, was not filled in this interval by the Trustees; and Dr. Rush, who held the chair of the Institutes, gave merely a summary of practice towards the conclusion of his course, referring to his publications for the more important subjects. The Professor of *Materia Medica* at this time, *very wisely endeavoured to supply* this deficiency, by the introduction of much practical disquisition into his lectures. From the infirmities of health, the successor of Dr. Rush was rendered incapable of

performing his duty, he survived only two sessions, seldom appearing in his chair, and dying early in the third; the subjects of his department were distributed among the other Professors, the largest share being assigned to the then teacher of *Materia Medica*.*

"It seems, from this review, that the alleged encroachments, so far from having been pursued by any abstract sense of their propriety, or the sanction of legitimate usage, were the results of the necessities of the school growing out of its peculiar defective condition at these times.

"The dwindled and impoverished state of the *Materia Medica* might be further shown, were it really required, by exhibiting the relation in which it stands to the other departments of Medicine. Chemistry has taken from it all those processes by which the mineral articles are prepared. Botany embraces much of the history of the vegetable substances. Pharmacy appropriates to itself the manipulations of these, which only indeed can be taught in the shop of an apothecary—the principles on which medicines operate have been given to the Institutes, and the practice of physick spreads its wide hands nearly over its surface.

"But considerations of a different kind had also a material influence in dictating our advice.—The Institutes, always deemed one of the highest departments of the science, have recently excited an interest beyond all former example. They comprehend Physiology, Pathology, Therapeutics, and Hygiene; by which are meant the theory of the sound and diseased states of the body, the general principles as we have already said of the *modus operandi* of remedies, and the means of preserving health. It was by the successful illustration of this province that the late Dr. Rush contributed so liberally to the rearing of the reputation of the school, and to which department the laborious researches of many of the most distinguished cultivators of medicine are now applied in Europe and in this country.

"The Institutes are the philosophy of medicine. Destitute of the lights which they afford, the science degenerates into empiricism, in the best acceptance of the term. Could it be otherwise, with such an appreciation of this branch, than that we should desire to see it restored to its former position in the school, from which it had been accidentally dislocated?—And by the mode suggested, we conceived it might be done without any infringement of the just rights of the Professor of *Materia Medica*. Confessedly, or by his own showing, at least ample time would be left to him to deliver all which concerns that province, cut down to its proper limits. *Nor could we mistake the policy of bringing to our aid an ũc-*

* What relative proportion of practical lectures fell to the province of each Professor to deliver, in consequence of the death of Dr. Barton, I do not know accurately. To myself, then in the *Chemical Chair*, were apportioned the following subjects, on which I had to prepare immediately a series of lectures, for the course had then commenced:—Small Pox, Vaccine, Tetanus, Epilepsy, Chorea Sancti Viti, Asthma, Pertussis, Colic, Cholera Morbus, Cholera Infantum, and Diabetes. All of which I was acquainted with, from that *actual and positive experience*, on which the Medical Faculty so copiously dwell, and the want of which is so unhesitatingly and falsely ascribed to me. C.

*complished teacher, who in a more prominent situation, might attract greater observation, and reflect fresh lustre on the school.**

"The Committee, in a manner so solemn as to preclude all evasion or prevarication, put it to us to declare, in a spirit of entire truth and sincerity, whether in our opinions, the present incumbent of the chair of Materia Medica had adequately discharged his duties. This is a subject of extreme delicacy. Content with what was said on it by us in the conference with the Committee, we trust that it may not be further urged. Yet we cannot forbear to remark, that to teach any branch of practical medicine, there must be brought to it *much absolute experience*, and the weight which character as a practitioner confers. This is the *sine qua non* to success. Deficient in this particular, whatever may be the copiousness of reading displayed, the information imparted loses the influence of authority, and is neither useful nor respected.

"To the final inquiry of the Committee, whether it were better, could an able teacher of the Materia Medica be procured to continue the chair uncurtailed, or adopt the proposed arrangement; it was replied, that the latter ought to be unhesitatingly preferred. The reasons for this decision have been anticipated in the progress of this discussion.

"It may, perhaps, be asked, as indeed it was by the Committee, why, with the sentiments we have expressed, we should still favour the retention of our colleague in office. It is easy to discern our motives. The measure of a removal is of a nature so harsh, that we could never acquiesce in it except as an ultimate remedy. Confined within his proper sphere—for it is in travelling out of it that his deficiencies are represented to be most glaring—we have thought that he might be continued without serious detriment, or by a new direction to his efforts, might acquit himself satisfactorily. There are mixed up with the case many other considerations, which had an effect. Every feeling of our hearts, is that of tenderness and benignity towards him.

"Let the result of this investigation be as it may, we shall feel relieved from responsibility. To himself he owes it, and the publicity which it has acquired. The strictest silence has been observed by us. What we have done was imposed by an imperative sense of duty. Every step of our proceeding has been cautiously guarded by a determination to avoid, as far as possible, reflections personal or invidious.

* The teacher here alluded to, was Dr. Jackson, whom, it is not my intention to connect in any way with this controversy, because as far as I have known, he has never connected himself with it; but it is worthy of observation, that the design against me, and the Chair of Materia Medica, is here plainly disclosed by the Medical Faculty, to be the permanent introduction of this gentleman into the School, without any previous intimation to that effect by the Trustees, who alone had the authority to do it. It may also be remarked, that Dr. Jackson was first appointed to *assist* Dr. Chapman, in teaching the Institutes, which belonged to his Chair, and which he had *wholly neglected*. This assistance was at first, at the *exclusive expense* of Dr. Chapman, and afterwards was, by the authority of the Board, (I have never known for what reasons,) charged upon the three Chairs of the Practice, Surgery, and Materia Medica! I leave the reader to make his own reflections! C.

"You will appreciate our situation, and render justice to our motives. Of this be persuaded, in the course adopted, we have acted under the honest convictions of our understandings. Can there be a sinister inducement assigned for our conduct? The school came into our hands as a fair heritage, and it is our purest ambition to transmit it to our successors, unshorn of a single beam of its glory or supremacy.

"It cannot be concealed, that our continued prosperity is in some degree to be ascribed to adventitious causes. We have been succoured by private institutions auxiliary to us, and immensely benefited by the wreck of rival schools. The latter, however, are everywhere building up anew, renovating their strength, and preparing to struggle with us. It is only by a general acknowledgment of our superiority of *talent and advantages*, that we can preserve our ascendancy. Give to us the organization now proposed, and, in no arrogant spirit, may our future triumphs over all competition be predicted.—!!

"By order,

W. E. HORNER,
Dean of the Med. Faculty."

"Philad. March 22, 1831.

"University of Pennsa.

"At a meeting of the Medical Faculty, held this day, present Drs. Physick, Chapman, Hare, James, Gibson, *Deweese*, and *Horner*, it was unanimously resolved, that the preceding reply to the communication of the Trustees of March 1st, 1831, be adopted, and that the same be communicated to the Board of Trustees by the Dean of the Medical Faculty.

"W. E. HORNER, Dean."

To this I sent the following reply:—

"To the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

"GENTLEMEN—In replying to the alleged reasons of the Medical Faculty for their opinions expressed, relative to a proposed change in the organization of the Medical School, it is apparent that a considerable proportion is rather an answer to suggestions, arising out of my former communication to your Board, than a development of the reasons which governed them, *prior to the private and individual examination* of the Professors. How far the questions proposed, may have involved them, imperceptibly, in the conclusions they have drawn, and thus led them to assent to propositions, unforeseen, and which assuredly had no existence or belief in the minds and views of the majority, previous to "the spring of 1829," it is impossible for me to say. Presuming, however, that all due consideration was given to the subject, and to *each question proposed, in all its bearings*, I proceed to give it that respectful attention to which so important a paper is entitled; and in which individual, as well as the united interests of the Faculty, are implicated.

"It is affirmed, that 'we had seen the province of one Professor *invaded* by another, sometimes to the neglect of his own; doctrines and modes of practice inculcated, *diametrically opposite*, calculated to perplex the student, as well as to induce

occasionally, very *unpleasant altercations* among the Faculty, in the examination for degrees.' So far as this may refer to me, (for of others I cannot speak,) I can say but little, unless I had the actual matter complained of before me. Such general and sweeping assertions may be very differently viewed, according to the foundation on which they are *actually* based. I can therefore only say, that if employing the collateral aid of different branches, to illustrate what I might deem useful, can be called *invasion*, then assuredly I have done it; and I think I may defy the Professor of any branch, so exclusively to keep within what might be deemed its rigorous limits, (even if they were fixed by universal consent,) as never to pass the boundary! The fluctuations of the science forbid it; the variety of order and arrangement in different schools, both past and present, and of all whose regulations have reached us, all equally demonstrate the improbability; and the very proposition before your Board, with the reasons on which it is affirmed to be founded, will be equally found to prove it. The term *invasion* is therefore harsh in its application, and has not been correctly employed, in relation to the subject to which it is applied. As I am not sensible that I have *neglected* my own particular province, or of having gone out of it, except for the purpose of collateral illustration, I cannot perceive that I am therein reprehensible. If, in doctrine, or in practice, differences occur, they are the necessary result of the uncertain and unsettled character of medicine, as exemplified in the varying and sometimes contradictory statements of writers. Within the compass of half a century, as many doctrines have been taught, and as much diversity of practice enforced, in *our schools*, as there have been teachers. I have never heard this particularly objected to; nay, we might demand, how could the *prevailing* doctrines of this school have gained their present standing, had the shackles of preceding teachers been quietly tolerated, and the wholesome principle set aside, of 'nullius in verba magistri?' In saying this, I mean neither to contend for, nor to oppose, the truth of present or past opinions, either of theory or practice. Insusceptible of mathematical demonstration, the inquiry would, at best, be imperfect, and here misplaced. But I may be allowed to ask, whether presumed errors or mistakes must remain unopposed, because they may have been, at any time, the favourite and prevailing sentiment? It must be admitted that the dogmas of no school, however celebrated, are capable of permanently sustaining the wide extended fabric of medicine, if not based on the firm foundation of truth. Much of the present doctrines, and present practice, will probably give way before the influence of time; and many of the *writers* and *teachers* of the present day be either altogether forgotten, or regarded of as little consequence as their predecessors are by them. In asserting the difficulty of establishing an exact limit, as the boundary of each particular branch, I may, in proof, remark, that the diseases of women and children, *as such*, appertain solely to the Practical chair, and not legitimately, in the smallest degree, to that of Midwifery, considered in its narrowest acceptation. Nor would

they have been conceded, I suspect, in the arrangement of the syllabi, had not the vast amount of matter, over which the Practice of Physic '*spreads its wide hands*,' been found too extended to be grasped within the limits of the course! The same will apply to sundry diseases directly treated of by the Surgical chair: but whose legitimate confines would be found limited to a narrower sphere. More might be added to support my position, if more were requisite; all tending to show the difficulty of pretending to affix any strict limitation to a branch; seeing that every branch of medical science is naturally connected with some other, either directly or indirectly; and proving that all subdivisions that have been heretofore, or that may now, or hereafter, be adopted, are merely artificial: that nature laughs at them, and that time explodes, remodels, or reinstates them, just as a capricious hypothesis, or apparent temporary convenience may suggest.

"As to any unpleasant altercations in the Medical Faculty, arising from the causes alleged, I can only say, that, during a period of more than twenty years, that I have steadily attended the examination of the candidates, I have seen but three or four instances, to my recollection, of such events. One, indeed, was connected with myself; and arose out of my animadversions on a candidate, whose thesis I was examining, and who had ventured strongly to uphold the importance of a quack remedy, (Swaim's Panacea, in 1823,) *before a Faculty, whose solemn duty* called them steadily to stem a torrent, so opposed to the real character of *regular professors*; and but for the otherwise general excellence of his thesis, I would have dissented from his reception, on the above account alone. Any other altercations, so far as I recollect, may be ascribed to other causes; but, admitting them even in their full force, it might have been supposed that the instances referred to must have been of every day occurrence.

"With respect to the statement relative to the syllabi, 'that a syllabus of the lectures of each of the Professors was submitted to the Faculty, and on examination, with the exception of that of Dr. Coxe, the whole approved,' it may be said, that the Faculty, as such, did little in the business, except to approve (without a joint reading of each syllabus) of the reports of the respective committees on each subject. How far the syllabi were perfected, I cannot say; I can only remind the Faculty of the *singularly brief method, in one instance pursued*, of framing a syllabus; that of bringing a *basket full* of regular lectures at full length, for their perusal! I have, however, to attend to my own syllabus, rather than to the rest: and here, I can only refer to what is stated in a former communication, viz. that the lectures complained of, were the basis of my course, ever since I have lectured on the *Materia Medica*; and are of a similar character with those of most of my predecessors in that chair, the subjects of which were not, at that time, taught by any other member of the Faculty. That they were *entirely alien to the subject*, I cannot believe to have been the opinion of the whole Faculty; and, if it was, it would not change my impression on the subject. The hasty outline constituting my sylla-

bus, can scarcely be deemed adequate for a full exposition of the connexion of the subject, and yet, sufficient proof is attained of this connexion by the fact, that a similar series constitutes a part of the Institutes, as may be seen in the syllabus of the gentleman to whom that branch is entrusted; and these appear as actually preparing the way to the subsequent therapeutic division of his lectures. I may here incidentally remark, that an attentive perusal of that syllabus will prove most conclusively, the impossibility of a distinct line of demarcation between the branches; and that, under the name of *Institutes*, not merely the 'philosophy,' but every other particular of the science of medicine, may be taught in all its subdivisions. It is, indeed, more extensive than the chair of Practice itself and all the others combined, if they are strictly limited to the immediate and exclusive points of their respective charge. If a review of the above syllabus is deemed inadequate to prove this assertion, I would respectfully refer you to the extended proof afforded by the admirable, and never yet surpassed 'Academical Lectures on the Institutes,' by the illustrious Dr. Boerhaave.

"I am totally unconscious of any particular friendly remonstrances. When remonstrances have been made, they have been of a character which a decent sense of self-respect would forbid me from attending to. Whatever may have been the remote views as to the *Materia Medica*, it is certain that a reduction of it was not contemplated by the tenor of those remonstrances; and it is equally certain, that, destroy it altogether, in its present form and name, it must inevitably, under the sanction of some more favoured denomination, be taught in every school of medicine. Whatever the Board of Trustees may conclude upon, as to this, I shall acquiesce in, under a perfect conviction of its propriety. I shall have done all that I owed to the chair that was in my power—meaning, by the measures I have pursued, neither to arrogate to myself any superiority, nor to call in question the capability or assiduity of others.

"I have, on a former occasion, adverted to the impropriety of examining a *Medical Faculty*, individually. I retain a perfect confidence in what I have heretofore stated on that point; and I beg leave now, in addition, to remark, that when an inquiry begins in this way, and individual Professors become personally committed, the final adoption of these individual sentiments, by a regularly formed Faculty, cannot be regarded as the deliberate and collected wisdom of the whole. Such a procedure as took place in my case, was, I do not hesitate to say, both unjust and cruel. No individual of the Faculty can be safe, under the influence of the precedent. It may assail all of them in their turn; and the protest which I enter against it, is not less on their behalf than my own.

"Leaving, however, the character of this proceeding out of the question, and supposing that the whole has, as is alleged, been fully adopted by the Faculty, (and unanimously, as stated, which I leave for the private consideration of at least one of that body,) I proceed to notice what is termed the 'grounds' of the recommendation; premising that, were the whole train of questions

that were proposed to each individual before me, it is not improbable that I might develop the links of that chain, which, from an apparently different beginning, have terminated in the resolutions presented to you, and demonstrate, that, to the majority of the Faculty, these ulterior views had no existence until then, or even until a later period, when they were embodied and prepared for use; for it is not difficult to perceive that on answering concisely, a gentleman of upright views, and sound judgment too, may, at times, be involved in a dilemma, which would scarcely leave him any freedom of will as to the conclusion, though that conclusion may be far removed from his original views.

"It is readily conceded 'that in the revolutions of our science, some branches lose their importance, and become depressed; whilst others are correspondently elevated.' It may nevertheless be questioned, whether this depends on a commensurate improvement in our science, on the modes of teaching it, or on the fluctuations of fanciful hypotheses, brought forth and cherished with the greatest pertinacity. Whichever, if either of these, be the case, certain it is that the depression of a branch by no means extinguishes the necessity for its being still taught. In so far as this is fact, the mere change of name is perhaps of but little importance, although it strongly tends to show the imperfection of the profession itself.

"The *Materia Medica* is affirmed to have had its season of highest estimation in the dark ages of medical credulity and superstition! I leave my colleagues to the full enjoyment of their opinions, and if their views of this branch are really derived from the dominant treatises of two or three centuries back, I cannot but admit their justice to a certain extent. But it may be well, exactly to know to what period their reference is limited. So excessively vague is the term "dark ages," that no two persons will probably coincide! When, too, it may be asked, did light begin to dawn upon us? At whatever period chosen, it will probably be found that it (the *Materia Medica*,) was not superior in any respect, either in estimation or fact, to the other subdivisions of the science, as then promulgated, unless, indeed, its connexion with Chemistry gave it some advantages it had not before possessed. For myself, I cannot but estimate the era of Cullen, as that in which *Materia Medica* was most highly appreciated, and I am yet to learn that that was one of the dark ages of Medicine. Under his direction it assumed a superior standing, by the introduction of a more enlightened philosophy, and by a judicious curtailment of a large number of useless appendages. In this last measure I have pursued his footsteps, as the observations of the Faculty have led you to perceive. Nor should I want authority of the highest kind, to warrant this proceeding, independently of Cullen, were it essential; and which I am prepared to produce, if the remarks above alluded to, on the curtailment I have advocated, are brought forward with the intent of throwing a suspicion on me, of neglecting all but the articles I have supposed essential! If such is the object of the Faculty, they do me great injustice,

as can be readily shown by a comparison of the remedies I lecture on, and those adverted to. In treating on any of these articles, however, it becomes a duty to mention to the class the vicissitudes in its employment, its former estimation, or present neglect, and the different light in which it has been viewed by contemporary practitioners! Such different views, it will be recollected, although alike founded on *alleged experience*, are often in diametrical opposition to each other! Can both be right, and is not this contradiction to be stated to a class, and endeavours made to reconcile opinions thus conflicting? Is medicine really so settled as a science, either in theory or practice, that our classes are to be informed of nothing beyond the narrow limits of our own views, even though founded on the boasted though imperfect basis of self-experiment? Are they simply to be told, this is a cathartic, or that an emetic; its doses and preparations? If such is your opinion, gentlemen, (as it seems to be that of the Faculty,) it is indeed time to sink forever the branch of *Materia Medica*, in this and every other school of medicine.

"The explanation given as to the non-existence of a *Professor of Practice* from 1796 to 1806, and the consequent and apparently essential supply of this deficiency by the then *Professor of Materia Medica*, may be correct; and, if correct, can be verified by a reference to *your minutes*. Those of the Medical Faculty are insufficient, I believe, to establish such an explanation; more especially when it attempts to ascribe a *positive reason* to the actions of the then *Professor of Materia Medica*; which cannot now be adequately proved, since he has left no record of the same. Admitting it, however, in its fullest extent, it appears but an enlargement of Cullen's plan; and nearly the same as that adopted by his predecessor, Dr. Griffiths, in 1791, as their respective lectures will demonstrate; as well as from Cullen's treatise being the solitary text-book of all those teachers. It would appear from the statement of the Faculty, however, that the period alluded to was not of that importance to the *Practical chair* which its '*wide spreading hands*' would seem to indicate. That was the period of its depression, inasmuch as for ten years, and those not of the *dark ages*, its name was unknown in our school! That still greater Leviathan, the *Institutes*, was then in its glory, as a principal; and had thrown it out of notice, at least by name! for it is admitted that Dr. Rush gave a '*summary of Practice*, towards the conclusion of his course.' Now this '*summary of Practice*,' we may remark, embraced nearly all the diseases of notoriety; and constituted, in connexion with his (Dr. Rush's) clinical lectures and remarks, as *excellent a series of practical lectures as have ever been delivered* in this school. Whether the alleged encroachments of the then existing chair of *Materia Medica* were really the '*result of necessity in the school*' must be left for the judgment of your Board. For myself, I conceive, that no necessity existed, saving that alone of giving an independent title to the branch of *Practice*, and thus causing it to emerge from its temporary obscurity. Even this, however, may be questioned, if we judge by the divisions made in some schools of medicine, in which

under the title of *Practice of Physic*, no distinct and separate branch appears! Although much more might be added on this particular, I leave it, to notice the asserted '*dwindled and impoverished state of the Materia Medica*,' as shown by its relation to the other departments of medicine, particularly *Botany*, *Chemistry*, and *Pharmacy*. But perhaps it will unexpectedly appear, that what is thus intended as proof against the *Materia Medica alone*, may militate in a *stronger degree* against some chairs that have joined in this crusade against it, but which, at present, least anticipate a reaction against themselves.

"I will not stop to show, that the three branches thus *specialy* named, are *merely subordinate* to the Chair of *Materia Medica* in a Medical school. Independently of the propriety of the Physician, in *common with every man of general and of liberal education*, being acquainted to a certain extent with the two former of those branches, it will certainly be evident, that *they have no necessary connexion* with medicine, *beyond* what arises from the immediate articles of the *Materia Medica*, that are respectively connected with them. Now, of perhaps more than thirty thousand varieties of plants, known to the *Botanist*, how few are actually employed in medicine! If any doubts exist on this point, I shall present the following extract from the writings of the illustrious Boerhaave, who had exercised his vast abilities in the respective Chairs of *Botany*, *Chemistry*, *Institutes*, and *Practice of Physic*, in the University of Leyden, during a period of thirty years; and who, consequently, may be presumed fully capable of appreciating justly, the *peculiar connexion* of these branches:—independently of which, he may well be admitted as good authority on this, as on *every other* subject, in the vast circle of medical science; and were it necessary, I might strengthen the extract from Boerhaave, by quotations from Cullen* of equal force; and even from Dr. Chapman himself.

"A curious study of this matter, (*Botany*, says Boerhaave,) is not required for the *Materia Medica*; for *Botany* is the knowledge of *all plants* in the world, hitherto known: and it is no matter of moment, whether the physician, for example, knows what an Oak is, *provided he knows all the plants* which are useful in his study; *which is limited to about two hundred plants*; and is the most easy of any, and may be considered in these two respects.—1st, as enlarging natural history; 2nd, as it belongs to the use of *physic*, and the full knowledge of that science," &c. To this, I may add, that even of the few thus considered requisite, *several* present, even now, not a little ambiguity to the *Botanist* himself; and yet, *they* have been prescribed for centuries! Our National Pharmacopoeia scarcely carries up the *whole list of its articles*, vegetable, mineral, and animal, to three hundred.

"Such authority as Boerhaave, may well satisfy any reasonable mind, as to what is the *rational connexion* of *Botany* with *Materia Medica*. The latter, *wants not*, necessarily, or essentially, the association of *Botany*! Although benefited by the association, it is precisely on the same founda-

* Mat. Med. 1. 135, 4to.

tion that the claim is made for Botany as to its union with medicine, that we must admit an equal necessity for Mineralogy and Zoology! All these, as branches of natural history, are very properly assumed as parts of the education of a physician, in common with every other person of liberal pursuits; further than this, their respective claims to a connexion with medicine, must be considered as very small.

"In regard to Chemistry, it is surprising to me, that the Professor of that branch, in a medical faculty, by joining in the "unanimous" resolution presented to you, did not perceive, that by separating Pharmacy from our school, and limiting its teaching to the shop of the apothecary, he has himself, dis severed the only solitary link, by which he has been connected with that faculty! It is not general Chemistry, so much as its specific and pharmaceutical application, that is required in a medical school. When Chemistry was solely in the hands of the medical profession, as the principal intermedium of Pharmacy, the world at large, knew nothing of it. Its close connexion with every art of civilized society, was not then appreciated; and it became too often a mere instrument of deception, in the fallacious attempts of its followers, to attain the Philosopher's stone, and an Elixir of Immortality. Scarcely was it realized beyond the laboratory of the medical Pharmaceutist. It is now a science so extensive, as to overshadow, or connect itself with almost every art and science! Whilst as a branch of general knowledge, it now constitutes a part in every plan of liberal education, it necessarily, as such, gives rise to a Professorship in the Arts, as united with Natural Philosophy; and it is also diversely taught, in every region, in connexion with other pursuits of life, as Agriculture, Manufactures, Dying, &c., all of which are indebted to its powerful agencies for their chief importance and improvement. But what has a medical school to do with it, when its connexion with the Materia Medica, through the intermedium of Pharmacy, is thus denied, by the Professor of Chemistry itself? Where is its relationship with any other of the branches, as of Anatomy, Midwifery, Surgery, and so forth? And if associated with none of them, wherefore is it made a principal branch in our school, or rather, why is it taught at all, in the medical department? Nothing can be taught as Chemistry, simply considered, in a medical school, now, that has not a close and immediate reference to the manipulations and preparations of Pharmacy. If more than this be taught, it is useless, inasmuch as the same is taught by private teachers, and in every faculty of the arts. If less is taught, or if its connexion with Pharmacy is denied, its location, as a principal Chair, in a Medical Faculty, is yet more incongruous, than I have endeavoured to point out, in relation to Botany and Mineralogy! Pharmaceutical Chemistry, is that alone required in a medical school, unshackled by the loftier flights it is qualified to take, in connexion with the extensive branches of natural history in all its bearings. Chemistry may, and must be separated from Pharmacy, in various particulars. This last never can be separated from Chemistry; and if, to acquire Pharmacy, it

is requisite to turn a student over to the apothecary, it is as clear as the sun at noon-day, that a Chemical department is useless in our school. That portion of Pharmacy that is acquired in the shop of the apothecary, strictly so called, is of little importance, since it is of extreme limitation. It may, perhaps, be said, that the Faculty, by their expressions, confine Pharmacy to the vegetable kingdom, and to the manipulations alone. Whichever view is taken of it, to me, it is equally erroneous; and equally goes to prove, the non-necessity of Chemistry to the medical department. It was the mere exposition of the Pharmaceutical processes, in former times, that alone retained Chemistry, as the subordinate handmaid to the Materia Medica; and nothing exists at present, to render it more strictly its associate, than formerly; whilst, if that only medium of association be denied, you may safely, and with the utmost propriety, reduce both the time and the expenses of our Classes. I oppose not, Gentlemen, this delightful branch of study; nor do I wish to lessen its importance in the eyes of the Trustees. It is well known to many of you, that I have invariably, both whilst I had the honour of a seat in your Board, and also, whilst holding the Professorship of Chemistry, upheld its importance, and maintained its connexion with a medical education, in opposition to some who now sustain, but then, threw every obstacle in its way. Perhaps there could not have been devised, a better plan, than that of suggesting its separation from Pharmacy, in order, completely to thrust it from our medical department. Had the present professor been himself, inducted to the Degree he holds in the Profession of Physic, (as an honorary testimonial,) by a regular attendance on all its branches; and by undergoing himself, the ordeal of that medical examination at which he assists, he probably would have appreciated more correctly the association, thus attempted to be destroyed; and would rather have upheld the integrity of that Chair, on which alone, his own may be said to be dependent.

"I need say nothing respecting the exalted opinion entertained by the Faculty of the Institutes. The interest excited by them has been uniform: nor is it greater now, than it was in the days of Boerhaave, or of Rush! The advance in many parts of the profession, and the facilities of communication, have given it advantages not before possessed, and have thus urged in the pursuit of its varied objects, physiological, pathological, and therapeutic, a more numerous set of followers, judging from the publications daily given to the world, of infinitely diversified degrees of merit or of confidence; and which serve to prove, that either the facilities of printing, or the *cacoethes scribendi*, had never heretofore reached to so high a pitch. I am certain that my estimation of the Institutes is equal to that of any of my colleagues. I learned their value from the writings of Boerhaave, enforced by the lucid and oral observations of my venerable grandfather, Dr. Redman, and by the lectures of my preceptor, his favourite pupil and friend, Dr. Rush; whilst my long acquaintance with the gentleman who fills the chair at present, assures me that interest will be maintained by him.

"Respecting that part of the reply of the Faculty, which has reference to *my competence* in the discharge of my duty, I owe it to myself to say, that not being as willing to see either my character, or the comfort of my family sacrificed, as my colleagues appear to be, I cannot surrender them to the opinion of those gentlemen, which I know is not founded on their own personal observation; and among whom, if it were, there are some, to whose competency on this head I do not assent. They have derived the opinion they have expressed, from unknown individuals; individuals whose numbers, names, motives, and competency, ought to be ascertained by your Board, before they act upon a charge thus made in the dark, and which, consequently, I have no adequate means to refute. I will not speak in my own praise; I will not do it even indirectly, by assailing the pretensions of any of my colleagues. But before I am condemned under this charge, I claim from your Board the opportunity of a full and impartial hearing; and I know, from the character and the public responsibility of the men whom I address, that I shall have such a hearing, before they act upon the charge as true. I say nothing further on this head.

"Hitherto, I have been contending for the interests of the Chair of the Materia Medica, without the remotest association with myself. The conviction that for upwards of twenty years, I have most sedulously pursued whatever I considered beneficial to the interests of the school, would effectually arrest me in any attempt to reply to an innuendo, so completely unlooked for by me, so far as I could draw deductions from the primary and ostensible movements of the Faculty! Arrogating no claim to the superior attainments of my colleagues, I have still a duty to perform—that of endeavouring to teach as my conscience may approve, in a science fluctuating and unsettled beyond all others, abounding in hypotheses opposed as the Antipodes, and too often sustained by falsehood; but which there is no supreme authority that I know of, absolutely to determine on, and happily harmonize! Whether it be theoretically or practically in which I have been deficient, or in which I have been so unhappy as to differ from the gentlemen who so conspicuously support the honours of our school, I trust, when you have elicited this point, that I may be able to afford a reason, for any such difference, or apparent deficiency, deeming it no heresy to differ from my colleagues in either respect, although with all due deference to their superior merits. As in my actions, both in respect to the present case, and in my other concerns of life, I have endeavoured to pursue a plain and open course, so I have certainly not deemed it necessary to consider this attack upon me as a subject of secrecy. I know no reasons for my silence, however others might desire it, and yet I believe the facts, or many of them, connected with the business, were known to others long before I had even a suspicion of it. From what quarter I know not. It is difficult, amongst so many, to keep the secrets of any ministry or set of men.

"I must not permit the views advanced, to pass

unnoticed—"that to teach any branch of practical medicine, there must be brought to it much absolute experience, and the weight which character, as a practitioner, confers!—This is the *sine qua non* of success."

"Here, at length, the Faculty appear to be coming to a point! Yet, what is meant by "any branch of practical medicine," apart from the actual practice of Physic, might be difficult to show. We presume, however, that Surgery and Materia Medica may be peculiarly adverted to. If Pharmacy had not been driven, as we have above seen, to the shop of the apothecary, I might perhaps have given it a place; since it will probably be conceded, that the correct preparation of the article prescribed, is of as much, nay, often of more importance, than the prescription itself. If the position is otherwise correct, without a particular reference to any branch, is not one, at least, absolutely wanting, in this magistral and doctortorial requisite for teaching?

"Many of the Trustees may probably recollect, that thirty or forty years ago, and previous to the vast extension of dispensaries and public charities, each practitioner had his individual proportion of pauper patients, who, for the most part, were committed to the care and attention of those of his pupils, in whom he placed confidence. The shop of the physician was then, almost exclusively, the depository of medicines and of pharmaceutic manipulation; and from thence, both poor and rich, were supplied by the student, with the articles prescribed.—He thus became acquainted with the remedies employed—and if he thought proper, with many of the details of Pharmacy. Now, however, a physician would feel degraded, who should pursue a similar plan for the benefit of his pupils; and as few of them, comparatively, ever enter a regular store, it follows, that they have but little chance of practically attaining a knowledge of the remedies they may hear recommended. Such of them as graduate, must attend, it is true, one season, either the Hospital or Alms-house; for, except as to them, the rule is not imperative—and hence, it often happens that, except from lectures on the Materia Medica, not any knowledge of the subject is acquired.

"If it is intended to affirm that "much absolute experience" is essentially necessary to qualify any person to teach the Materia Medica, I would reply, that, specious as the position at first sight appears, it is extremely problematical and delusive! It would be easy to show, if it were not self-evident, that if this proposition be admitted in its full extent, every article must necessarily be rejected or neglected, in a course of lectures, that had not actually come within the enlarged practical experience of each Teacher. How many of the countless multitude of drugs any individual practitioner employs, must greatly depend on the views he has imbibed, as to the necessity of an extensive or limited number. But must the practitioner distrust his contemporary or predecessor, in his relation of the effects of articles, that he himself has never tried,—their doses and different application in the same or in untried diseases? And may not the Lecturer equally confide in, and state to his Class, the experience

of others, although he may have none himself? What is the object of the instruction afforded?—Can it possibly differ to the Student, whether it be attained from the actual experience of his Teacher—or by reading the writings of those who have experimentally investigated the subject? Do all the facts, or reported facts, detailed by our Faculty in their lectures, absolutely rest upon their own experience; and are they willing to forego all but that? If the Teacher limits thus his instructions to the confined boundaries of his own mind, great injustice will be done his hearers. His reading, whether practically experienced, or not, must absolutely be brought into requisition;—for it is his duty to state to his hearers, both sides of a question—and which cannot be pretermitted if differences exist, either theoretically or practically; and to harmonize, if possible, conflicting statements. What else, but this, renders of use the foreign and domestic journals and treatises, conveying information which ought not to be acted on, if the views of the Faculty are correct! But will it be seriously contended, that because we have not the precise self-experience they detail, we are therefore to forego the use of that information, either in our practice, or as it enables us to afford instruction to our hearers! If the young physician, stepping into life, depends on lectures and on reading, for the validity of that practice he is about to pursue, and, on the authority of which lectures and reading, his medical examination was based, and his Diploma granted—by what sophistry shall he be told that he has no experience, or that his Teachers depended solely on the authority of others, and had no self-experience in the subject? Let us suppose it Plague—or Indian Cholera, or the true Lepra Arabum, or twenty other diseases, practically unknown to us;—are they, therefore, not to be touched on by the practical Chair, because the incumbent may chance to want “much absolute experience” in them! If this absolute self-experience, so highly and confidently noted by the Faculty, is really so imperiously necessary to the Teacher—how much more so must it be to the practitioner himself!—And yet, it is on unexperienced facts, so far as self is concerned, that the young practitioner can alone advance to the encounter of disease. Are not the recorded statements from the experience of others, like precedents in law, on which dependence is implicitly placed? And must they not always be deemed the great landmarks by which unexperienced steps are to be directed? May we not justly say, that the whole purport of our Schools, is, or ought to be, that of communicating, truly and impartially, the numerous facts that are so extensively spread throughout the writings of past and present time—but which could never be attained by the slow and uncertain process of self-experience!

“On this point, it may be furthermore well to inquire whether it is intended to convey the idea that, because an individual may have altogether, or in part, seceded from the actual practice of his profession, it follows that he must necessarily have forgotten all his former information; or was unable to keep up the march of inquiry by

diligently perusing the writings of his contemporaries, as for instance those of the learned Faculty themselves? If the Faculty have really intended to convey a meaning with respect to me, which is assuredly implied, in language not to be misunderstood, you are, gentlemen, fully capable of estimating its validity, and the exact extent of practice that should be considered essential for the safeguard of our respective lectures. Perhaps, if fully carried out, I might be enabled to show that this “unanimous” opinion (of five Professors, and two ADJUNCTS!) would reach to other chairs. It does not, however, with respect to myself, hold good in theory or in fact; and which I am prepared to establish, when I know exactly to what extent the position of the Faculty is intended, by each one, individually to reach.

After all—Let us for an instant recur to, and inquire, wherein this vaunted absolute weight of character exists? The Faculty assure us that it arises from Practice, “the weight which character as a practitioner confers,” &c.—Now let each member of the Faculty measure out the exact degree of character he is entitled to by the aforesaid standard. But, let me ask the Faculty themselves to determine, whether men have never succeeded in our profession, who, in spite of great and extensive practice, have nevertheless been absolutely deficient in medical and in moral worth? Or further, whether they deem success in practice, to be invariably a test of real weight of character? Let the Faculty further determine the precise line of self-experience that is to be invariably depended on, at all times; and to what extent each, individually, has approximated that limit! Let them individually say, whether this boasted self-experience, leading, as it ought, apparently to truth, ought not to be fixed and unchangeable in the hands of all, especially where important medical truths are publicly announced by authority, on which the world naturally relies for protection against fraud and deception. But, has our Profession never been insulted by public recommendations of secret remedies and panaceas, by men of high standing, backed by their own “much absolute experience?” And has that profession never witnessed a counter self-experience from the self-same individuals, which with equal publicity contradicts this, within the compass of a few years? Which of these absolute evidences of self-experience, is the Profession and the public to accredit? for each, it will be perceived, rests on the same authority! Which experience, from the same person, may we teach to our classes as correct, should our own self-experience chance to know nothing of the merits of either? Can any weight of character reconcile to the Profession, such opposing evidences of “absolute self-experience?” And wherein, here, is the “sine qua non of success” apparent? Be assured, gentlemen, that, although the position that has been thus assumed, may serve to point a sentence, and convey an implication, yet it is untenable. Will my colleagues of the Faculty submit to be tried by their own touchstone? We greatly doubt it! and I come to the conclusion, with hundreds of facts to support me, that experience, “absolute” as it may be, is too often a boasted, but hackneyed

term, and of no use or advantage, if unaccompanied by a discriminating judgment, a sound discretion, and the *most undeviating truth*.

"I have little to add to these remarks; and yet, the paper of the Faculty admits of much discussion, had time permitted. Appreciating the benevolent and tender feelings of my colleagues, with a sincerity equal to their own, I have to thank them for the open character, which this long agitated plan has finally assumed. Whatever may result from it, I feel myself perfectly innocent; and I leave the Faculty to reconcile the immense disparity of their original views, and those subsequently adopted; and *individually* to answer to their consciences, and to your Board, at what point of time this conviction of my inadequacy to the discharge of my duty, became fully fixed in their minds, under the sole influence of deliberate and unprejudiced judgments, so as to enable them finally to render this verdict against me!

"As, from the whole bearing of this affair, now brought so fully before your Board, it seems reasonable to presume that some changes may be deemed essential, conformably to the joint wishes of the Faculty, I shall barely remark, that the opportunity offered is so favourable to a full consideration of what modifications may be useful to the School, in all its branches, as to lead to a hope that it may be fully entered into: for, whatever the Faculty may infer, *as to superiority of talent*, or other advantages that the School may possess, yet the *rival schools* adverted to, do have a powerful influence; and they will daily increase that influence against us, *if other steps than those*, pointed to unanimately by the Faculty, are not likewise attended to.

"In support of the integrity of my Chair, as well as of that of every one of my colleagues, I would respectfully inquire of your Board, how far, in a case like the present, *adjuncts* can be permitted to bring in *their co-operation* against a principal branch; as appears by a note of the Dean, accompanying the communication of the Faculty to you?—With the highest respect for these gentlemen, I cannot but think that *they overstepped their powers*; and that, *their principals being present*, they should have withdrawn. Nay, if even their Principal was absent, I cannot conceive that an *adjunct* could, in such a case, properly supply his place; seeing that, in case of death or resignation of a Principal, the connexion of the adjunct with the Faculty necessarily terminates, until he may be again recognized by a vote of the Trustees.

Requesting pardon for the extension of these remarks, beyond what might have been expected, I am, Gentlemen, with the utmost respect,

Your very obedient servant, &c.

JOHN REDMAN COXE.

The subject which thus commenced in the appointment of a committee on the 7th of April, 1829, but had no avowed reference to me of which I was apprized, as in candour and justice I should have been, before January, 1831, was by these communications from the Medical Fa-

culty and myself, now placed before the Trustees for their decision; and while I am unable to state what were the several steps taken in that Board, in reference to this subject, I have been informed, that a short time after the report of the 1st of February, 1831, the Committee called it up for discussion, and that after due deliberation, *each and every proposition or resolution, submitted by that report was, NEGATED*. The Chair of Materia Medica was thus saved from degradation, and myself from consequent exclusion from the School.—For a time the affair appeared to be thus put at rest. My encroaching sixteen lectures were not talked of, at least to my knowledge. The winter course of lectures of 1831 and 1832, began in apparent harmony, and I almost flattered myself that the decision of the Board of Trustees, the Governors of the Institution, would be acquiesced in, and that the Faculty would no longer persist in its denunciation of the Chair of Materia Medica, or of me its Professor. But if I thus flattered myself, I did not know the Faculty, or at least the *ruling part* of the Faculty. The Board of Trustees did not know the Faculty, if they supposed that it would yield to any decision that was not in conformity to the will of that ruling part. It became necessary, however, for the Faculty to yield a seeming acquiescence, and to this necessity must be ascribed the apparent peace or truce that ensued this decision, and continued until after some progress had been made in the medical lectures of 1831 and 1832.

During this interval of hollow peace, there was time enough for the Faculty to discover and correct the error of this their first proceeding. Though the Trustees had appointed a committee, by whom the investigations, such as they were, were made, yet that appointment had taken place under a resolution, or letter from the Medical Faculty. The Faculty, or its members, were consequently the responsible authors of all that was proposed to be done. They had to sustain what they proposed, by some show of reason, and their reasons were examinable. They were, moreover, responsible members of society, and every step that they openly took to prostrate my reputation, and the comfort and stability of my family, as large and dependent, and as worthy of consideration as that of any of them, was, however, to them to be a step, which to the open first movers in it, would have its attendant responsibilities of the most trying kind. They did not care to continue in a proceeding of this nature. They had assumed the responsibility in the first instance, and the Board of Trustees had decided against them. Nothing was more politic than that they should retire from the front position; and that irresponsible persons should be induced to take it. Accordingly, in due time, such persons were induced to take it, as I shall now proceed to show.

In a previous paragraph, I have shown that the attempt of the Faculty to cut down the Chair of Materia Medica—to erect an independent and separate Professorship under the name of Institutes—and to degrade the reputation of the existing Professor of the Materia

Medica, and, under the plea of ignorance and incompetency, to promote his removal from that Chair, failed entirely in its accomplishment, by the voice of the Trustees; although the name of every individual Professor, both principal and adjunct, with one exception, was brought in such formidable array against me. I say, with one exception; and I mention it with satisfaction, that it was Dr. Jackson, who, on no one occasion was, I believe, a party to any of the measures that were directed against me. I had reason to hope, that tranquillity was restored; nor was that confidence diminished at the commencement of the lectures of the ensuing course, the session of 1831 and 1832. My lectures were apparently listened to by the larger number, if not the whole, of those students entitled to attend, by having procured my ticket—amounting to 312; and I was moreover engaged, at their request, to examine them daily, according to my usual custom, on the various subjects of my preceding lectures, which, in order to prevent encroaching on my hour from nine to ten o'clock, I was in the habit of doing by meeting the class, from a quarter to half an hour previously. Could I, for an instant, imagine that all this was a deceitful calm,—and that a storm was approaching, which was to break out in a moment?—Yet such was the case. On the morning of January 6th, 1832—viz., on Friday—I lectured as usual, in perfect tranquillity; nor did I receive the slightest notice of any commotion on the evening of that day, until some time on Saturday the 7th, when the following communication of that date was conveyed to me by a student:—

“DEAR SIR—Though a student, and not sufficiently acquainted to wait on you, esteeming highly your talents and capability of filling the Chair you now occupy, I deem it incumbent on me to inform one, who conscientiously has endeavoured to please all, respecting the light he is held in by the Medical Class. After calling a meeting in Dr. Dewees’ room yesterday evening, they passed several resolutions; one of which was, to appoint a committee, and to call on the Board of Trustees, requesting your removal from the Chair.”

This intelligence, so totally unexpected, was confirmed the evening of that day, by a Committee of five students, waiting upon me, who presented me the following communication, with their names attached:

“To John Redman Coxe, M. D., Professor of *Materia Medica*, in the University of Pennsylvania.

“SIR—At a meeting of the Medical Class, in the University, on Friday afternoon, 6th January, 1832, a Committee of six persons were appointed to take into consideration the propriety of your continuance in the Chair of *Materia Medica*, in that Institution, stating their several reasons why such a measure is urged.

“Also, at a meeting of the Class, this day, at two o’clock, the Memorial was read and adopted,

and a Committee of five appointed to wait upon you for the purpose of acquainting you with the proceedings of said meeting.

“With every feeling of respect we remain,
Dear Sir, sincerely yours,

Signed, NAPOLEON B. LEIDY,
NATHAN FLETCHER,
HERBERT MORRIS,
JOHN S. PETERS,
SAMUEL H. HARRY.

“Committee in behalf of the Class.”

As yet, however, I knew not the particulars of the resolutions, that were to be forwarded to the Trustees; nor did I learn them with certainty, until the 23d of January, when I received them, in the following enclosure, from the Secretary of the Board of Trustees:

“University of Pennsylvania, Jan. 21st, 1832.

“Dear Sir—At a meeting of the Board of Trustees, held this evening, I was instructed to communicate to you, a copy of a memorial from the Medical Students; which is herewith transmitted.

“Very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,
J. C. BIDDLE.”

The following is the memorial alluded to, from the Students:—

“University of Pennsylvania, Jan. 6th, 1832.

“At a meeting of the Medical Class of the University of Pennsylvania, M. Dean was called to the chair. The object of the meeting having been stated, the following resolutions were proposed, and adopted by an OVERWHELMING majority; there being only twelve dissenting voices.

“Resolved, That the Medical Class are generally dissatisfied with the lectures of Dr. Coxe, and that in consequence thereof, a large proportion of the Class, have up to the present time, absented themselves from his lectures.

“Resolved, That he has already consumed more than half the course, in furnishing to us the details of unprofitable, uninteresting, and obsolete doctrines, and that he has occupied much of our time, in proving that which no one at the present day doubts.

“Resolved, That a committee of six be appointed in behalf of the Class, to draw up a memorial to the Trustees, representing the same, and earnestly requesting some redress.

On motion, the following gentlemen were appointed—Messrs. A. S. Brown, J. E. Nott, A. K. Ellett, H. A. Offatt, A. S. Hall, G. N. Kennon.

“The Committee retired, and drew up the following memorial:—

“To the Honourable, the Board of Trustees.

“Gentlemen—The Committee beg leave to state, in behalf of the Medical Class, that they have been attracted from all parts of the United States, by the reputation of the School, and take great pleasure in expressing their unqualified approbation of the able manner in which all the

branches are taught, save that of *Materia Medica*. Divesting ourselves of all prejudice towards Dr. John Redman Coxe, who now fills the professorship, justice to ourselves, and a deep-felt interest in the prosperity of the Institution, compel us to solicit at your hands, a due consideration of the above resolutions.

We do not presume to dictate the course to be pursued in this case, but FULL and IMMEDIATE redress is respectfully requested.

"With sentiments of respect,
Your obedient servants,

Signed, AMBROSE K. ELLETT,
ALGERNON SIDNEY BROWN,
HENRY A. OFFATT,
JAMES E. NOTT,
ARCHIBALD S. HALL,
GEO. N. KENNON."

Upon this extraordinary production several remarks are called for on my part. My Class this session consisted of three hundred and twelve students, of whom sixty were free, (that is, from the regulations of the School, did not pay for their tickets, having either previously attended and paid for two courses,—being on the free list of the number annually granted to the University by the Medical Faculty—or for other cause.) The number of first year students was one hundred and forty-eight, leaving one hundred and four of a second year's standing, and acquainted with the proceedings already explained in the previous part of this statement. Most of them *had been members of the Summer Class at the Institute*,* so called, at which a complete course of lectures is given; and of whose Lecturers, then, no less than four were professors of the University, and of those, three were my accusers in the preceding occurrences! The proceedings of the meeting of the Students is not verified by the signature either of the presiding officer, or of a secretary, if any such were appointed! Nor is it said who stated the *object* of the meeting, or opened the debates upon the subject, before the resolutions were proposed for consideration and adoption—or who proposed and seconded those resolutions? Of all these particulars, on a subject so interesting to a class of gentlemen, assembled to convey their sentiments of the delinquency of their Professor to the Board of Trustees, we are completely ignorant. Were the movers and seconders desirous to remain unknown? Was it not rather to be expected, that, as public denouncers, their names would have been preserved in the archives of the University? Was it not in fact, an act of simple justice to the accused, that he should at least have the names of his accusers, or of the presiding officers, with whom, if necessary, he might communicate? For the subsequent committee had no further authority, than that of preparing and handing in the memorial that was to accompany my accusation. But, passing this, how can we be assured of the truth of any part of the proceedings, thus given, when we find no one answerable for them!

* An account of the Institute will be found in the appendix.

What then shall we say to the statement of there being only twelve dissenting voices? I shall shortly give a different version; but I will ask these anonymous movers of the resolution to explain, if the Class was so generally dissatisfied, as, that a large proportion had, up to January 6th, absented themselves, how they possibly could know and dilate upon what their second resolution so boldly affirms? If such a proceeding, after what had occurred in the Board of Trustees, could be permitted in an Academic Institution, to be the foundation of any measure against a Professor, it must still appear extraordinary that the Trustees could give countenance to the act of an alleged meeting, without a signature to verify it, and especially when, under the sarcastic garb of respect, the Committee tell the Trustees, that, without presuming to dictate, yet FULL and IMMEDIATE redress was requested!

I sincerely trust, that, for the honour of the profession of which the Committee are now a part—for the honour of the School, in which they profess to take so great an interest—for the support of truth, and of their own integrity—those members of the Class, whose personal concern in the measure, does not obligate them to silence, and who are privy to its origin and motives, will inform me of them. It is due to one who never met them but with deep concern for their improvement, and who has been finally the victim of this measure; and it is particularly due to the School, which must inevitably perish, if movements like these are not fully developed, and the real authors of them exposed and punished.

Having received this communication from the Board, I replied to it as follows, at the next meeting, on the 7th of February:—premissing, that, although, in the preamble to the resolutions above, it is stated that "a large proportion of the Class" had till then absented themselves, yet, that on the 11th of January, only five days after that meeting, *another was held*, to consider *whether the Class* should attend my lectures or not. Such, at least, appears to have been the fact, by the following communication to myself, dated January 11, 1832, and signed a Student.

"Dear Sir—A meeting of the medical class was called this evening, to take (as it was said) into consideration, whether or not they should attend your lectures. Until this time your friends had laid still; but seeing this unprincipled and unfeeling conduct, it was resented manfully by several of them. Suffice to say *their motion* was killed, and I am confident—certain, you had a majority. One of the number who spoke in your favour, said that he had heard many express their sorrow that they had signed the paper."

Such then is the diversity of assertion on the same particular, and I now proceed to my reply to the Board of Trustees.

"To the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen: I acknowledge the receipt of a copy of a memorial from the medical students, transmitted to me by the secretary, in pursuance of a resolution of the Board. In relation to this document, or the proceedings which gave birth to

it, I have nothing to say. I am, both in principle and feeling, so adverse to lending any countenance to such a proceeding, that I cannot consent to treat it as deserving of the least consideration. It cannot, I think, be doubted by any one who has been conversant with the agitations in the medical school for some time past, that this measure is a part of those, which began in the *ex parte* proceedings of the Medical Faculty, and has been instigated by the persons who promoted or were friendly to them. If the Students of either Faculty are to be encouraged to denounce their teachers, nothing shall come from me that will give a sanction to the introduction of such a principle of misrule.

"It is my duty *once more* to refer myself, and I do it with entire confidence, to the justice of the Trustees. If a question as to my qualification for my professorship, is, at this late day, to be decided on, I am satisfied that it will only be, after a faithful and impartial investigation; and that, I am ready to enter upon, whenever it shall be the pleasure of the Board to demand it.

"I am Gentlemen, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN REDMAN COXE.

"Feb. 7th, 1832."

I must remark here, that I had incidentally learned, from other sources, that a very different version respecting the meeting of the students, from that detailed in the memorial, was the truth. That the parties were about equally divided; that many did not act at all—and that some were hurried on by the rapid and unexpected call, to join in a movement, whose issue they could not estimate—and that many, since the meeting, had regretted their precipitation, and wished to have their names expunged from the list of signers. It was affirmed, moreover, that statements were made during the debates, that the measures would be backed by the professors. On such reports, it will be seen, are founded some of the observations which are contained in my above letter to the Trustees. A copy of this letter was, as I understood, sent to the Faculty—and a meeting of the professors was called on the 15th February, to take it into consideration; at which I was informed were present Drs. Chapman, Horner, and Dewees, who not being a quorum, they adjourned to Dr. Gibson's; and having denied the charge made by me—Dr. Horner called on me on the succeeding day, 16th, to afford me the opportunity of withdrawing it if I thought proper; he and Dr. Chapman being a committee to reply to the Trustees. As my sole object was truth, I could not hesitate to do so, *on this express denial*, and I sent a letter with this intent to Dr. Horner; as also a copy of the same to the Trustees on their meeting on the 21st February—enclosed as follows:

"Gentlemen—I beg leave to submit to your Board, the copy of a letter from me to the Dean of the Medical Faculty, which sufficiently explains the object for which it was sent, and also the reason of my transmitting it for your inspection.

"I am very respectfully, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN REDMAN COXE."

The letter alluded to, was as follows:

"Dear Sir—Having been informed by you, that, at a meeting of the Faculty lately convened, for the purpose of considering my communication of the 7th February, to the Trustees of the University, the members present denied any participation in the measures recently pursued in the Medical School, in relation to me, I deem it an act of justice to say, that I withdraw the intimation given in my communication, that there was a connexion between the agitators in the school, and the *ex parte* proceedings of the members of the Medical Faculty. At the same time, I must be permitted to state, that the suggestion was made by me, in consequence of my being informed that one of the students declared at the meeting, that they were backed in their measures by five of the Professors. It is my intention to make a similar communication to the Board of Trustees.

"I am respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REDMAN COXE.

"DR. HORNER.

Feb. 16th, 1832."

The particulars of the communications between the Board of Trustees and the Medical Faculty on this memorial of the Students, I did not know at the time. The Board did not inform me of them, and I did not attend the Medical Faculty. I have since understood, that in the course of the proceedings which ensued, the Faculty, in support of the memorial of the Students, made a charge that I was incompetent to teach the *Materia Medica*; and in consequence of this, that the Trustees called upon the Faculty to specify the particulars in which they meant to charge that I was incompetent, that they might be the subject of inquiry. To this the Faculty replied, that they were not prosecutors, but witnesses, and offered to be individually examined for the grounds of their respective opinions; but made no specification, nor put forward any thing but the same general allegation. Upon this, I learned that the Trustees finally adopted a resolution in October 1832, that it was due to me, and to themselves, and in accordance with the plainest principles of justice, that those who made the charge should, before a hearing, declare the grounds of it, and that they would not entertain the charge without a specification; nor, in the absence of it, enter into the examination proposed; and that the Medical Faculty, after receiving notice of this resolution, TOOK NO FURTHER STEP WHATEVER TO HAVE THE INQUIRY MADE.

This second proceeding against me ended therefore as abortively as the first did. The members of the Faculty would not commit themselves, and they never have had the hardihood to do so, by stating any particulars in which they held me to be incompetent. They were willing to talk about it before a committee in my absence, and they offered to be examined before the Trustees, in support of a vague and general charge; but they never would trust themselves to state a single particular, in writing, to which I could hold them. The Board of Trustees, by refusing to listen to verbal remarks without any specific allegation, showed that they knew the design of the Medical Faculty to be as I now state it, and that they

meant to defeat it, which for the time they did. I now recur to the subject of my letter to Dr. Horner.

In order, not to break the line of connexion, and to exonerate myself from having made a charge without foundation, and which, from the above letter to the Dean of the Faculty, I withdrew, in consequence of the denial of the fact by the Faculty, I feel it necessary, that my veracity may be unquestioned in the premises, now to add, that, after the examinations were over in the spring, and the public commencement terminated, I took some steps to ascertain how far I had been correctly informed, as to the accusation in which the Faculty was involved, and I now give the result of my information in the form of letters from various gentlemen, in answer to the inquiries I directed to them, or voluntarily tendered by them. I omit the names of the writers at present. Their respective letters are now before me, and shall be forthcoming to any one that may have a right to ask for them, should the truth of the statements contained in them be denied. Coming as they do, from various sources, and altogether unknown to each other, their coincidence must necessarily impress the reader that they declare nothing but the truth; and which, I hereby earnestly solicit other members of the Class to substantiate, or repel.

The first, from Virginia, dated April 16th, 1832, is as follows:

"DEAR SIR—A few days since, I received your letter of the 7th inst. and am sorry to hear that your removal from the chair of Materia Medica is still attempted. Although personally unknown to you, yet I intended to have called on you previous to my leaving Philadelphia, in order to have conversed with you on the subject of your removal; but in consequence of the most of my friends leaving town the following morning after the commencement, I was induced to leave town with them, and hence had no time to call on you after my graduating.

"I deem it a duty I owe you to express my satisfaction, not only for your gentlemanly deportment, but for the two courses of lectures I have heard you deliver on Materia Medica. I am, however, induced to address you from other motives; to express my feelings in relation to what I did, and ever shall, consider an unjust persecution, in the efforts recently made to effect your removal from the station you now occupy. At the meeting of the medical class (of which I was a member) I was not only opposed to the object of the meeting, but had previously refused to sign a paper offered me for the purpose. I feel confident in the belief, that had it not been for the fact of one of the class publicly stating at the meeting, that it was the wish of the other Professors that you should be removed, and that he had his information from a source that might be relied on; I repeat my belief, that had it not been for this statement publicly made to the class, the resolution brought forward against you would not have passed. I draw this inference from the fact, that but few of the class, comparatively speaking, could be prevailed on to sign the paper presented, before the meeting took place, and that many of the gentlemen that did sign it, from

what I have heard some of them say since, regret having ever signed the paper. I shall be much gratified if this note may add to the many testimonials of your standing as a public lecturer.

"I am, dear Sir, very truly,
Your obed't serv't."

The next in order of date, April 23d, 1832, is from a gentleman of South Carolina, addressed to me previous to his leaving Philadelphia:

"SIR—During the period of my medical studies in Philadelphia, I have never had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with you, and, on the eve of my final departure from your city, under ordinary circumstances, I should not have thought of addressing you. My object in doing so now, is simply to call your attention to a certain fact, which came under my notice on the evening of the 29th March, whilst at the supper given by Dr. Chapman to the graduates.

"Permit me, however, previous to entering on the subject, to disclaim all intention of injuring in any way the person of whom I shall have occasion to speak. From the efforts which were made during the last winter to remove you from the situation which you hold, I conceive it my duty, as an act of justice, to inform you of what was said of you that evening. I was not aware until then, that the subject of *balloting on the fitness of a candidate for a degree, was ever made the subject of common conversation in public*. I was mistaken. I found the subject by no means a secret; for in my hearing, and addressed to another individual, and subsequently to myself, Dr. Hopkinson said, that you had voted against many candidates this year; or, to give you his own expression, 'Coxe has blackballed a great many this year.' What his reasons were for giving this information, I am unable to say, as it was certainly uncalled for by me. Should this be of any service to you, I am perfectly willing that you should make use of it as you may think proper. With the hope that I may, in the least degree, be instrumental in aiding the cause of justice, permit me to conclude, and subscribe myself,

"Yours, very respectfully."

This gentleman gives, in conclusion, his address, in case I should desire to communicate with him. And I beg leave, on the above authority, to demand, thus publicly, of Dr. Hopkinson, on what grounds he ventured to make so bold an assertion, on a subject on which I never committed myself, not even to the members of my family; and surely it will not be credited that I should unbosom myself to my friends of the Faculty, then engaged in attempting my removal from amongst them.

I will detail but one more of the letters alluded to, and which was written in reply to the following, from myself to its author, two days after the preceding:

"DEAR SIR—On a subject in which my character is implicated, I feel myself authorized to apply for information to any one who can probably afford it; and by which alone I may hope to vindicate myself from charges unjustly made against me. Under such impressions, having heard that you had not yet left the city, I address

you, although unacquainted with, and entirely unaware of, your private sentiments as to the late events in our medical school, in relation to the chair of *Materia Medica*; yet fully confiding in your love of justice, and of the honourable dictates of your mind, I would then ask, Sir, whether you were present at the supper given by Dr. Chapman to the graduates on the 29th March, and, if so, whether any personal information was given you, or any of your friends, by Dr. Hopkinson, or others, that *I had blackballed the candidates very largely at the late examinations?* As I am not in the habit of ever committing myself as to the nature of my votes, and as this implies an attack, indirect at least, on my integrity as a Professor, you will readily see how much I must desire to trace so base a charge to the proper source, and vindicate myself to the late class, in whom this charge must have produced additional feelings of disregard, and perhaps of animosity towards me.

"May I ask also, sir, whether, if you were present at the meeting of the students on the 6th, January, you observed Dr. Hopkinson to be there and whether any one of the speakers, there, and then, declared, that the proceedings of the class against Dr. Coxe, would be backed by five of the professors?"

"If, Sir, you can, and feel inclined to give me any information on these, or any other particular bearing thereon, I can only assure you, that you will confer a great obligation on one who has been grossly calumniated in these late and various proceedings.

"Very truly and respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN REDMAN COXE.

"April 25th, 1832."

To this I received the following answer the same day:

"To Professor John Redman Coxe.

"DEAR SIR—Your communication was handed me this morning by your son; and in reply to your inquiries must confess the fact, of being present at most of the meetings the last winter alluded to in yours. I heard at one of the meetings, probably the first, a gentleman, now a graduate, and whose name I will readily give if necessary, assert positively, that each individual of the Medical Faculty, had put into the hands of the Medical Board, a letter or letters, sanctioning your removal from the chair you now fill; the discussion of which produced, at the time, or very shortly afterwards, some considerable commotion and disturbance among the class. I was present at Dr. Chapman's party given to the Graduates on the 29th March last; and heard no individual, *save one*, say or insinuate any thing derogatory to your character. My obligations to the individual alluded, are such, I hope, sir, if it is not to exonerate yourself from a charge I believe unjust, you will excuse me in hesitating to give his name. However, sir, as a principle of honour forbids my having any thing secreted, when called upon, which has a tendency to injure unjustly the innocent, I have a right, and shall, if 'twere implicating a *brother*, to disclose the individual's name if necessary, who has thus

made such assertions. Such assertions, sir, have been made, and I hope your investigation of particulars, may make an example of any individual, who would thus unjustly attempt to injure yourself, or any other individual by calumny.

"With respect, I remain yours, &c."

To this prompt and honourable reply, I made the following answer:

"DEAR SIR—Permit me to thank you for your prompt and very candid reply to my inquiries. The reason you assign for withholding the name of the individual whom you advert to, is fully sufficient for me to decline obtaining it from you, unless it might be absolutely requisite in the progress of events. Should such be the case, I shall then, with your permission, enable you to redeem the pledge you have so honourably given.

"Your obedient servant,

JOHN REDMAN COXE.

"April 25th, 1832."

Intimately connected with this part of my subject, is the following communication from a medical gentleman of this state, received from him since the conclusion of *the late course of lectures*. The letter is dated March 10th, 1835.

"DEAR SIR—I have read within a few days a small pamphlet, containing a brief account of the circumstances which led to your removal from the chair of *Materia Medica*. Although I have never enjoyed the pleasure of intimate personal acquaintance, I feel pleasure in acknowledging the benefit I derived from your instructions, while professor of Chemistry; and take this method of expressing my opinion of the great injustice that has been done you. I happen to know something of *the first movements in this matter* in 1831. I spent the winter of 1831-2, in Philadelphia, and saw some of the movements of the Class; and I very well remember, when remonstrating with some of the young gentlemen on the impropriety of their conduct, *that they justified themselves by saying that they had the approbation of some of the Professors*.

"You will perhaps recollect that I called on you one evening at your office, and gave you information of a meeting held by part of the Class, for the purpose of memorializing the Trustees to remove you. I showed you a paragraph that I had prepared on the subject for one of the daily papers, which you thought not advisable to publish; expressing your confidence, that there was too much good sense and discernment in the Board of Trustees, to be influenced by such movements of the Class. I thought so too; and I confess my surprise on learning that the Board *had at length yielded* to this very improper influence. It cannot be possible that this is the work of the Students. They have been used, and thrust forward by others in this matter.

"I was surprised and disgusted while attending the course of lectures in 1831-2, to hear from one professor *the same obscene jests*, in the same language *which I had heard from the same source* in the winters of 1815-16 and 17-18. Rest assured, sir, your well earned reputation cannot suffer by being severed from those gentlemen. Your name is associated with those who gave

birth and character to the Medical School of the Pennsylvania University. Envy and calumny may deprive you of your place, but they can neither take from you your reputation nor your honour.

"With sentiments of respect,
I am, &c., &c.

"Dr. John Redman Coxe."

And now, I ask of the impartial reader, whether I had not grounds for my assertion, to which the Faculty gave their denial? As to the part connected with Dr. Hopkinson, in the moment of irritation for his unlooked for, and uncalled for interference in my concerns, I penned the following communication to the Trustees, but did not send it; nor would it ever have seen the light, but for the recent events, in which it becomes in a measure necessary, in the vindication of my character.

"MAY —, 1832.

"To the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

"GENTLEMEN—An imperious duty, which I owe to myself, as well as to the trust you have committed to my charge, impels me to address to you the following letter, in relation to a communication I have this day received—and which I herewith remit for your perusal, (requesting its return,) in which I am charged apparently with a gross departure from that honourable proceeding which I trust has ever been my desire to adhere to. As I have had no communication with the gentleman who has thus unjustly implicated my conduct in relation to my votes in the examination of our Students, and as he was never present, I think myself entitled, through you, to call upon him to substantiate his charge. As he can know nothing of my voting of himself, he must have some authority for his assertions. Now, as none are present but the Faculty, when our votes are taken, and as these are by private ballot, I cannot perceive on what he can possibly rest those assertions. Certainly, my private connexion with the Faculty, is not of that character, as to make it probable I should acquaint them with my decision—and I presume my actions are scarcely scrutinized by any indirect means!—Be this as it may, I leave the circumstance to your consideration—as it involves a charge that I would not willingly acquiesce in.

"As this young gentleman has, however, thus unnecessarily taken upon himself to publicly charge me as guilty of a conduct so gross and unwarrantable, I must, in my turn, call upon you to inquire by what authority he vindicates himself from being present at the well-known meeting of the Students, on the 6th of January last, for the purpose of addressing you for my removal. As he is not a Student—so neither is he a Professor in the University—and his presence, therefore, was equally incorrect. If he assumes the title of *Demonstrator of Anatomy*, I may remark, that by your Board, I believe no such officer exists in our Medical School. I will ask, by whom, then, was he appointed?—Not by you, nor by the Medical Faculty. Can any individual of that body have a privilege so great, as to invest any one he may think proper, with such a

title, or with a situation, which enables him, *free of any of the expenses of the Faculty*, to use those rooms that were built at your expense,—and by which he is enabled to realize a sum, perhaps equal to one-half of a Professor's Chair.

"I would further ask of this gentleman, through you, by what authority he assumes the privilege of joining himself to, and always *walking with the Medical Faculty*, in their progress from the University to the Musical Fund Hall, *and there taking his seat amongst the Professors*? I am not particularly fastidious, gentlemen, nor should I have called your notice to these particulars, had this gentleman kept from any immediate interference with me, who have never, to my knowledge, in any particular, injured him, or had reason to suppose he was actuated by any unkind feelings towards me.

"Requesting pardon for thus intruding on you, I must beg leave to hope, that you will extend to me that justice, which except by your interference, I cannot perceive any means of attaining.

"I am, &c.

JOHN REDMAN COXE."

It will be perceived, that in my reply to the Trustees, relative to the resolutions and memorial of the Students, I again call upon them for "a faithful and impartial investigation" as to my qualifications for my professorship, avowing my readiness to enter upon it, whenever the Board might demand it. To this call for an act of justice to me, I never had an answer—and was therefore deprived of publicly demonstrating my fitness or incapacity, for the situation I so long had held. I was the more desirous of an immediate acquiescence in my request, as I had heard, that not very long after the precipitous assemblage of the Students on the 6th of January, attempts were making to induce the Class again to address the Trustees, declaring their intention *not to return at the next session*, if the present Professor of *Materia Medica* were not removed. How it was suspended, I know not—nor to what extent the measure was actually carried; but I believe the fact is undoubted. It may be worthy of remark here, that it was the chief engine, on which the Class of 1835, depended, to batter down all the scruples of those, who, discrediting my alleged inability, would otherwise have unquestionably retained me in my seat.

Be this as it may, under the impression stated, I considered it as an act of justice to myself, to obtain from the *medical gentlemen* of this city, such attestations as to my general qualifications for my professorship, as, from their knowledge of me, their kindness might lead them to impart. These were cheerfully given, in reply to a circular addressed to many of those practitioners, all generally known to the Trustees, and of the highest character in their profession, in public estimation—and whose acquaintance with me had been coeval with, or prior to the commencement of my professional duties in the University, in the year 1809. Of those received, I think it necessary, under existing circumstances, to present several to the public. They were intended solely for the inspection of the Trustees;—but the arrestation of the proceedings against me, in

1832, by the votes of the Board, having produced a calm that I presumed to be permanent, they never were presented to the Trustees, and will now for the first time, meet their observation. It is to these documents I chiefly have reference, in an after-part of this treatise, in my communications with the Committees, and with the Board of Trustees. But the Board of Trustees not having deemed it fit to pay any attention to my request for a hearing, these letters have never been heretofore employed in my justification. I may be permitted to remark, that nothing short of that imperious duty of vindicating my aspersed character to the medical public, and to my fellow-citizens, and which has unwillingly devolved upon me, would have led me to a measure that ended in these highly flattering proofs. It has been, indeed, a source of sincere gratification to me, and of no inconsiderable relief under a storm of persecution, such as perhaps a man of good character and quiet habits was never exposed to, to learn that I am held in the estimation that is declared in these papers, by men whose standing and character are, at least, as high as any that can be ascribed to the Medical Faculty. I will not hesitate, here, to take this opportunity to ask of that learned body, individually, to declare *on what especial evidence of superior attainment*, do they rest, to stand up as dictators in our medical republic, and to attempt to prostrate their contemporaries and equals, by general denunciations, without specific proof. It is time, indeed, that this dictatorship should be restrained—its hypocrisy unmasked, and its rank deformity exposed in all its foul and offensive character.

The following is the circular, which with little modification, was sent to my medical associates, dated March, 1832.

"Dear Sir—I presume the unwonted and irregular proceedings of our Medical School, in regard to the chair of *Materia Medica*, for some months past, are not unknown to you; nor the excitement produced in our classes during the last course of lectures, in relation to an anticipated change in that chair. From whatever quarter emanating, the attempt has, *as yet*, been unsuccessful; but I am informed that similar deep, and underhanded measures, are still in progress. Amongst these, I have reason to believe, that attempts (indirectly at least,) are making to persuade the Trustees of my incompetency and ignorance; but how, of what, or to what extent this innuendo reaches, I cannot learn.

The only mode by which I can hope to oppose this, is from the testimony of those friends and contemporaries, who having been long acquainted with me, and with my general habits and character, can probably form a just estimate of these particulars. Should it comport with your knowledge and inclination, to favour me with your opinion in a few lines, as to the object in question, it will greatly oblige me.

"I remain, Dear Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient Servant,
JOHN REDMAN COXE."

To this, from several more, I have selected the following replies, for an antidote in part, to the insinuations of my concealed opponents.

"Philadelphia, March 22d, 1832.

"MY DEAR DR.—Hitherto I have taken no part in any of the transactions connected with the management of the University of Pennsylvania, nor do I ever intend to meddle with them, being desirous of passing the short remnant of my life in as much quietude as possible. The enclosed, I think, is not at variance with my determination, and is sent to you as an act of justice and friendship. It is not probable that any opinion of mine will have the least influence on the Trustees, as I am only slightly acquainted with but few of them. The movements you have referred to, were slightly known to me before; and upon inquiry, I learned that the students were desirous that your course should be made more practical, without its ever having been suggested to me, that you were not qualified for the situation. They thought too much time was occupied in discussions acknowledged to be learned, but which they considered less useful to them, than the knowledge of the proper application of remedies in the various diseases to which we are subject.

"Truly yours,
JOHN C. OTTO.

"DR. JOHN REDMAN COXE."

"Philadelphia, March 22d, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR—I have no hesitation in stating, that I believe your acquirements are such as qualify you for filling the professorship you hold in the University of Pennsylvania, in a manner honourable to yourself, and beneficial to that institution.

"Yours sincerely,
JOHN C. OTTO.

"DR. JOHN R. COXE."

"Philadelphia, 3d mo. 23d, 1832.

"Esteemed Friend—I have attentively perused thy letter of yesterday, and as a man of peace, who desires to follow it with all men, my inclination would lead me to avoid the expression of any sentiment that might be construed into the feelings of a partisan in a dispute in the University, which I certainly disclaim; but the request contained in thy letter is so direct and reasonable, that I cannot feel satisfied to withhold an opinion from an estimable fellow-citizen, and a respected member of the Medical Profession. I may therefore state that, from an acquaintance of many years, I view thee as one of my medical brethren whose extensive knowledge, solid talents, and untiring industry in acquiring and diffusing medical knowledge, justly entitle thee to the respectful regard of thy contemporaries.

"Thy friend,
JOS. PARRISH.

"DR. J. REDMAN COXE."

"Philadelphia, March 24th, 1832.

"TO J. R. COXE, M. D., &c.

"Dear Sir—I have read with considerable regret the statements contained in your letter of the 23d inst., relative to an unhappy misunderstanding existing in the medical Faculty of our University. I am not sufficiently initiated into the interior and novel policy which is thought to prevail in the government of this Institution, to

offer an opinion as to any change which may or not affect its interests; but, as a citizen, and an active member of the Profession, I should view with regret any measures calculated to impair its usefulness or to diminish the high and honourable standing which it has hitherto maintained. I am ignorant of *any specified* charges, if such have been urged against you, one of the oldest Professors; but, as far as the intimate acquaintance with which, for the last eighteen years you have honoured me, entitles one to judge, I do most sincerely assure you that I am not aware of any single fact which can be construed to demonstrate either your "*ignorance or incapacity*" in that most useful and highly important branch of medical education, which you have so long and so faithfully taught.

"In regard to certain opinions said to have been expressed by some of the *pupils*, who in ordinary cases may be entitled to know something of the respective merits of their teachers, were their judgments entirely unbiassed, yet when this is not the case, there is too much good sense, integrity, and intelligence in the *Trustees*, the common guardians of the brightest interests of this Institution, to allow any weight to be attached to purchased opinions from any quarter.

"I have the honour to be,
Respectfully, your obedient servant.
RICH. HARLAN, M. D."

"DOCTOR JNO. R. COXE.

"My good Friend—I am indeed very sorry to learn that discord has for some months past prevailed in the medical school in this city, more especially as regards the Chair of the *Materia Medica*. Having through life endeavoured to avoid mingling in disputes, I have only *generally* heard of the unpleasant excitement that hath existed in the classes during the late season; I therefore feel incompetent to offer any opinion on this *particular* occasion; but in justice to your character, I am compelled to observe, that having long known and witnessed your talents, which always excited my admiration and applause, more particularly on the subject of the *Materia Medica*, I was induced to wonder that any exception could be created against you on *that head*; and trust, when the mist of prejudice is removed, the *Trustees* of our justly celebrated University will impartially decide, and be guided by justice when the subject comes before them. In hopes the business will terminate agreeable to your wishes,

"I am with great respect,
Your obliged friend,
THOMAS PARKE."

Locust St., March 26th, 1832.

Philadelphia, March 26th, 1832.

"Dear Doctor—In answer to your note of yesterday, received this afternoon, I am willing to express my opinion that you are fully competent to the task of preparing and delivering a highly valuable course of lectures on the *Materia Medica*.

"Your extensive reading enables you to give a correct view of the present state of knowledge, and your habits of industry and inquiry will insure to your class a full and accurate account of

all the improvements, as they occur, in that interesting branch of Medical Science.

"I am very respectfully, your friend,
JOSEPH HARTSHORNE.

"DR. J. R. COXE."

"Dear Doctor—Thy note of the 25th has been received, and in reply I can with pleasure add my testimony in favour of thy entire competency to perform the duties connected with the chair of *Materia Medica* in the University of Pennsylvania. I may add, also, that I have heard the late Dr. Samuel Powell Griffitts express an opinion favourable to thy abilities as a teacher of *Materia Medica*.

"Very respectfully, thy friend,
JOHN MOORE.

"*Philadelphia, 3d mo. 26th, 1832.*"

"*Philadelphia, March 28th, 1832.*

"Dear Sir—I have pleasure in expressing the sentiment, that your attainments in our profession are far beyond a majority of us, and that your talents and learning, which make you valuable as a public teacher, will ever command the respect of an unprejudiced medical public.

"Yours, respectfully,
HENRY NEILL.

"DR. JNO. R. COXE."

"*To the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.*

"Gentlemen—With Professor John Redman Coxe I have had the pleasure of an acquaintance for many years, during a part of which time I recollect to have been associated with him in the medical societies of our city, having thereby, as well as in other ways, been afforded many favourable opportunities of forming an opinion of his professional qualifications.

"From the knowledge, then, which I have on this important though delicate subject, I do not hesitate to aver that Professor Coxe is possessed of talents, industry, and much medical erudition.

"Respectfully,
JOSEPH KLAPP.

"*Philadelphia, 28th March, 1832.*"

"*Philadelphia, 3d mo. 31, 1832.*

"Dear Doctor—If the subjoined will be of any use to thee, it will be a source of lasting satisfaction to thy friend,

N. SHOEMAKER.

"DR. JNO. REDMAN COXE."

"Having been a student of medicine at the time when Dr. Jno. Redman Coxe was appointed a Professor in the University of Pennsylvania, I had the pleasure of attending the *first* course of lectures delivered by him in that ancient and respectable institution.

"A persevering industry in collecting, and apparent satisfaction in imparting, medical knowledge, has been shown conspicuously in his character from that time to the present, and entitle him to the highest respect as a member of the medical profession.

"N. SHOEMAKER."

"*Philadelphia, April 3d, 1832.*

"My dear Sir—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, in which you

state, that among the measures resorted to, to effect a change in the Chair you fill in the Medical Faculty of our University, you have reasons to believe that attempts (indirect at least) are making to persuade the Trustees of your incompetence and ignorance. With the view to oppose this design, you deem it necessary to request the testimony of those friends and contemporaries, who, having been long acquainted with you and with your general character and habits, can probably form a just estimate on those points, and in conformity with this plan, you call upon me to state, in a few lines, my opinion thereon.

"In answer, I must beg leave to remark, that the charge of ignorance preferred against you (as you have reasons to believe,) by the advocates of reform in the Faculty of Medicine, appears to me to be unfounded, inasmuch as I have long since adopted the opinion that you are familiarly acquainted with the details of the branch which it is your province to teach—Materia Medica. Judging also from your writings and (so far as my memory can be trusted,) from your lectures, as well as from my knowledge of your habits of industry, and the frequent conversations I have had with you, since I took my degree, I can have no hesitation to state, that I consider you as possessing a larger share of erudition and acquirements in the other branches of the medical science, than is commonly met with among the members of our profession in this country.

"I am very respectfully,

Dear Sir, your obedt. servt.

R. LA ROCHE.

"PROFESSOR JOHN R. COXE."

"Dear Sir—The accusation to which you refer in your recent note to me, is so perfectly absurd, that it is impossible the testimony of your friends and contemporaries can be required to refute it. The character which you have so long sustained, both at home and abroad, for learning, industry, and research—the well known fact of your intimate acquaintance with the Materia Medica, acquired by the devotion of years to the details of practical pharmacy—and the honest zeal which you have shown on all proper occasions to expose the tricks and impositions of quackery in all its various forms, afford to the unprejudiced mind sufficient evidence of the falsity of any charge which may be made against you of ignorance or incompetency. Even the late period at which the charge is preferred, is of itself a strong proof of its want of any solid foundation. Is it to be supposed that you would have been allowed quietly to occupy the highly responsible situation of a Professor, first of Chemistry, and then of Materia Medica, for a quarter of a century, in a school which has ever prided itself upon the distinguished talents of its medical teachers, if you had really been as ignorant and incompetent as is now pretended? Or, is it possible, that in a Faculty which ranked among its members a Rush, a Wistar, a Physick, and a Dorsey, your ignorance should so long have escaped detection? To suppose the affirmative of either proposition would be to cast a stigma upon our University—to accuse its professors either of a deficiency of discernment, or of upholding and countenancing for a long series of years, a mere pretender.

"There may exist among the members of our profession, who are unconnected with the University, differences of opinion as to the correctness of some of the views advanced in your lectures, and objections to your mode of treating the subjects committed to your charge,—the same, in truth, exist in reference to most of the other Professors,—but I am convinced that there are few of your professional contemporaries, who, in common with myself, are not entirely convinced of your learning and talents, and who do not award you full praise for the inflexible integrity which you have always exhibited as a public lecturer, as well as in your relations to the profession and to society at large.

"Believe me to be, Dear Sir,

Very respectfully, yours,

D. FRANCIS CONDIE.

"DOCTOR JOHN REDMAN COXE.

"April 6, 1832."

"Dear Sir—In reply to your note of the 10th instant, it is to me a pleasure and a privilege to bear my humble testimony to your early qualifications for usefulness as a medical instructor. This knowledge of your qualifications arose from our intercourse in early life in the medical societies and in practice. An extended acquaintance of near or quite thirty years, has increased that opinion. It has been further confirmed by the fact, that your talents and qualifications were put in requisition by the learned and highminded gentlemen who have so long and judiciously conducted this University, and as a colleague with a Medical Faculty, second to none this country has ever produced. I trust, Dear Sir, that this medical school will not be deprived of your talents and experience as a professor, by any hasty opinions or clamour of those whose youth and inexperience should induce them to occupy the place of pupils, rather than attempt to sit in judgment on their preceptors. If this should be the case, the good sense and discernment of the Board of Trustees and the Medical Faculty will set them right on the subject.

"I remain with great respect,

Dear Sir, truly yours, &c.

ELIJAH GRIFFITHS, M. D.

"JOHN R. COXE, M. D., Professor M. M.

"April 18, 1832."

I have in the first part of this pamphlet endeavoured to show, that an early attempt was made to undervalue the standing of the Materia Medica, in order to raise upon its ruins the Institutes, as an independent professorship, and thus separate it from that of Practice and Clinical Medicine, with which it was conjoined as merely assistant. The good sense of the Trustees having foiled that insidious attempt, prevented the necessity of my presenting to them, the following letters from Professors holding, or having held, the Materia Medica chair in some of the Medical Institutions of our country. As however, they may possibly aid the Trustees, in any alterations they may deem it requisite to make in the medical department, I consider it an appropriate accompaniment, as affording considerable, and not unimportant information of the value, &c. of different

chairs. The circular by which these letters were elicited, was written early in February, 1831, and nearly of the same character as that above noticed, together with some queries, as to the number of lectures *weekly* given in the different schools, by the different chairs; as to any supposed inferiority of that of *Materia Medica*; and as to the necessity of raising an accessory branch to an independent standing, and if so, how far the plan suggested by our Faculty, might be considered the most appropriate; whether Physiology ought not to be strictly connected with Anatomy, its natural associate, and Pathology with Practice, and Therapeutics with *Materia Medica*. With the replies, will in some of them be found also, the testimonials of gentlemen of equal standing with the Medical Faculty, so far as the title of Professor reaches, if indeed the title confers dignity, degraded as we have proved it, by its association with quackery. I trust however, that the necessity of vindicating my character, independently of the real value of the communications themselves, will exonerate me in the public eye from any charge of improper vanity in publishing the warm commendations bestowed upon me. A tabular view of the lectures of those schools, as well as a few of foreign countries, might be advantageously formed and rendered permanent in some of our journals.

“NEW YORK, Feb. 9, 1831.

“DEAR SIR—Your letter has been duly received, and I hasten to reply to it. It is with extreme regret that I learn that a plan is on foot to interfere with your long established rights as the Professor of *Materia Medica* in the University of Pennsylvania. You have been so long and advantageously known to the profession in that branch, and your name has been so intimately connected with everything relating to the *Materia Medica*, that it might reasonably have been supposed that you would have been suffered to remain in the undisturbed and tranquil possession of your chair. With regard to the relative importance of *Materia Medica*, I may be somewhat biassed in my opinion by the fact of my teaching that branch. I am not conscious, however, of being so; and my decided conviction is, that it is of all others the branch which ought not to admit of retrenchment and curtailment. It ought to be lectured upon fully and elaborately. It is in fact the only practical chair, and just in proportion to the precise and accurate knowledge which a physician possesses of the operation of medicinal agents upon the human system, will his practice be rendered safe and successful. This statement will need no proof to any one who has had an opportunity of observing the daily blunders made by respectable physicians in the use of remedies. You see I do not yield the palm of *practical* importance even to the nominal chair of Practice, as taught by many of our Professors. This is too often a mere bundle of theories strung together to amuse and catch the fancy of the student. What mischief, and even slaughter, have not resulted from the Brunonianism, and Broussaisism, which have been rendered current by our Practical chairs. Now upon all this, I conceive the plain practical common sense of a *Materia Medica* chair is a

salutary check, and the lectures in the one should be quite as extensive as those of the other. The antidote ought to go *pari passu* with the poison. With regard to the relative standing of the chairs, I do not conceive that there can be any just ground for distinction, except in the peculiar ability of the teacher. Dr. Cullen distinguished himself more as the teacher of *Materia Medica*, than he afterwards did as the Professor of Practice.

“The number of lectures delivered in our school is as follows:—Anatomy, Surgery, Practice of Physic, Chemistry, daily—Obstetrics, four times a week. My own course is also daily, but one of these is occupied with Medical Jurisprudence; so that on *Materia Medica* I lecture five times a week, and this I find barely sufficient to condense what I have to say on the subject. If I were not obliged to lecture on another branch also, I should certainly occupy six hours a week with *Materia Medica*. With regard to the Institutes, the plan adopted in our school is that it is to be taught by the other chairs. Physiology, accordingly is given to the Anatomical chair, where it seems most appropriately to belong—Pathology, to the Professor of Practice—and Therapeutics to the Professor of *Materia Medica*.

“I believe I have thus, my dear Sir, replied to the various interrogatories contained in your letter. Hoping most sincerely that you will extricate yourself from the difficulties with which you seem to be surrounded, to your entire satisfaction, I remain,

“Your obed^t and humble serv^t,

JOHN B. BECK.

“J. R. COXE, M. D., Prof., &c.”

“YALE COLLEGE, (Ct.) 10th Feb. 1831.

“DEAR SIR—Your letter of the 4th inst. reached me a few days ago, and I now avail myself of the first leisure that I have had, since its arrival, to reply.

“In the Medical Department of Yale College, the *instructor in Obstetrics* is expected to give three lectures a week, and he is entitled to receive half the fee of the other instructors.

“The *instructor in Chemistry* gives four lectures a week, with a vacation of the first three weeks in January, and he has as full a fee as the instructors that are to be mentioned.

“The *instructor in Anatomy and Physiology*—the *instructor in Surgery*—the *instructor in Materia Medica*—and the *instructor in Theory and Practice of Medicine*, each give six lectures a week, throughout the whole term, and all have the same fee.

“The term is four calendar months, exclusive of the time occupied by the examination of the candidates for degrees.

“The Department of *Materia Medica* is considered, with us, as in no respect inferior, either in extent, importance, value, or dignity, to the other departments;—and the present term, the Medical Class petitioned the instructor in this branch to give two lectures a day, while the lectures on Chemistry were suspended on account of the vacation in the Academical part of the Institution. This petition was predicated upon the opinion of the students, that this department is

in fact more extensive than any other, and actually requires more time, to be properly taught. The request was complied with, and, in fact, eighteen more lectures have, this year, been given from this chair, than from any other. In addition to this, the *instructor in Materia Medica* devotes his whole hour to the lecture, without occupying any part of it in examinations, on account of the inadequacy of the time, to the extent of the department.

"In our Institution, it has not hitherto been thought worth while to occupy the time of our pupils with the mere speculations and hypotheses of ingenious but often visionary men, but we endeavour to confine ourselves to what may be considered as well ascertained, or established, so that the department of Physiology is reduced within a comparatively small compass. Besides, we have always entertained the opinion, that as this branch treats of the healthy functions of the several parts of the human system, it might be much better associated with Anatomy, than with any other department of the science—and even better than to stand by itself. It is my belief that any retrenchment of *Materia Medica* in our Institution would be unpopular with our pupils, with the rest of the instructors, and with the profession at large, in our State. Surely it is to little purpose to understand the nature of disease, unless we have some means of treating it successfully; and *Materia Medica* is the source from which such means must be derived. It has never been the opinion, in this region, that Medicine can be practised advantageously with half a dozen remedies.

"This statement, I think, will afford you all the information which you desire, respecting the views entertained in this quarter, in regard to the relative importance of the several branches of our profession, and of the actual time and fees allotted to each.

"Be pleased to accept assurances of my highest respect, while I remain,

"Yours, Sir, etc.

WILLIAM TULLY.

"J. R. COXE, M. D."

"New York, February 7th, 1831.

"DEAR SIR—I regret the occasion that calls for the circular, addressed to me in your favour, of the 4th instant;—but, I apprehend that any resistance you may make, will be of little avail; and, indeed, if I may be allowed to express an opinion, I consider the measures proposed as virtually understood, and inevitably to be adopted. Under this impression, I believe it will be your interest to yield, without the least resistance on your part, which might lead to results otherwise still more serious. It is now about thirty-six years, since I became a Professor of some one or other of the branches usually taught in our medical schools;—from 1795 to 1807, I held the Chair of *Materia Medica* and Botany—on the first subject, I gave three lectures a week; and as many on the latter—the two branches for one fee of fifteen dollars. In the College of Physicians and Surgeons, I held the Practical Chair from 1807 to my resignation in 1826, and lectured *daily*; and generally, towards the close of the course, gave two lec-

tures daily; delivering in the session, upwards of one hundred lectures. At the same time, the Lecturer on the *Materia Medica*, met his class but three times a week—afterwards, when a change of Chairs took place, the *Materia Medica* became united with *Natural History*, when Dr. Mitchell, the Professor, met his class daily on those branches. In our new college, the Rutgers' Medical Faculty, in which I held *Institutes, Practice of Physic*, and *Clinical Medicine*, I lectured daily, besides three lectures a week at the Hospital, and a short course of Botany at a different hour; all for one fee of fifteen dollars! During the same period, the lectures on Therapeutics and the *Materia Medica* were delivered by another professor four times a week.

"The branch you hold, the *Materia Medica*, I have always considered highly important, and susceptible of being rendered an eminently practical course, in the hands of a clinical physician. It, indeed, may be made as subservient to the practice, as any other department in a medical college; not excepting the professorship of Practice itself. But this will depend upon the Professor's arrangement of his subject, and his tact in rendering his information subservient to the prevention and cure of diseases. In describing the properties, virtues, and operation of remedies, the various diseases in which they are indicated, the teacher frequently takes a succinct view of the condition of body, the stage of the disease, and the more prominent symptoms that call for the remedies under consideration—to a certain extent this is necessary, and gives great value to this course of instruction. But, when lecturing on this part of the subject, the Professor of *Materia Medica* is frequently led to infringe upon the neighbouring province of the Professor of Practice. It is probable that this extension of your course, as well as your peculiar *heretical* doctrines, (so deemed in Philadelphia,) may have led to the present plan of circumscribing you within narrower limits.

"You ask me the number of lectures delivered weekly in our Rutgers' college. I answer, Anatomy and Physiology, *daily*. Institutes and Practice, (including Botany) *daily*. Therapeutics and *Materia Medica*, four times a week. Surgery *daily*. Obstetrics and Forensic Medicine four times a week. Chemistry four times. In reply to your third question, I have heard you commended for your elaborate investigation of your subject—your views of the humoral Pathology—your numerous and extensive references to authorities ancient and modern. Indeed, on this latter point, I have sometimes heard you censured for giving your class too much knowledge, and too many references to the original sources of instruction, Greek, Roman, Arabian, &c.; for it is very possible, you know, to deal out too much of a good thing;—with the hope, however, that your pupils may continue to receive the benefits of your learned labours, and that they may be duly appreciated by your colleagues and Trustees,

"I am, Dear Sir, yours, &c.

DAVID HOSACK.*

"DR. J. REDMAN COXE, Professor of, &c."

* It is obvious by this letter of my friend Dr. Hosack, that he knew more of the controversy here, than he had

"*Baltimore, February 12th, 1831.*

"DEAR SIR—I prefer in the first place to answer your queries, and then to append such remarks as may arise from the subject. Answer to first question: The Professors of Anatomy, Theory and Practice, Surgery and Chemistry, six times a week; the Professor of the Institutes, four times a week; and the Professor of Obstetrics and Materia Medica, three times a week. The latter department embraces a course of Materia Medica, with Dietetics and so much of Pharmacy as may be deemed necessary to the illustration of the course. (A review of the course by public examination is given for the benefit of the class.)

"Second, All the chairs hold equal rank in this school.

"Third, I have no recollection of any complaints as connected with this question.

"Fourth and last question, A course of the Institutes, if entered upon fully, would make large inroads upon all the departments. They have been called the soul of the science, and if the Professor of the Institutes does his duty, he must of necessity, diminish the labours of the Professor of the Theory and Practice, by treating on the philosophy of disease, its causes, nature, and principles of treatment, or indications of cure. Thus leaving a much more contracted field than is generally supposed for the latter department, so that if consistent, your Board of Trustees should diminish the fee of the Professor of the Theory and Practice. A physician is only constituted such, by a knowledge of each department; consequently each department is essential to the constitution of every well regulated school where physicians are educated, and should be protected in its rights and privileges. If any chair be more important than another, it is that of the Institutes. Its scope embraces the philosophy of health and disease; that is, Physiology, Pathology, Symptomatology, Etiology, and Therapeutics. It certainly should be made an independent chair, and should be entitled to the emoluments and privileges of the most ancient and respected chairs; and this might be done without mutilating any other chair, or depriving it of its just rights and privileges.

"Yours, very respectfully,
SAMUEL BAKER."

"*Georgetown, February 17th, 1831.*

"DEAR SIR—I acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and take pleasure in complying with your request. The organization of the Medical School at Washington, was based on that of the University of Pennsylvania: its professorships are the same—and the general conduct of its business similar. The majority of its founders were alumni of that College; and we knew too well the efficacy of its institutions to hazard any novel arrangement. Our Professors of Anatomy, and of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, lecture

acquired from my letter to him. His intimation of what was *inevitably to be adopted*, and that it was *my interest to yield*, to avoid results still more serious, I regard as strong proof, that the proceedings against me came originally from one of the Medical Faculty, in consequence principally of what Dr. Hosack terms my *heretical doctrines*. These doctrines were those of Dr. Hosack himself, though they were not of the Professor.

six times a week; the Professors of Materia Medica and Surgery, four times, and those of Midwifery and Chemistry, three times a week. With relation to the Chair of Materia Medica, I deem the number of days allotted insufficient for the proper development of its peculiar instruction, during a session of four months.

"The alimentaria are not admitted into my Course. I give very little time to preliminary exposition, being in my third lecture, fairly engaged in the particular duties of the Chair; and still, it is a matter of difficulty to compress all that appears necessary into the compass of the time allowed. What the peculiar views are of those who, you say, think your lectures are extended beyond their proper sphere, I do not understand; but for my own part, feeling the necessity of blending with the branch a particular history of medicinal substances, the therapeutic doctrines, which give character, and are required to give interest to the Materia Medica, I cannot recognize the propriety of imposing upon it a more limited extent than it enjoyed when I was a Student in Philadelphia.

"With respect to the inferiority of the Materia Medica to any other branch of medicine, I do not comprehend the idea. No part of medical instruction, I apprehend, is inferior;—all are relatively important; and, if inequality be imputable to any, it certainly is not that department which affords the means of diffusing the interests of medical literature, while it imparts the necessary knowledge relative to the medicinal substances required in the management of diseases, together with the general principles, that give character to these articles as remediate agents.

"Never at any time have I heard graduate or student intimate a complaint relative to the 'present incumbent of the Chair of Materia Medica.' His long tried services, and his acknowledged scientific worth, I should have supposed would shield him from imputation. In reference to the 'elevation of an accessory to an independent standing,' what you mention excites surprise. Upon general principles, it would appear novel to impose him upon another and a long-established professorship. If the additional Chair be necessary, other means might, certainly, be devised of paying the incumbent, than to have recourse to an expedient, that discredits an existing and important chair. Independently of the infringement of recognized rights and privileges, the inequality in the remuneration of the several professorships would, I fear, put to hazard the future peace and usefulness of your Institution.

"My dear sir, I have thus plainly and sincerely answered the questions you proposed, and if they be such as are satisfactory to you, it will be to me a source of gratification.

"With great respect, I am your very obedient servant,

N. W. WORTHINGTON, M. D.,
Prof. of Materia Medica, in Med.
Dep. Columbia College.

"DR. COXE."

"*Lexington, Ky., Feb. 21st, 1831.*

"DEAR SIR—Your communication of the 4th

inst. reached me a few days since, and I avail myself of the first leisure moment to answer it: and will first respond to your several queries.

"Our Medical School differs in its organization somewhat from yours. It consists of six professorships, which are as follow:—

- "1. A professorship of Anatomy and Surgery.
- "2. A professorship of the Institutes of Medicine and Clinical Practice.
- "3. A professorship of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.
- "4. A professorship of Obstetrics, and the Diseases of Women and Children.
- "5. A professorship of Materia Medica and Medical Botany.
- "6. A professorship of Chemistry and Pharmacy.

"Each of these Chairs is filled by one incumbent, and each Professor lectures daily, with the exception of the first, who meets his class ten times in the week, and has an additional price for his ticket—that of the other five being the same.

"Our Sessions commence on the first Monday of November, and continue until the last day of February.

"As to the relative importance of these several branches of the science of medicine, it is not to be expected that I should entertain an opinion derogatory to that which I have the honour of teaching in this School; but certain it is, that I would submit to no infringement of its privileges, or curtailment of its emolument, but on terms of perfect equality.

"As relates to your own School, it is a matter of notoriety to all who are acquainted with its history, that the Chair of the Materia Medica, under the teachings of the elder Barton, contributed as much to the establishment of its character and usefulness, as that of any other Department.

"As to the manner in which you discharge the duties of this professorship, I am entirely uninformed, having not recently had much intercourse with the graduates or pupils of your University;—when I had the pleasure of attending your lectures you were in the Chemical Chair.

"Very respectfully, dear sir,

I am your obed't serv't,

C. W. SHORT, M. D.,

Prof. Mat. Med., &c. Trans. Univ.

"Professor COXE."

From the time of the conclusion of the lectures, and the conferring of degrees, things seemed to be going on smoothly; yet the volcano was still raging beneath the surface; and although the following papers have not, perhaps, much to do with the subject, yet, as they apparently grew up out of it, it may be well to embody them.

I received the following note from the Dean of the Faculty, on the day of its date:

"University of Penn., April 15, 1832.

"Dear Sir—I have just received the enclosed resolution of the Board of Trustees, concerning the apartments in the Medical Hall. As some of the latter are more especially under the control of the Professors who occupy them, I shall

have to beg the favour of you to report the appropriation of yours in the time specified, and any other information which you may be possessed of on this subject.

"The Committee of the Trustees have given me, as Dean of the Faculty, but a short time to report to them; and I shall have to solicit the further favour of a reply in the course of the day.

"I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. E. HORNER, Dean."

The enclosure was as follows:

"University of Pennsylvania.

"At a stated meeting of the Trustees, held April 3d, 1832, *It was Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to inquire into the manner in which the rooms of the Medical Hall are used or occupied during that part of the year which occurs between the medical commencement in the spring, and the re-commencement of the lectures in the succeeding autumn.

"Committee—Messrs. Binney, Sergeant, and Smith.

(From the Minutes.)

"JAMES C. BIDDLE, Sec'ry."

I replied to Dr. Horner as follows, dated

"April 16, 1832.

"Dear Sir—What use is made of the apartments, in any way connected with my department in the University, during the summer or the period between the medical commencement and the renewal of the lectures in the fall, I know not, having nothing to do there, except with the small westerly apartment, as a depository for the articles employed in my lectures: I have not even a mode of entry to them, except by previous application to James (the Janitor) for the key.

"I am, &c.,

JOHN REDMAN COXE."

Of the result of this inquiry I have never heard.

On the 7th May, 1832, I received the following communication, of that date:

"Dear Sir—I have been instructed, as Secretary of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trustees of the University on subjects connected with the Medical School, to send to you a copy of the resolutions of the Trustees under which the Committee act, and also a copy of the resolution adopted by the Committee at a meeting held on the 5th instant.

"I am, respectfully,

Your obedient ser'vt.,

JAMES S. SMITH.

"DR. JOHN R. COXE."

The following is the copy of the resolutions referred to:

"University of Pennsylvania.

"At a stated meeting of the Board of Trustees, held April 3d, 1832—

On motion, *It was Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to inquire into the organization of the Medical Faculty, and whether any, and what, alterations, if necessary, can best be made: also, to inquire whether any, and what, change can be made in the mode of compensating the Professors; and, for that purpose, to inquire into and ascertain the average income of the se-

veral professorships for the last five years, and the average charges upon the same respectively; and to inquire into and report upon such other matters as may seem to them necessary, in relation to the said Faculty.

"On motion, *It was Resolved*, That the letters and communications which passed between the members of the Medical Faculty and the Committee of the Trustees appointed on the 7th of April, 1829, with the letter addressed to the same Committee by Dr. John R. Coxe, the communications from the Medical Faculty, March 22d, 1831, and the letters of Dr. Coxe, dated December 6th, 1831, February 7th and 8th, 1832, be referred to a Committee, with instructions to make a careful and particular inquiry into the grounds of the complaints against Dr. Coxe of encroaching upon the chair of the institutes, and report a full statement of facts; and when they cannot report facts, the evidence which shall be laid before them.

"On motion, *It was Resolved*, That both the above resolutions be referred to one Committee, to consist of five.

"The Committee are Messrs. Sergeant, Burd, Rawle, Dr. Skinner, and Smith.

"At a meeting of the Committee, held on the 5th day of May, 1832, the following resolutions were adopted:

"*Resolved*, That a copy of the resolutions under which this Committee act, be sent to the Medical Faculty, with a notice that this Committee will meet again on the 19th day of May instant, by which time they request to be furnished with such information as it may be in the power of the Medical Faculty to afford, upon the subjects embraced by the said resolutions.

"*Resolved*, That a copy of the resolutions above mentioned be sent also to Dr. Coxe, with a request, if he desire to make any communication, individually, as to that part of the resolutions relating to himself, that it may be furnished by the time abovementioned.

"JAMES S. SMITH,
Sec'y of the Committee."

On the 19th May, I enclosed to Mr. Smith the following reply, to be laid before the Committee:

"Dear Sir—In acknowledging the receipt of your note of the 7th inst., enclosing a copy of the resolutions of the Board of Trustees, and of the Committee appointed, I avail myself of the occasion to enclose to your care, a communication to the Committee, which I beg you to lay before them at their meeting of the 19th.

"I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN REDMAN COXE."

"Gentlemen—After reviewing the various communications made by me to the Board of Trustees, on the subject of my alleged encroachments upon the chair of the Institutes, I do not perceive that at present I have anything to add thereto.

"In complying with the wishes of the Committee to obtain the average value of my professorship for five years, I have arranged, in a tabular form, the outlines from which that average is deduced, and which, I believe, comprehends the intention of the resolution forwarded to me, as nearly as is in my power. With respect to the average charges of my chair, they are blended in the general charges of the Faculty in one common account, as kept by the Dean, embracing rent, fuel, and various items, together with a salary to the Dean of three hundred dollars—and of all which, my chair bears one-sixth proportion. These expenses are generally liquidated by the matriculation and graduation fee to each Professor. When insufficient, each chair pays its proportion of the deficiency.

"I beg leave to return my thanks to the Committee, for apprizing me of the inquiry committed to them by the Board of Trustees.

"I remain, with much respect,
Gentlemen, your obedient servant,
JOHN REDMAN COXE.

"MESSRS. SERGEANT, & C."

Year.	Total number of my Class.	Free Students, including 3d year, and gratuitous.	Total of Pay Students.		
1827-8	353	62	291	} During these 3 years, the chair of Mat. Med. pd. towards the salary of the Assistant to the Institutes, \$333 33—\$1,000.	
1828-9	309	55	254		× 20 = \$5,820
1829-30	345	43	302		5,080
1830-31	360	51	309		6,040
1831-32	312	60	252		6,180
				5,040	
				\$28,160	
				1,000	Deduct, paid as above.
				5)27,160	
				\$ 5,432	Average of 5 years.

Of the report of this committee, and of the proceedings of the Trustees afterwards, I have already said that I had no knowledge at the time, and have since only been informed, that the memorial by the Students, and the measures of the Medical Faculty which ensued, were all put an end to by the resolution in October formerly stated, that they would not entertain a charge against me, unless the Medical Faculty would so state it, that I might have an opportunity of meeting it.

The following sessions, viz. 1832-3 and 1833-4 were perfectly tranquil, and no disturbance in the classes, I believe, in any particular, took place; and we are thus, by the lapse of time, brought down to the eventful period of the session of 1834-5, commencing on the 3d November, 1834.

I proceed now to a concise statement of the events connected with the last act of this drama, which terminated on the 3d of February last, by the removal, by the Trustees, of the Professor of *Materia Medica*.

The course of the session of 1834-5 began, as usual, on the first Monday of November. My introductory was delivered on Tuesday, immediately after that of Dr. Hare, and it consisted of a concise exposition of a part of the writings of Galen, under an ardent hope, that even so imperfect a sketch would yet, by showing the wonderful acumen of that extraordinary man, lead the students to a desire of more fully becoming acquainted with his writings. This lecture was, indeed, a continuation of the one I had delivered on the same subject the year before, having preceded it by some others connected with the life and writings of Hippocrates; and intending to follow up, in successive introductions, the chain thus commenced, by a regular series, of the principal writers of by-gone times, who had chiefly illustrated the science of Medicine. It is not easy to imagine that in a scientific course, intended for the direction of young gentlemen of liberal views and education, a more appropriate theme could be adopted for an introductory lecture. Such a lecture has not, according to the usage that has prevailed in this and other medical schools, any necessary connexion with the outline of medical science to be subsequently filled up from the particular chair. The Professor is deemed to be at liberty, in this introduction to his class, to take any subject having a general reference to his chair, or if he thinks fit, to medical science generally. By me it was thought a proper occasion to blend in a series of such introductory lectures, the history of distinguished medical writers, with that of some of their opinions; that as far as I could promote the object, the students might be imbued with a taste for medical research, not merely scientific, but historical and literary.

A commotion towards the conclusion of the lecture, with some slight hissing, speedily, however, tranquillized, may be considered the earliest indication of the ensuing hurricane. It did not then present itself in the light of such an indication to me, nor as far as I know, to any one but the parties. It was nevertheless, undoubtedly, a symptom of disorder, preconcerted, though not sufficiently arranged at the time for full development. The class successively was formed, the

tickets delivered, and by the beginning of December, consisted of nearly three hundred and twenty students, whose names are marked in my books; two or three more afterwards joined it, and my whole number consisted of three hundred and twenty-three. Of that number one hundred and eighty were first year students—one hundred and thirty-seven of the second year or third—and four of the fourth year. It may be well to recollect these numbers, since it will shortly be necessary to bring them to notice.

I proceeded in my course as usual, and with no suspicions on my mind; the class generally punctual, and with few exceptions very orderly—nor can I now believe, that, as is hereafter stated by the students, a large proportion had already absented themselves from my lectures. Be this as it may, on the 2d December, 1834, I received the following communication from a member of the class:

“PROFESSOR COXE,

“My Dear Sir—Agreeably to a notice which was industriously circulated to-day through the class, the students remained this evening, after Dr. Jackson's lecture, to take into consideration steps for your removal from the chair of *Materia Medica*, upon the pretext of your not consulting their interests, and of your having occupied four weeks upon the consideration of *subjects not properly and strictly belonging to Materia Medica*. At the meeting, all was noise and confusion—a motion was passed to have the students divided, and all your friends separated to one side of the room, and your opponents to the other. Several of your friends addressed the house, and insisted that the right belonged to the Trustees, and not to the students, of expelling a professor, and that for their part, they, and they believed a majority of the class, were in favour of the course you were pursuing in your lectures, believing as they did, that after mature deliberation, you conceived it would promote our best interests. They believed, with the balance of your friends, that you contributed in no small degree to maintain the dignity and fame of our truly noble, ancient, and flourishing school; that you had, as it were, grown up with her, and now to detach you from her, would be a most cruel deed, and have a tendency injurious to the success of the school.

“As they adjourned without counting the votes for and against you, I cannot state whether you had a *large majority* or not. I am confident, however, that you had a majority. As one of your friends, I deem it my duty to communicate this affair to you, hoping that you will take a firm and dignified stand against these bigoted young men, thus opposed to you.

“I will take this occasion to remark, that those young gentlemen who are obliged to sit on the seats, back of the second or third, are so annoyed by the loud conversation of some careless and unstudious students, that they are prevented from deriving full benefit from your very interesting, useful and philosophical lectures. For the sake of that highly respectable portion of the class who desire to hear you, please endeavour to suppress this noise and confusion in your lecture room, by the firmness and dignity which I know you can exercise properly, and you will confer a

distinguished favour on your friends, which I believe constitute a considerable majority of the medical class. In great haste,

"Very respectfully, &c."

On the morning of the 3d December I received the following short communication from the same source.

"DEAR SIR—The meeting of the Students to act on your case, was postponed until this evening at 4 o'clock; as they were not able at 10 o'clock to procure an entrance into the University."

And in the evening of the 3d, the following was received from the same gentleman:

"DEAR SIR—Agreeably to my promise I now inform you of the proceedings of the Class this evening.

"They met in Dr. Dewees' room, and resolutions were offered by a young gentleman to this effect; that your lectures contained little practical usefulness; that you were incompetent to lecture; and that in order to force the Trustees to elect another professor in your stead, the Class should absent themselves from your lectures until proper steps were taken by the Trustees to effect it. The resolutions were accompanied with some remarks from the gentleman, in which he made, I am confident, *some base and unfounded assertions*, but credited, I fear, by too many of the Class. These assertions were, that you first obtained your professorship by a female member of your family, going before the Trustees, and imploring and entreating them to elect you; and that he believed a great many of the students, who are in reality opposed to you at heart, were influenced by the fear that you might reject them at the final examination, in taking a stand in your favour. He declared that the *balance of the Faculty would not suffer any professor to carry into the green box his prejudices to any student, except for want of a due knowledge of his department; if otherwise, the Faculty would overrule him.* This little speech seemed to have an astonishing effect against you, and the resolutions were put to the Class before any of your friends had an opportunity to reply to the speech. Had I been in the habit of speaking in public, I should have certainly attempted your defence. The resolutions were passed by a large majority; and the Class adjourned the meeting, by passing another resolution, that a petition be signed by all the members of the Class to the Trustees, requesting them to remove you, and place in your chair a more competent professor. A resolution that your friends should sign a contrary petition was rejected. Thus have I given you a brief of the proceedings of the Class; and do sincerely regret their result. Not feeling competent to advise you what course to pursue in this matter; and being aware that your well matured and discriminating judgment will point out to you the most judicious course, I submit the remarks with great respect," &c.

By the above clear and comprehensive statements of the gentleman who kindly made them, and for which I most earnestly request him to accept of my warmest acknowledgments, we perceive at once, the source of this proceeding,

as well as the instruments and the detestable means employed to carry it into effect; and I must before farther advancing, make a few remarks, on what is presented as the operations of the Class.

It will be noticed in the first place, that the Students here, *seem* to take the lead. I have already stated that the match had nearly taken fire, and the whole exploded before the mine was properly arranged. It has been reported that the check to the uprising on the day of my Introductory was from certain motives of prudence; for, that the Class not being formed at that early period, nor the tickets taken and paid for, there was some apprehension, that such a display of licentiousness and unbridled ferocity would have the effect of driving many of the students to the rival school! According to the speaker who addressed the Class on the 2d December I am accused of occupying time on subjects not properly and strictly belonging to the *Materia Medica*. Here it may be observed, is the sentiment of the Medical Faculty first broached upon the examination of the Syllabi before alluded to. It is their very language. It is no matter of surprise, therefore, that it was followed up by declarations of what the Faculty would do, and of what the Trustees would be forced to do. The concert of the Faculty and Students is self-evident from this language. The absurdity is, however, not the less monstrous, that the charge should come from the lips of first Class Students, as if it were their own discovery, that I had interfered with what did not properly belong to *Materia Medica*! They had learned their lesson, without perceiving that it was a lesson beyond their years and understanding.

That at this discreditable meeting all was noise and confusion, may readily be imagined, especially when it is added, that such was the violence employed, that some of the benches were actually broken down; whether in this or the next meeting, I do not now accurately recollect.—It would seem, however, that *more than twelve* befriended their absent Professor on this occasion. But this favourable impression, it appears, was shaken to pieces, at the next day's session; and how? Why, by proposing boldly to force the Trustees to elect another Professor in my stead, under a threat of absenting themselves from the lectures until this was effected. Nay, out of doors, it was reported, that the Class had made arrangements to leave the University, for New York and Baltimore, should my dismissal not ensue! This is not all—by a base, unmanly, and calumnious assertion, the Class is told that I first obtained my Professorship by a female member of my family going before the Trustees, and imploring, and entreating them to elect me.—Is it possible that *any gentleman*, should get up, and make a charge so despicable before three hundred and fifty young men: and not one be found to ask for his authority! We will not say, speakest thou this of thyself, or did others tell it thee, because it must appear that this atrocious assertion against me, being of a fact which, if it occurred at all, occurred at least twenty-six years ago, the individual narrator must have had an endorser; and, whoever he be, I beg leave to call him a malignant slanderer.

I should have thought myself indeed abased, to have even noticed the above implication, had it not been used, as we see, as a powerful agent for my destruction, in a Class of Students, who certainly could not, otherwise, have felt any solicitude as to the means by which I was inducted to the Professorship of Chemistry.

In regard to what is asserted relative to the fear that I might reject those students who opposed me, at their final examination—no one, but an individual himself capable of an action so base and atrocious, would, without evidence, clear as the sun, have ventured to attribute such conduct to me—and I call upon any of our numerous graduates, during twenty-five years, to state, whether any of them has a reasonable cause of complaint against me in that particular. It would, indeed, have been a species of perjury in me, to have acted on motives so disgraceful as those, which the speaker so sedulously endeavoured to impress upon his hearers.—Who put such notions into his head, I cannot venture to surmise; but I trust, on reflection, that he will give me the means of obtaining legal proof of the author, in which case I pledge myself to expose him to the world as a malignant calumniator.

Having, I hope, satisfactorily replied to the abovementioned base surmises, thrown out in my absence, and with none present to answer to them, I proceed in the subject as taken up by the Trustees.

The first note in order, though not in date, of my intercommunication with the Trustees, is the following, from Wm. Meredith, Esq., Chairman of a Committee, as will immediately appear.—It is dated December 16th, 1834.

“Dear Sir—The Committee named in the enclosed resolution, propose to meet at nine tomorrow morning, in the Trustees’ room of the University, for the purpose expressed; and in order thereto, direct me to ask the favour of your presence with them.

“Very respectfully yours,
“WM. MEREDITH, Chairman.”

The resolution adverted to, is as follows:

“University of Pennsylvania.

“At a special meeting of the Trustees, held December 16th, 1834, to consider a Communication from the Medical Faculty—

“It was resolved, That the said Communication be referred to a Committee, with instruction to communicate the same to Dr. Coxe, to confer with him freely, and with the Medical Faculty, and to report to the Board.

“Committee—Mr. Meredith, Mr. Cadwalader, and Mr. Burd.

“From the Minutes.

Signed, J. C. BIDDLE, Secretary.”

Although it appears from the above resolution, that the communication referred to was to be communicated to me, apparently previous to any conference on the subject, yet this was not done; nor did I know in the slightest degree what the nature of the interview requested was, further than that it was connected with the communica-

tion of the Faculty. Hence, as on my former calls before a committee, I was entirely unprepared, by previous reflection, to estimate the character and bearing of what might result from an unanticipated subject. I attended, however, at the hour appointed, and met the committee abovementioned. The business commenced by presenting for my perusal, the communications from the Faculty, and from the Students presently to appear—and, as may be supposed, from the tenor of their contents, not very well calculated to tranquillize my mind, on the subject of a possible, but not fully ascertained evil. Will any reasonable person imagine, that, taken by surprise, and exposed to a host of denunciations, thus unexpectedly presented, I should not feel, and sensibly feel, the indignity of the situation in which I stood. Against charges of a general character derogatory to the station I so long had held, and which from their generality, it was impossible for me to oppose; nothing but a consciousness that I had uniformly sustained the integrity of my Chair, could have then supported me. I was the oldest member of the Faculty, by several years; and I believe older than the members of the Committee before whom I was called. With all of them, from early life, I had been in habits of friendly communication, and with one, I had formerly held the situation of a member of the Board of Trustees. I advert to these particulars, since, with the want of previous knowledge of the nature of the communication to be made to me, they contributed to aggravate the pain I suffered on the occasion.

After a cursory reading of the documents presented to me, a free conversation ensued between the Committee and myself, lasting, I think, nearly two hours.—The particulars would be too long for a tract like the present. I need only remark, that the difficulties of the Board of Trustees were fully expressed, and the dilemma in which it was placed. I could not understand, that either by the Committee or the Board, my capacity to teach was called in question; neither was my assiduity nor my attention to the duties of my Chair at all denied. A positive and tangible accusation was not advanced against me; and the whole seemed to resolve itself into a matter of expediency. The expenditures of the Institution being so dependent for their liquidation on the payments of the Faculty of Medicine as a rent, any obstacle to these payments, it was said, would prove of infinite disadvantage; nay, even tend to annihilate the other Schools:—that the Students had taken measures, or threatened so to do, as was rumoured, to remove to the schools of New York and Baltimore, if the Professor of Materia Medica was not removed:—and that it was clear that the Trustees were too much in the power of those young men. In this dilemma, the Committee called upon me to suggest such measures as might recall the Class to their duty, regretting themselves, the state of things, as requiring immediate and prompt measures to arrest the evil. I believe I am not incorrect in this cursory exhibit of the conversation. I am sure it is far from my intention, and I cheerfully leave its correctness to the Committee, to sustain or modify, for I have never yet

seen their report to the Board. There could be no doubt, however, to what the meaning of the Committee tended; viz., that I should relieve the Board from a painful duty, by sending in my resignation, preventing thereby, any action on their part. A supposed similarity of cases was presented, in those of a former Professor and Provost; both of whom, with established and acknowledged talents, were nevertheless, it was said, forced by the machination of their Classes to resign their situation.

I requested time to reflect on the subjects presented for consideration in our verbal intercourse; and asked for copies of those papers which they had communicated to me: which being promised, I retired, with the assurance on my part, of making known to the Committee the result of my reflections as soon as I possibly could, either by letter, or at another meeting. This present meeting was on Wednesday, and I did not receive the papers until late on Thursday evening, inclosed from Mr. Meredith, with the following note:

"Dear Sir—I send copies of the communication from the Dean of the Medical Faculty, and also of the letter, and the resolutions signed by certain of the Medical Students. The Committee wait an intimation from you as to the time of another interview, after you have fully considered these papers.

"Respectfully yours,

W. MEREDITH, *Chairman.*

"December 18, 1834."

It must be obvious to every one, that papers involving so much as those I am about to communicate, both as to my competency as a teacher, and competency in another point of view, could not be hastily or unthinkingly acted on. Yet the urgency of the measure required that I should be prompted by the following note of Monday, 22d instant:

"Dear Sir—As the conference of the Committee of the Trustees with the Medical Faculty, if one should be at all necessary, will be guided materially by your promised communication, the Committee, since its interview with you last week, has suspended its proceedings.

"This, taken in connexion with the reported state of the School, and the expectation of the Board, will, we are persuaded, be a reason with you, as it is with the Committee, to make as little delay as is consistent with convenience, and an opportunity of inquiry and deliberation. We feel assured, also, that the same considerations will excuse the appearance of some solicitude to hear from you. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. MEREDITH, *Ch'n.*

It may be expected that I had deeply considered the subject in hand in all its bearings. I had, indeed; but could come to no final decision. Could I have foreseen, before the commencement of the lectures, (of which, more than a third part had now expired,) that such hostile intentions were still in agitation, I would have resigned, rather than have been the ostensible source of such a state of things, and of such a possible in-

jury to the credit of the University, as now presented itself. I should, at least, have had the satisfaction of quitting my colleagues without an open rupture. But, in the course that was pursued, all the injury I could sustain had been unfeelingly inflicted. The degrading opinion of me by my colleagues and the class, was sedulously propagated to the public; and had I consented to resign, it must have been with this stigma perpetually attaching itself to me! Even with this consideration, I was at times disposed to turn my back upon the contest, considering that it was, after all, a matter of no great consequence, whilst my conscience felt that I did not deserve it. In order, however, to satisfy the Committee that I did not intentionally delay my communication, I addressed the following note to Mr. Meredith on the 23d:

"Dear Sir—I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your note of this date, and to assure you that nothing but the extreme difficulty of coming to a decision, in so peculiar a state of things, has prevented an immediate reply to the communications of which I received a copy on Thursday last. In order to satisfy myself in this conjuncture, I have been obliged to recur to the former correspondence on a somewhat similar occasion, (1831-2) and as the whole affair has started up so unexpectedly and unknown to me, I feel assured you will not conceive that I desire unnecessarily to prolong the business, or defer my reply, beyond the period, which a sense of justice to myself demands. I am now engaged in it, and trust to forward it to you in a day or two. Had I been at all aware of the intentions of the Class, I might have sooner come to some conclusion, than it is now in my power to do.

"I am, dear sir, &c. &c.

JOHN REDMAN COXE,

"Dec. 22d. 1834."

I now proceed to give my reader the communications referred to, and which were first made known to me at my interview with the Committee on the 17th instant.

"University of Pennsylvania, Dec. 11, 1834.

"TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

"Gentlemen—I have the honour of transmitting the annexed resolutions of the Medical Faculty, and the documents referred to:

"Resolved, That the Dean of the Medical Faculty be instructed to transmit to the Board of Trustees the Resolutions of the Students of Medicine, with the letter from the Committee of the Class accompanying the said Resolutions.

"Resolved, That the Faculty will attend the inauguration of the Provost, on the 23d December, according to the invitation of the Board of Trustees, of December 2d, and as requested, invite the Medical Students.

"I am, very respectfully,

Your obedt. servt.

W. E. HORNER, *Dean.*"

The following is the letter from the Students to the Medical Faculty:

"Philadelphia, Dec. 9th, 1834.

"Gentlemen—At a meeting of the class attending the Medical Department of this University, it was moved and seconded that a Committee be appointed to receive signatures to the accompanying resolutions, and transmit them to the Board of Trustees. In pursuance whereof, we, the undersigned, were constituted the Committee.

"The Medical Faculty must already be aware of the circumstances under which the present movement has been commenced and conducted. For years past, the Class have, with great unanimity, expressed their dissatisfaction with the course of lectures on the Materia Medica and Pharmacy, delivered by Dr. Coxe. They have appealed to that gentleman in various ways, but without success. Finding all their efforts unavailing, and foreseeing clearly, that if a change in this respect is not effected, the University must ultimately suffer, they have adopted the only method of redress which appeared to hold out the prospect of a successful issue, and have come to the deliberate conclusion to absent themselves from the lectures of that professor. This measure, apparently harsh, has not been adopted unadvisedly. Several meetings of the Class have been convened, and a free interchange of opinion on all points frankly solicited, and as frankly afforded. Differing, as a small portion of the Class has from our constituents, as to the mode of securing the object in view, it was conceded without a dissenting voice, that Dr. Coxe was incompetent to give that degree of information on the important subject of the Materia Medica, which we have a right to expect, and which it is his province to communicate. The Faculty should not, therefore, suppose, that as our memorial is not signed by all the members of the Class, those who have not done so design continuing their attendance on the lectures of that Chair; on the contrary, they have freely declared the reverse their determination.

The Committee feel it incumbent upon them to make these explanations, to correct any misapprehensions on the subject into which the Faculty might inadvertently have fallen. The Class has endeavoured in the accompanying resolutions to express their sentiments mildly, yet firmly, avoiding even the appearance of dictation, which is as remote from our intention as it would be discreditable to the body which we have the honour to represent on the present occasion.

"A large majority of the Class having affixed their names to these resolutions, the Faculty, we trust, will perceive the necessity of immediate and decided action.

"With this brief explanation, the Faculty will have the kindness to transmit these our resolutions, with the signatures annexed, to the Board of Trustees, at a period as early as possible.

"With sentiments of profound respect,
We remain, &c. &c.

Signed, JOHN BEALE, JR.
HEBER CHASE,
ALFRED STILLE,
ROBERT MORRIS,
CHAS. F. B. GUILLOU.

"To the Medical Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania."

The following is a copy of the resolutions of the Students, referred to in the above Memorial, and forwarded by order of the Faculty to the Trustees by the Dean:

"Resolved, 1st. That it is our deliberate opinion that the lectures from the Chair of Materia Medica in this University are eminently deficient in practical information, and are unsuited to the present advanced state of medical science; and

2d. That for the foregoing reasons, the present incumbent is unfitted for the station which he occupies.

3d. That in order to express to the said professor our unfeigned sentiments, and also to induce the proper authorities to take some efficient measures for our own good, and the welfare of this institution, we will absent ourselves from the lectures of the present incumbent, until some plan be adopted for the proper instruction of the students of this University in Materia Medica and Pharmacy."

To this memorial and resolution, a few remarks may properly be added. That the Medical Faculty were "aware of the circumstances under which the present movement has been commenced and conducted," will readily be conceded by every one who has perused the statement of "the circumstances" of the first attack upon the chair of Materia Medica and Pharmacy, in 1831-2.

In what manner, save by violence, and violation of order, I have ever been "appealed to," by the Students of Medicine, I am at a loss to comprehend. It is true, on a former occasion, after having met in tumultuous meeting, and adopted resolutions derogatory both to the chair and to myself, they did appoint a committee, who waited on me, and stated the fact. I am not conscious that in any other way they have deemed it proper or necessary to appeal to me, either in person, or by writing, unless they may deem the violation of decorum, at my introductory, as before stated, to be also one of their unsuccessful appeals to me. Why they should have adopted the "only method," that of absenting themselves from my lectures, as likely to produce redress, considering it failed on the former occasion, is at first sight unaccountable; but when the difference of time as to the progress of the course in each case, is taken into consideration, perhaps a looker-on might not find it difficult to explain it, especially as it is stated to have been adopted "not unadvisedly." Who was, or were the advisers, is best known to the committee; for the class at large, except by adding their signatures to the resolutions, which were brought forward on the 3d of December, and not finally completed until the 9th, a period of solicitation, &c. of a whole week, knew but little of the secret movements behind the skreen. When it is said, "a free interchange of opinions," &c. took place, it is very obvious this is incorrect, for the attempt to constitute a separate meeting of those friendly to the incumbent, was violently interfered with, and by force of numbers absolutely prevented. The portion of the class that continued to attend my lectures, small it is true, when compared with the seceders, amounted to seventy or eighty, and

I am bound publicly to return to them my warm acknowledgments, for the resolution with which they withstood the confusion. It is not true, as asserted, that this portion of the class ever did "reverse their determination." When the committee speak of "avoiding even the appearance of dictation," the reader will smile at immediately afterwards reading, that the *necessity of immediate and decided action* must be perceived! I might add more to these remarks. To the casual reader, they would be useless, and perhaps unintelligible; to the medical observer of passing events, they will in all probability spring up spontaneously.

As to the resolutions themselves, it would appear that the students of this session have absolutely set themselves in full array against the whole body of the Medical Faculty! Here we find them affirming that the lectures on *Materia Medica* are deficient in practical information, and in the memorial itself, speak of the *importance* of the *Materia Medica*; whilst the reader will recollect, that in 1831-2, the Faculty degradingly undervalued it. But the Medical Faculty had seen fit to alter their mind on that subject.

As to my being unfit for the station I occupied, I am perfectly satisfied to be judged by men like those whose flattering opinions I have formerly given, in opposition to those who have signed the resolutions.

But to proceed: my letter to Mr. Meredith, as he informed me by note, was duly received and laid before the committee; and he also informed me that it would likewise be presented to the Trustees, at a special meeting, together with any further communications I might desire to present; and on the 3d of January I forwarded to him the following letter of that date.

"DEAR SIR—I have read with attention the communications from the Faculty, and from the Students, which have been sent to me from the Committee of the Trustees; and shall proceed to lay before you such views of the subject as my reflections enable me to present, for your consideration.

"I am impressed, in no slight degree, with a sense of the limited extent of my attainments in the very extensive science of medicine; but I arrogate nothing, when I state the fact, that nearly forty-five years of my life have been devoted to its pursuit, in a manner by no means indolent; and that I have the happiness to know, that my efforts have obtained for me, not only the confidence of your Board which placed me in my Chair, but also the favourable opinions of some of the most distinguished members of the profession in the United States. The evidence of this fact I shall be pleased to lay before the Committee, at such time as shall be most acceptable to them.

"I have deliberated much, and with great interest upon the topics which were discussed at my late interview with your Committee. It would afford me the greatest pleasure to suggest, or to adopt, any plan calculated to allay the existing inquietude, which I could see to be consistent with my own self-respect, and with the

dignity and justice of your Board. But, when I look back upon the transactions of a few past years, and reflect upon the course which has been pursued in relation to my Chair and myself, I cannot but think that it belongs to the Trustees to adopt such measures as are most obviously demanded, by a sense of justice to one of their Professors, and the due maintenance of their own lawful authority.

"The Board of Trustees will, in the review of this subject, bring to their recollection, that the first attack made upon me, was, by an effort to degrade my Chair:—that the alleged comparative unimportance of *Materia Medica* was to be the foundation on which one-half of the duty and emoluments of that professorship were to be taken away, and appropriated to another branch. The Board cannot fail to remember, that such was the force and weight of testimony in relation to the importance of this branch, that the Chair was saved from degradation; and the attack was then made directly and personally upon the incumbent. On that occasion, I received from various sources, such expressions of opinion as were most grateful to my own feelings, and such as I esteem it my duty, and a truly great privilege now to lay before the Board. The justice of the Trustees, on this attempt to procure my removal, demanded to know the charges against me, and the grounds on which they were made: and the result of this demand is perfectly known.

"I did entertain the hope, that after such a result, I should be permitted to devote myself untiringly to the duties of my Chair; and it was with unfeigned astonishment and distress, that at the commencement of the present Sessions, I discovered that the same evil influence was at work, which had before disturbed my peace and that of the University. From the moment of my introductory lecture, an organized and systematic effort has been made to affect me in the performance of my duties, and, if possible, to drive me from my Chair. This disposition was manifested at an early period, by young gentlemen to whom I had never lectured before—who were yet in the incipient stage of their professional studies, and who may, without injustice, be supposed to be not the most competent judges of the qualifications of an instructor. To such, I cannot assign any other position, than that of their being the unwitting instruments of more designing men.

"I request the Committee to remark, that of the young gentlemen who have signed their names to the resolutions which declare my incapacity, (260 in number,) there are nearly one-half who are in attendance upon the first Course of Lectures—and who had had no adequate means of forming a judgment; and that there are also some, who at the last examination, were not found by the Faculty to have made such attainments as to entitle them to a Degree.

"It has seemed to me, that in our late Conference, a wish was felt and partially suggested by some of your Committee, that the present embarrassment and difficulty should be removed by my retiring from the Chair. I ask leave respectfully to state, that I feel myself restrained by

considerations of regard for my own character and rights, and for the character and interests of the University itself, from giving the least encouragement to such an expectation. I have an unwavering confidence in the Guardians of the Institution, that they will never yield their sanction to what I soberly believe is an intrigue practised upon the simplicity and ignorance of youth; and I mean respectfully to await the issue, as the Board in its wisdom may determine it. What I teach in the Chair of *Materia Medica*, and how I have taught it, are matters susceptible of proof, *and consequently of trial*—and if I am to fall by concerted assertions, *without proof*, and at the demand of deluded pupils, *without trial*, I certainly will not assist that result by any act of my own.

"I am, dear sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN REDMAN COXE.

"Jan. 3d, 1835.

"WM. MEREDITH, Esq., Chairman, &c."

I received, soon after, the following from Mr. Meredith, dated the 3d January, 1835.

"DEAR SIR—The Committee of the Trustees have requested me respectfully to call to mind, that the first stated meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday evening next—that the Report of the Committee being then looked for, it will be made with your written communications, and those received from the Medical Faculty; and that, if it be your wish, either by writing or otherwise, to make any further communication on the subject depending, then will be the occasion, as it may be expected that the Board will, at that meeting, consider and finally act in the business.

"I am, respectfully, dear sir,
Your obedient servant,
WM. MEREDITH, Ch'm."

I replied thereto, as follows, on the 4th inst.—

"DEAR SIR—Having no further information on the subject-matter to which your letter of the 3d of January refers, I have consequently nothing to add to the communication I made to the Committee of the Trustees, and which you have stated, would be laid before the Board at their meeting on Tuesday evening next. To the Board I very respectfully submit it, and await their resolves thereon with perfect tranquillity.

"I am, dear sir,
Your very obed't serv't,
JOHN REDMAN COXE.
"WM. MEREDITH, Esq., Chairman."

The Trustees met at their regular stated meeting on the 6th of January—and on the succeeding day, I received the following communication, from the Secretary of the Board.

"University of Penn'a., Jan. 6th, 1835.

"DEAR SIR—In obedience to a resolution of the Board of Trustees of this University, I herewith enclose a copy of a preamble and resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Board held this

evening. I am also instructed to inform you, that a meeting of the Trustees will take place on Tuesday evening next, at seven o'clock, at the University.

"Very respectfully, yours,
J. C. BIDDLE,
Secretary of Trustees.

"To JOHN REDMAN COXE, M. D.

"Prof. Mat. Medica and Pharmacy, in the University of Pennsylvania."

The preamble and resolutions adverted to, are as follows:

"University of Pennsylvania.

"At a stated meeting of the Board of Trustees, held January 6th, 1835, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted.

"Whereas, it is the duty of this Board to sustain by every proper effort, the character and prosperity of the Medical School—and the Trustees viewing as they do, with deep anxiety, the disturbed condition of the medical Class, in its relations with the Chair of *Materia Medica*, have taken all proper measures to obtain the requisite information to enable them to act in the premises, as may best promote the true interests of the University.—Now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, As the opinion of this Board, that the continuance of the present incumbent in the Chair of *Materia Medica* and Pharmacy is inexpedient and injurious to the interests of the Institution.

"Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to communicate to Dr. Coxe the foregoing preamble and resolution.

"From the minutes.
J. C. BIDDLE,
Secretary of the Trustees.

"To JOHN REDMAN COXE, M. D.,

"Prof. Mat. Med. and Pharmacy."

Through the Secretary, I sent to the Board of Trustees the following communication, to be laid before them at the stated meeting of the 13th of January.

"To the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

"GENTLEMEN—I have received from the Secretary of your Board, a copy of a resolution, passed on the 6th inst., expressing the opinion of the Board, that the continuance of the present incumbent in the Chair of *Materia Medica* and Pharmacy is inexpedient, and injurious to the interests of the Institution. This resolution follows a preamble, which states that the Board have taken all proper measures to obtain the requisite information to enable them to act in the premises, as may best promote the interests of the University.

"It would give me unfeigned distress, to continue to hold my professorship for a single hour, after I had become convinced that the Trustees had, by all just and proper means, arrived at the conclusion, that it was injurious to the interests of the Institution. But I am far from such a conviction; and I shall therefore appeal, with

confidence, to your sense of justice, for a hearing and trial, which I consider to be among the essential means to enable you to form a just judgment in the case.

"As preparatory to an application to the Board, for a hearing and trial, I now request that I may be furnished with a copy of the report of the Committee, with whom I recently conferred, and of such information as accompanied that report; and also with a statement of such other facts, evidences or opinions, as may have led the Board to the opinion expressed in the resolution.

"This application is made to the Board on the ground of right; and with a firm belief that the propriety of according to me that which is asked, will be readily assented to.

"I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN REDMAN COXE.

"January 13th, 1835."

This was not acceded to.

I received the same evening, the following communication from Mr. Meredith:

"SIR—The Trustees of the University have referred your letter of this date to a committee which will meet at the University to-morrow, the 14th, at 7 P. M. (Wednesday.)

"I am instructed to say, the committee hopes for the pleasure of seeing you at that time.

"Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. MEREDITH, Chairman.

"Tuesday evening, 13th Jan. 1835."

I met the Committee accordingly, Joseph R. Ingersoll, Esq. having been added to it. The intercourse was nearly similar to that before mentioned, and the right of the Trustees to displace any officer under them, without any reason assigned, was affirmed. It appeared that they were all anxious to avoid the issue to which affairs were tending, and which must assuredly follow, if I did not resign. I finally requested leave for deliberation to the last moment, promising to communicate in time to them, my final resolution, after attentively considering the communication from the Faculty, which was promised to be sent to me.

I received the next day the following communications from the secretary:

"University of Penn'a., Jan. 13th, 1835.

"DEAR SIR—In compliance with instructions from the Board of Trustees, I inclose resolutions adopted this evening, and inform you that the next stated meeting will be held on the first Tuesday evening in February next, at 7 o'clock.

"Very respectfully, yours,

JAMES C. BIDDLE.

Secretary of the Trustees."

"University of Pennsylvania.

"At an adjourned stated meeting of the Trustees, held January 13th, 1835, the following resolution was proposed to the Board:

"Whereas, it has been declared as the opinion of this Board, that the continuance of the present incumbent in the chair of Materia Medica and Pharmacy is inexpedient and injurious to the interests of this University, therefore,

"Resolved, That Dr. John Redman Coxe, the said incumbent of the chair of Materia Medica and Pharmacy, be removed therefrom. Whereupon, it was

"Resolved, That at the next stated meeting, this Board will consider the foregoing resolution, and that notice be accordingly given to the members.

"Resolved, That a copy of the above resolutions be furnished to Dr. Coxe.

"From the Minutes.

Signed

JAMES C. BIDDLE,

Secretary of the Trustees."

Here then, we perceive that at length the subject was brought to an issue, and was to be definitely settled on the next stated meeting in February, or three weeks from this period. It might therefore reasonably have been expected, that the class, having left the decision altogether to the Trustees, would have remained during that short period in a state of tranquillity, and allowed me without disturbance to continue my lectures, until the Trustees had duly considered and concluded on the subject: but such an expectation was almost immediately frustrated by the most gross and scandalous disorder that perhaps was ever witnessed in this, or any other school.

On the 15th January, 1835, I received the following note from Mr. Meredith:

"DEAR SIR—I send a copy of the questions propounded to the Medical Faculty, and their answers.

"The committee will meet finally on Saturday next, at the University, at 5 P. M., when, or previously they will be happy to receive your further communication.

"Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. MEREDITH, Chairman.

"January 15, 1835."

The following was enclosed to me in the preceding:

"University of Penn., Dec. 31st, 1834.

"At a meeting of the Medical Faculty this day, upon an adjournment from one of the 29th, to finish the business of the same, of which special notice had been given to each Professor. Present, Drs. Chapman, Hare, Gibson, Dewees, and Horner, the following answers to the interrogatories of the Committee were unanimously resolved on.

"Answers of the Medical Faculty to questions by the Committee of the Trustees, in relation to the Chair of Materia Medica.

"Question 1st. What is the character of the present Medical Class, in point of intelligence?

"Answer. Equal, as far as we can judge, to that of any former Class.

"Question 2nd. Of the 260 signers to the resolutions against Dr. Coxe, how many are in their first course of lectures?

"Answer. One hundred and twenty-two.

"Question 3d. How many of the signers at the last examination were not found by the Faculty to have made such attainments as to entitle them to a degree?"

"Answer. Two.*"

"Question 4th. As to the rest of the signers, (such of them as are in their 2d, 3d, and 4th courses) do you consider any of them as competent judges of the qualifications of an Instructor in *Materia Medica*, and of the fitness of the present instructor for the chair he occupies?"

"Answer. Entertaining no doubt, we reply affirmatively to each of the points embraced in this interrogatory. Not a few of our students are distinguished by talents, liberally cultivated, and a large portion, of those especially who have been long connected with the school, have considerable professional attainments, and other materials on which to form a correct judgment.

"Question 5th. What are the opinions of the members of the Faculty, as to the qualifications of Dr. Coxe for the Chair he occupies?"

"Answer. Deeply do we regret, that we have to declare as our *honest and deliberate conviction*, that we do not consider him as possessing the qualifications requisite to discharge the duties of the *Materia Medica* Chair with success, and that this impression is derived from the lengthened experience of *his whole career* in the School.

"Question 6th. In the present situation of the Medical School, what course of proceeding would, in your opinion, be best calculated to promote its interests?"

"Answer. No less painful is it to us to be compelled to express the opinion, that the prosperity of the School, and perhaps its very existence, demands the immediate removal of the present incumbent of the Professorship of *Materia Medica*, and then, circumspectly filling the vacancy with one of extensive practical experience, well sustained reputation as a Lecturer, and of conciliatory manners and address.

Signed,

N. CHAPMAN,
ROBT. HARE,
W. E. HORNER,
WILLIAM GIBSON,
WM. P. DEWEES."

"To William Meredith, Esq., Chairman of Committee, &c.; University Penn'a."

Having read the above, at the meeting with the Committee before referred to, I had arranged a reply to it, for the purpose of laying it before the Committee and the Trustees. This, however, was not permitted, for on the very day, on which I received the communication, (viz., Thursday 15th,) events had taken place, which will be understood by the perusal of the ensuing letters.

The first is a reply to Mr. Meredith's note of the 15th, inclosing the paper of questions to, and answers from the Faculty.

"Dear Sir—Your letter of the fifteenth, enclosing a copy of the questions propounded to the Medical Faculty, and their answers, was duly received. The events of yesterday, however,

* Rejected, not once, but twice—and one of them, I believe, again, this spring. C.

which evinced a state of insubordination, subversive of all order, *have induced me to suspend* my lectures for the present; of which I shall give the Trustees due notice at their ensuing meeting; leaving it for them to act as they may deem fitting in the business. I have, in consequence, no communication to make to the Committee under the existing state of things.

"I am, very respectfully, Dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REDMAN COXE.

"Jan. 15, 1835.

"WM. MEREDITH, Esq. Ch'n."

Having stated above, that I had suspended my lectures, in consequence of the events immediately to be detailed, I accordingly announced this intention to the Class, on Friday 17th.

The character of the interruption and of the scenes alluded to, are very faintly depicted in the following communication to the Trustees, at their meeting on the 20th, (Tuesday.)

"To the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

"Gentlemen—It is my duty to request your notice of an occurrence, which has caused me individually great distress, and which is of undoubted interest to a department of the Institution, with the guardianship of which you are entrusted.

"On Thursday last I attended at the lecture rooms at the usual hour, for the purpose of performing the duty of my chair. In the attempt to perform that duty, I was interrupted by a portion of the Class, and in the most rude and insulting manner prevented from completing my lecture. After thus immaturely finishing it, I retired to my private room, and there remained for some time, with the hope that a sense of decorum would visit the young gentlemen, who had so far forgotten what was due to themselves and to me; but I regret to state, that a most boisterous and riotous scene ensued; and that after the lapse of an hour, I left the Hall, in the company of another professor, amidst the grossest disorder, and manifestations of intention to offer me personal insult and violence.

"On the following day, I deemed it my duty to inform the Class, that I should suspend my lectures until I should be assured of the restoration of order, and that no further interruption would take place of the performance of my duties.

"In making this communication to the Board, I perform a painful but necessary duty. It will rest with the Trustees to adopt such measures as they think proper for the restoration of order, and the repression of a spirit of insubordination, which threatens the total prostration of the government of the Institution.

"I am gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REDMAN COXE.

"January 20th, 1835."

I may here state, that during the tumult in my room, whilst lecturing, I addressed the riotous members (some of those it is to be presumed, who signed the memorial, declaring that they would absent themselves,) and requested them to re-

member, that inasmuch as they had declared their intention to leave this business between us, to be decided by the Trustees, in their late petition to that body, they ought to abide patiently, the issue of their proceedings. It was, however, altogether unavailing, and even seemed to make matters worse. The fact beyond all question was, that the Students were fearful that justice, self-respect, and a regard for the character of the Institution, would prevent the Trustees from yielding to the demand which has been made upon them; and they therefore determined, *advisedly*, no doubt, to prevent such a result, by the most extreme, as well as indecent violence.

I was moreover informed, during the same day, that some observations from Dr. Chapman, the professor who had accompanied me through the throng, on his return, and previous to the commencement of his lecture, had been calculated to augment, rather than allay the excitement; and that should I appear at my post the next morning, it was highly probable, a more violent scene would ensue. It was consequently a duty absolutely demanded, that I should refrain from lecturing, since, aware that many of the Class were armed with dirks, and knowing that several of the Students were prepared to defend me from personal insult, I knew not to what extremities the excitement might proceed, (a duel having already sprung up from it); and whether even blood might not be shed. I leave it therefore to the community to judge of the correctness of my proceedings.

Together with the preceding letter to the Trustees, I addressed to them the following of the same date, January 20th, 1835.

"To the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

"Gentlemen—Since the last meeting of the Board, I have received from the Committee, to whom my letter of the 13th instant was referred, a copy of the interrogatories proposed to the members of the Medical Faculty, and their answers; and this I presume to be, in consequence of my request to be furnished with a copy of the *report of the Committee*, and of such information as accompanied the report; and also with a statement of such other facts, evidences, or opinions, as may have led the Board to the opinion expressed in their resolution of the 6th instant. My request was made, as I stated, preparatory to an *application for hearing and trial*; and that *application I now formally make to the Board*. I have recently received from the Secretary a copy of a resolution for my removal from office; and also of a resolution that the same be considered at the next stated meeting of the Board.

"I think myself entitled, on the plainest principles of justice, to a hearing, and I ought to know, on what grounds specifically, the judgment of the Board, so serious and perhaps so fatal to me, is to be pronounced. I acknowledge the power of the Board to remove, but I presume no one can be found, who will advocate its right to remove except upon sufficient grounds. If I were charged with criminal or dishonourable conduct, I cannot doubt that the justice of the Board would insure me a careful and impartial in-

vestigation. But I understand from the Committee that there is no imputation upon my moral character, no charge against me that I have been unfaithful or inattentive in the discharge of the duties of my Chair; and I am therefore to consider, by the best light I have, that the opinion of the Board, is founded upon the answers of my brethren of the Faculty, which charge me with incompetency.

"I may be permitted to remark, that this charge carries with it some reproach to the Trustees who appointed me to office; to the Trustees under whose superintending power, I have so long continued in office; and to the members of the Medical Faculty, with whom I have been heretofore associated; and ought therefore to be entertained with care and attention. I shall be prepared at the next stated meeting of the Board, if I am permitted so to do, to appear before you; and to meet, so far as it may be in my power, the matters which have been made known to me, as the basis or ground of the first resolution of the Board; and I now ask of the Board, that I be permitted to be heard upon this subject, before it shall proceed to consider the resolution for my removal from office.

"I am, gentlemen, respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN REDMAN COXE."

No notice was given me of any intention of the Board to comply with my request; but I understood, that at this meeting of the 20th, the two preceding letters were presented to the Board, and duly read. A resolution was thereupon made and carried, that, inasmuch as I had suspended my lectures, the Medical Faculty be requested to take measures, by a temporary appointment among themselves, that the Students be not precluded from hearing lectures on the *Materia Medica!* and this with the fact before them, that 260 had been voluntary absentees for more than six weeks. The Faculty, I was further informed, at a meeting next day, honoured this insignificant Chair, (as they heretofore had represented it to the Board) by appointing to its duties, their principal member, Dr. Chapman.

A resolution, to the following effect, was brought forward at the Board, at the same time, and was negatived: "That Dr. Coxe be requested to resume his lectures, and that the Secretary of the Board be authorized to employ the civil authority to ensure order in the class:" and thus, by negativing the resolution, the authority of the Board may be considered as directly yielded to the students, whose proceedings WERE NOT EVEN ANIMADVERTED ON, by any resolution or otherwise, in the minutes! and a gross attack and insult on their officer, acting in the discharge of his duty, under their own appointment, was thus suffered to pass by in utter silence! I call upon the respectable men who are members of that Board, in none of whom do I believe there was a sentiment of unkindness to me, for I had done nothing to cause it, to reconcile, if they can, such a course, with the continuance of any thing like an appearance of authority in their Board, or of discipline over the students in either Faculty of the University. It is impossible. The trustees have,

by this proceeding, placed the Medical School at the control of the students or their advisers, and they have taught them the fatal truth, that whatever is demanded by violence, will be conceded by the apprehension of losing the rent paid by the Medical Faculty. If I had been all, and worse than all, that the students had indecently proclaimed me to be, the imperative duty of the trustees, as governors of the Institution, was to suppress the riot, and not to dismiss me until the authority of the Institution was vindicated. As the case now stands, riot in the Medical School is the simple machinery, by which any Professor may be expelled, and any appointment of the trustees defied and overthrown.

My chair *having been thus invaded*, under the authority of the Board, before they had proceeded to remove me from it, I felt that it was my duty to place at the disposition of the Board the emoluments of my chair, which I had received from the students on taking their tickets; I therefore addressed the following note to the Secretary, to be laid before the Board at their stated meeting on the 3d of February.

"Dear Sir—You will oblige me by laying before the trustees the inclosed communication, at the meeting of the Board this evening.

"Very respectfully, Your obedient servant,
JOHN REDMAN COXE.

"Js. C. BIDDLE, Esq.
"February 3d, 1835."

"TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

"Gentlemen—I am without any communication from the Board of Trustees, on the subject upon which I addressed myself to them on the 20th inst.; but have learned that by the direction of the Board, a *gentleman has been placed in my chair*, to deliver lectures to the class on *Materia Medica and Pharmacy*. As this measure has appeared proper to the Board, I cannot consider it becoming in me to retain the fees which I have received; and therefore transmit, inclosed, my check to the order of the treasurer, for the sum of four thousand nine hundred and eighty-six dollars and sixty-seven cents, being the balance of my receipts from the students, after payment of \$333,33 to the Treasurer, *towards the support of the chair occupied by Dr. Jackson*.

"I shall at an early day send to the Treasurer, to be submitted to the board, a list of the students who received my ticket, distinguishing between the pay and free students.

"I am gentlemen, Your obedient servant,
"Feb. 3d, 1835. JOHN REDMAN COXE."

TICKETS.

Whole number issued by me	321
Of these were free	48— 273
On permits for a limited period unpaid	7
Actual payments at \$20	266=\$5320,00
Deduct the above one-third proportion of Dr. Jackson's salary	333,33
Amount of balance of receipts transmitted	\$4986,67

The curtain dropped however, the drama ended, and I was dismissed on this evening, February 3d, 1835. The following communications were received by me from the secretary on the succeeding day.

"University of Pennsylvania, Feb. 3d. 1835.

"Dear Sir—Agreeably to the direction of the Trustees of the University, I send you inclosed, extracts from the minutes of their proceedings, and your check for \$4986,67.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES C. BIDDLE.

"DR. JOHN REDMAN COXE."

"University of Pennsylvania, Feb. 3d, 1835.

"At a stated meeting of the Trustees held this evening, it was ordered, That the secretary communicate to Dr. Coxe the conviction of the Board of Trustees, that they have no right whatever to receive the money which has been paid to him by the students of the Medical Classes, and to restore to him the check which is inclosed in the letter of Dr. Coxe of this day.

"By order of the Board,

JAMES C. BIDDLE,

Secretary.

"To JOHN REDMAN COXE, M. D."

The only remaining communication is the following, in which my removal is particularly announced, and with this, my connexion with the University since 1809 is dissevered and closed.

"University of Penn., February 3rd, 1835.

"At a stated meeting of the Trustees held this evening, it was

"Resolved, That pursuant to notice given, the Board will consider the resolution respecting Professor Coxe.

"Whereupon, the question being taken by yeas and nays, it was adopted as follows, to wit:

"Whereas, it has been declared as the opinion of this Board, that the continuance of the present incumbent in the chair of *Materia Medica and Pharmacy*, is inexpedient and injurious to the interests of this University, Therefore,

"Resolved, That Doctor John Redman Coxe, the said incumbent of the chair of *Materia Medica and Pharmacy*, be removed therefrom.

"The secretary was instructed to communicate to Dr. Coxe, the adoption of the foregoing resolution, by the majority required by the charter.

"By order of the Board.

JAMES C. BIDDLE, Secretary.

"To JOHN REDMAN COXE, M. D."

Having thus brought to a conclusion the statement of circumstances attending this eventful drama, the reader will probably ask, why, with the concurrent voices of Faculty and Students against me, I did not yield to the impulse, and resign, rather than subject myself to the apparent ignominy of an actual expulsion; more especially as this has occurred so soon after the quiet resignation of two gentlemen, to one of whom has been awarded the honourable distinction of an Emeritus Professor. Had I not supposed that

the verdict of the Trustees in 1832, as before detailed, had closed the persecution of my Chair, and been assured by the apparent slumber for two years, that all was obliterated of my supposed delinquency, I should probably in a short time have also given in my resignation, that some one younger than myself might have been chosen in my place. Nay, could I have foreseen, *previous* to the last course of lectures, that this difficulty continued to exist in the school on my account, I would certainly have seceded in due time to prevent the explosion that has recently occurred. The unexpected reiteration of events having, however, done to my character as a public teacher, during twenty-six years, all the evil that could be anticipated, a sense of what was due to myself prevented such a step on my part. The calls so repeatedly made by me for a fair and open trial of my conduct, during so long a period, having never been responded to, I was led to the belief that it had become necessary for me to stem the torrent, and thus to force my accusers to bring forward those proofs on which their charges depended; and this could only be done by allowing myself to be removed, and being thus before the public, to become entitled to a fair and open verdict, be it in my favour or against me.* I was determined therefore to oppose the oligarchy that oppressed me, and which hangs like an incubus over the whole medical profession here; and to be the victim, if necessary, for the ultimate benefit of my brethren, in whose behalf I consider that I have stood in the breach. My own qualifications will, in common with those of my accusers, become known to the public, and the real interests of our University be thereby probably secured. Such then, in a few words, are the reasons why I chose not to resign; independently of the outrages which were perpetrated against me and my Chair, as demonstrated by the proofs presented. Who have been puppets in this exhibition, the public and the profession will say. I feel conscious, that my duties have not been neglected, but have been duly performed; and I wait to see some exposition of the nature and particulars of my inadequacy to the Chair, from some one of the five Professors who have asserted it. Unless it shall be made in reasonable time, they must expect to have their assertion treated as one left without support, after such a challenge, deserves.

The reader will have observed, that my object has been principally, to give a statement of facts in reference to the proceedings against the Chair of *Materia Medica*, in the order of time in which they occurred, without making any large commentary upon them. They speak for themselves, and they show to the conviction of every reason-

*The reader will notice that in the resolutions of the Trustees, by which I am removed from my Chair, it is stated simply that my continuance therein is *inexpedient* and *injurious* to the interests of the University. I beg to inquire who made it so? They do not charge me with any defect in my teaching, which they would have without doubt done, if any fair opportunity had presented, especially after my demand for a trial, as an act of justice and matter of right. This demand, however, it would seem, was not even deemed worthy of consideration or of notice.

able mind, the establishment of the following truths:—

1. That for nearly two years, a Committee of the Trustees had been appointed upon what in general terms was called "the state of the Medical School," without any communication from them to me, that their whole object, as was the fact, was to degrade the Chair of *Materia Medica* in the school, according to the wishes of several of the Professors.

2. That private interviews had taken place between the Committee and the individual Professors of the Faculty, in consequence of the Circular, addressed to all of them but myself; and that after the opinions, or answers supposed to convey the opinions of the Professors, had been obtained in this way, then only was I invited to a conference with the Committee, whose minds had thus been made up, *ex parte*.

3. That the plan reported by the Committee to the Trustees, which purported to reduce the lectures of *Materia Medica* to three a week, and the compensation to one-half of that which was received by the other Professors, was, upon due consideration, rejected by the Board of Trustees.

4. That the students in the Medical School, acting, as was alleged in their meeting, under the support of Professors in the Medical Faculty, then took the lead, and presented a memorial to the Trustees, who referred it to the Medical Faculty, and who sustained it by a general charge of incompetency against me. That they declined, though called upon, by a resolution of the Board, to specify the ground of this charge; and that the Board put an end to this second attempt against me and the Chair, by solemnly resolving that they would not examine it, unless such a specification was made as would enable me to prepare my defence. From that time to the present, no such specification has been made by any one of the Professors, notwithstanding my frequent challenge of them all to make it.

5. That means the most unworthy were used, even at the table of one of the Professors, to prejudice the students against me, contrary to the truth; and such as could not have been resorted to, if there had been any just charge to be made against my conduct in the Medical School.

6. That, at the commencement of the last session, a scheme of audacious violence was resolved upon, and carried into effect, under the same alleged support of some of the Professors, which was intended to leave the Trustees no option but to remove me, contrary to their former resolutions; that this violence was in like manner supported by the Medical Faculty, in their communications to the Board, not indeed, by openly upholding it, (except in the instance of Dr. Chapman, in his address to the students in his lecture room,) but by repeating their general charge of incompetency, and by taking no measures whatever, as a Faculty, to restore order and decorum among the students. That such was the determined purpose of violence, that while my case was before the Trustees for consideration, even the short pause that this called for, was not allowed by the students, who by increased disorder and outrage upon me, actually compelled me to suspend my lectures.

7. That finally, the Board of Trustees, notwithstanding what they had previously resolved, yielded to this violence, without attempting to arrest or to subdue it. That as soon as I was forced to suspend my lectures, they authorized the Medical Faculty to supply my place; and soon after, under the apprehension of losing the rent which the Medical Faculty pay for their Hall, which was the only reason that I could collect from the Committee who conferred with me upon the subject, they resolved that my continuance in the Chair was inexpedient and injurious to the interest of the school.

These truths, I say, are established to the conviction of every reasonable mind, by the statements I have made. I leave it to the Trustees who have voted for my removal to reconcile their last resolution with those of former years, or with the real interests of the school, and still further with justice to a fellow-citizen. I wish it to be understood, that I have no feeling of disrespect towards any of the Board, and that for many of them I entertain a very high respect and regard; but it does not seem to show a sound state of things in the University, when matters have come to such a pass, that men of their character shall feel compelled to say, that a measure is expedient, which subjects such a body to the control of violent young men, and of designing men in the Faculty, who have not the apology of being young.

It cannot be expected that I should reply to a pamphlet recently published by a Committee of the Medical Class, entitled, "An Examination of certain Charges preferred against the Medical Class of the University of Pennsylvania during the session of 1834-5." Some of my friends differ from me in thinking that I ought not even to notice its existence. But, though I will not condescend to reply to it, it is consistent with the supposition I have always entertained that the class were the dupes of others, and not the contrivers of the mischief, to notice it in one particular. Its general style, dogmatical tone, inaccuracies and inconsistencies, bespeak it the production of youth, for whose follies in this respect, future reflection will be a sufficient punishment, with such of them as shall hereafter prove to be capable of judicious reflection; and I hope there are many—and do not doubt there are some of them—who will show themselves to be of this character. My object is higher, because the truth lies higher, than the class, or any of its members; and it is this object to which I address myself. I attain it at once, by adverting to one of the paragraphs of the pamphlet, and by inserting the subjoined correspondence.

The purpose of the present Faculty is, to sustain themselves by the opinion of two gentlemen of unimpeachable probity, and one of them of exalted medical reputation, who were both, formerly, members of the Board; and to this end, doubtless, the fact stated in the following paragraph has been communicated to the writers of the pamphlet:

"The colleagues of the ex-professor, (meaning

myself,) three years since, including at the time Dr. Physic and Dr. James, the contemporaries of Rush and Wistar, solemnly and unanimously declared, in answer to an interrogatory addressed to them by the Trustees, that *they held him incompetent to his office.*"

This assertion evidently shows, that something more than the opinion of the present Faculty was thought necessary to sustain my condemnation to the public; but the correspondence which now follows, will prove how far the assertion is true or false:

"I was present at an interview between Dr. Thomas C. James and Dr. John Redman Coxe. It took place at the house of Dr. James, on the morning of 3d mo. 17th, 1835.

"I was requested by Dr. James to attend as a mutual friend of the parties, he being too feeble to reply to any queries in writing; and I was informed that the arrangement was agreeable to Dr. Coxe.

"In the conversation which took place, Dr. James declared he had never been actuated by any unkind or unfriendly feeling towards Dr. Coxe: that it was with great reluctance he took any part in the proceedings in the University on the subject: that he considered it his duty, when required, to appear before a committee, appointed by the Trustees, and he accordingly did attend.

"When his opinion was requested on the subject of Dr. Coxe's lectures, he declined giving any opinion of his own to the committee; he stated that he had never heard Dr. Coxe lecture but once.

"He further stated to the committee, that he had conversed with several of the most intelligent students, who had informed him that Dr. Coxe, in his lectures, travelled out of the record, and occupied their time on subjects that they considered extraneous—and in this way about two months of the course was spent.

"I understood Dr. James further to declare, that he had never stated that Dr. Coxe was an incompetent lecturer; but that he believed he was entirely competent to lecture on *Materia Medica* and Pharmacy.

"Dr. James further said, that at the meetings of the Medical Faculty, he had carefully avoided taking any step whereby he would become personally committed, further than by being present, and submitting to the will of the majority.

Signed, "JOS. PARRISH."

"Dear Sir—An uninterrupted acquaintance of nearly 45 years, together with the many instances of your friendly attention to the members of my family, and for which I am most deeply indebted to you, will assure you how great must be my regret at any manifestation of your disesteem for me, either as it respects my personal or professional standing. The exalted station you have attained, gives a weight to your opinions, that is not easily surmounted; judge, then, how anxious I must feel to learn your sentiments in relation to my competency to fill the chair of *Materia Medica*, from which, you are aware, I have lately been removed.

"I should not have troubled you with these ob-

servations, had it not been publicly announced in a late pamphlet from the medical students, by a committee from the class, that "The colleagues of the ex-professor, three years since, including at the time Dr. Physick and Dr. James, the contemporaries of Rush and Wistar, solemnly and unanimously declared, in answer to an interrogatory addressed to them by the Trustees, that *they held him incompetent to his office.*"

"I am aware, that on a former occasion, as one of a committee on my syllabus, you expressed an opinion of my having encroached, in my preliminary lectures, on another branch. In this very particular, however, I had but followed in the footsteps of your respected nephew, Dr. Dorsey, as a comparison of the syllabi would have evinced; and whether right or wrong, has no immediate bearing on the version of the students, thus made public.

"That to which I wish particularly to call your attention, and upon which I ask, and have no doubt to receive, your candid reply, is, whether the paragraph I have quoted is a correct statement of any communication you have made to the Trustees of the University, in regard to my qualifications?"

"I would request it as a favour, to let me have your answer as soon as may suit your convenience.

"Believe me, dear sir,

Most truly and resp'ly.,

Your obliged friend,

JOHN REDMAN COXE.

"DR. P. S. PHYSICK. "April 6, 1835."

"Philadelphia, 15th April, 1835.

"DEAR SIR—Your letter dated the 6th instant, expressing your friendship towards me, was received with great satisfaction—and on my part, your kind feelings fully reciprocated. I am very sorry that I did not keep a copy of the questions proposed to me by the Committee of the Trustees of the University, in the month of January, 1831, respecting your professorship and lectures, together with my answers. I have taken much pains to obtain a perusal of them, but hitherto without success, otherwise I should not have delayed so long the present communication.*

* No one can regret, more deeply than myself, that Dr. Physick did not keep a copy of the questions proposed to him by the Committee in 1831, (See p. 3.) "respecting my professorship and lectures, together with his answers." They must have existence somewhere; if not in a regular written report of the Committee to the Board of Trustees, at least as a part of their minutes of proceedings, on which such report was to be founded. Certainly they will have been strongly impressed on the memory of some, if not of all the members of the Committee, considering that the examination of the Faculty was *individually* and not collectively obtained; and consequently was, to speak technically, a *repetatur haustus*, of at least five repetitions if not seven or eight. No doubt the uniformity of the questions, referring chiefly to my professorship and lectures, together with the uniformity of reply, of disapprobation, and of the reasons for such opinions, must be fresh in the memory of the Committee, who can, therefore, have no difficulty in laying before the public those specific questions, and the replications of every individual member of the Faculty. This measure is indeed the more necessary to justice, since *others*, as well as Dr. Physick, may have formed *their* judgments of my lectures from "information received," and not from any personal knowledge; and, equally with him, when called

"In a pamphlet lately published by a Committee of the Medical Class, you inform me the following sentence occurs. 'That the colleagues of the Ex-professor three years since, including at the time, Dr. Physick and Dr. James, the contemporaries of Rush and Wistar—solemnly and unanimously declared, in answer to an interrogatory addressed to them by the Trustees, that *they held him incompetent to his office.*'

"After this, you add the following inquiry—viz. 'That to which I wish particularly to call your attention, and upon which I ask, and have, no doubt, to receive your candid reply, is whether the paragraph I have quoted is a correct statement of any communication you have made to the Trustees of the University in regard to my qualifications?'

"In reply to this question, I may assure you that as far as I can recollect, I never used the *terms* ascribed to me in the above quotation respecting your qualifications. But at the same time it appears proper to inform you that judging from information I had received, I did disapprove of your lectures in several particulars, and that when called on by the Committee of the Trustees on the subject, I found it my duty to mention my disapprobation, together with the reasons which had influenced me in forming the opinions I entertained. For these I beg leave to refer you to the report of the Medical Faculty to the Trustees, dated the 22d of March, 1831, in which they are embraced.† This report will prove, that your colleagues at that time agreed unanimously in opinion—and it will convince you, I trust, that they were not under the influence of any unkind feelings towards you.

"I have the pleasure to add, that I remain, dear sir, very respectfully your friend and servant,

P. S. PHYSICK.

"To JOHN R. COXE, M. D."

I give this letter of Dr. Physick, italicized as it was sent to me, and I am aware, that by denying the *terms* ascribed to him by the Students, it may be inferred that he admits the substance. If this is so, be it so. I wish it to be observed, however, that the disapprobation of my lectures, *in several particulars*, which he says he expressed, was the consequence of *judging from information he had received*, and not from his own knowledge or observation. I have unbounded confidence in Dr. Physick's integrity, as well as in his professional ability. If he has expressed, or shall do so, any opinion founded *on his own knowledge*, I will believe without any doubt, that he entertains it. He is above any low intrigue, or the disposition to abet it, but a judgment

on by the Committee of the Trustees on the subject, may have found it their duty to mention their disapprobation, and the reasons that influenced them in forming the opinions they entertained. Could I get at these particular questions, in their order, and the arrangement of the examinations and replies of each member of the Faculty, thus separately and individually called before the Committee, without any one to act in my behalf, I think I could develop, and present to the public a deep laid and designing scheme for my destruction, even at that early period of the conspiracy against me.

† See page 5, of this pamphlet.

founded on information from others, is right or wrong according to the information; and I know enough of the base injustice done to me by falsehood and misrepresentation, to believe that the information on which he formed his opinion has been of this character without his suspecting it. The very best men are liable to abuse in this way—perhaps more so than others. My constant effort has been to get the Trustees to hear me, in such a way, that they and the world might judge between information from others and facts; but I could not obtain this hearing, and have failed because I could not obtain it. Dr. Physick's disapprobation of my lectures, in several particulars, even founded on his own knowledge, would of itself, be a refutation of the charge of incompetency; for to talk of disapproving several particulars, when the charge is, that I was incompetent to teach the *Materia Medica*, is an absurdity.

I suppose that Dr. Physick might say of every Course of Lectures in the University, if he was acquainted with them, that he disapproves of them in several particulars. Others certainly do. But what is this but to say, that he differs in several particulars from the Lecturer. It is gratifying to me to learn that Dr. Physick has never expressed the opinion imputed to him by the Students. If he has expressed an opinion founded on what others have said of me, it is not his opinion of my competency, but of their representation of it, and then the question is, who were the informers, and what was *their* title to confidence.

Of more than one of the Professors, I may say, that it is a delicate thing to ask them for their personal opinions, after they have agreed to

communications to the Trustees, in which it may be supposed they are expressed. All the communications to the Trustees by the Faculty that I have given in the preceding pages, are obviously from one pen. The affected regrets in some of them, and the apparent desire to avoid saying anything to my prejudice, unless compelled, which was nevertheless the strongest way of saying it, is characteristic. Every body must see that it is an easy matter for the person who holds the pen, to make others adopt language far beyond their meaning, and which it is very awkward afterwards to explain. I am sincerely happy that Dr. Physick and Dr. James have not felt this difficulty. The time of sober reflection is, however, likely to come to most of those who have been concerned in this crusade against me. I do not wish them half the ill they have done to me, nor a tenth of what they have done to the character of the University.

Here then I close, and give to the general reader without further comment. He will judge, whether in a city whose inhabitants are proverbially just and kind, I have had either justice or mercy, and by this judgment the Trustees of the University, the Professors, and myself, must all abide. I shall bow to it, whatever it may be, with profound respect; I shall believe it to be just, even if I am condemned by it.

To the professional reader I think it my duty to offer some further remarks on one or two points of medical disquisition, to which the general reader cannot be invited; and I therefore ask gentlemen of the profession, who take an interest in the case, and only such, to peruse the following Appendix.

APPENDIX.

I feel it a duty to point out a few particulars, in which, differing from some of the Faculty, I ventured steadily and uniformly to bear my protest; and this being *in opposition* to the favourite opinions of individuals, founded in error or ignorance, I firmly believe to have been the remote cause of all hostility against me. If I do not prove the position I thus assume, I ask no favour from the community. I contend for truth, and ask for support only as I shall make my charges good. It is obvious that the grounds of accusation against me have been perpetually changed or modified. At first, the fault urged, was my *encroachment*, in about 16 lectures, and nothing more, on the duties of another chair. Failing in this, the *deterioration of my chair* was attempted; and indirect, but distant hints thrown out, or rather threats, of exposure of my insufficiency, which was afterwards more fully asserted, but never substantiated, though perpetually invited and called for by me. Then came the co-operation of petitions from students; base affirmations of turpitude on my part, in vindictively blackballing the candidates for degrees; and these made at the table of one of the professors! In the subsequent and late attacks, the students, in their opposition to their professors of the Medical Faculty, affirm the *high value and importance* of the *Materia Medica* chair; and so highly gifted are they, that by the attendance upon a dozen lectures only, even those to the amount of more than 120, who never had before attended any lectures, nay, some who had been rejected by the preceding examinations, and that *not once but twice*, all became suddenly enlightened, and subscribed their names to my condemnation! Again and again have the Faculty prated of *experience*; a prostituted word, which I have sufficiently demonstrated in the following appendix, by the fact that at least *three* of the number *have set it at nought* by their own *self-condemnation of their own asserted self-experience, in their different representations* of the importance of Swaim's Panacea, at the distance only of a few years! And these, professors in a University! members of a Medical Faculty! bound by every tie to that University, to the public, to their classes, and to the regular profession of medicine, to oppose a constant barrier against empiricism, under whatever form or name it might present itself! How have they redeemed those pledges? Let them answer. Do they suppose a denial of the correctness or truth of their former experience will do away the impression of their conduct in the minds

of their medical brethren? Has not the man on whom they thus have blown both hot and cold, has he not, I repeat, held them up publicly to the world, by his continued advertisements of their own primary plaudits, and that in spite of every effort to the contrary? Why have they not sued for damages? Why, in short, does he *still play with them*, like the fish upon the hook, from which *the angler* will not permit them to escape?

I have nothing to say against the self-experience of the other asserters of my incompetency. They may reconcile it to themselves as best they may, and especially one of them, who from his former pursuits, altogether different from those of medicine, the degree of which he holds only as an honorary title, not founded in a regular pursuit of medical studies, nor sanctioned by a medical examination, but merely granted, *speciali gratia*, from another school, to enable him to hold the professorship whose chair he occupies. I must be permitted to think, with all due respect to that gentleman, that, before he placed his signature to the replies of the faculty against me, it would have been as well to have recollected, that neither from previous studies, nor practical experience in medicine, was he a perfectly fit judge of my actual qualifications.

From the general character of this prolonged statement it will be seen, that the *encroachments* stated as the primary cause of all this turmoil in the University, have nothing to do with the chairs of Anatomy, Surgery, Midwifery, or Chemistry; at least, no charge of the kind appears. The encroachment attaches itself, by the very first report of the committee on my Syllabus, *altogether* to the chair of the Institutes; and as no further charge is made against me, it is to the practical chair, *as constituted and connected with* the Institutes, and with that alone, that I can have anything to conflict. And should I, in my statements, deviate in the slightest degree from the truth, there will be students of *every successive class since my election* to the chair of *Materia Medica*, now practitioners in every section, who can at once refute and put them down, and cover me with confusion!

At p. 3, reference is made to the syllabi, and some of those referred to are here introduced; at least so much as is necessary to embrace that part of my own syllabus, which has fallen under the displeasure of the Faculty for its encroachments.

As Cullen's treatise on the *Materia Medica*, is,

strictly speaking, the basis of all the lectures on the subject, that have under different modifications been delivered in this University, by the various occupants of that Chair, I shall present the outline of his *preliminary* lectures, occupying no less than 215 quarto pages. In order to explain such an extension, the Dr. thus delivers himself in the preface:

"I have not attempted to give a full account of all that might be said of the several subjects of the *Materia Medica*. My *chief purpose is to give the principles upon which* those substances are to be judged of as medicines; *to correct the errors of former writers in that respect, and to offer some new principles and doctrines* which to me appear necessary. These doctrines are given partly in my general introduction to the whole, and partly in the reflections on the general operation of medicines, which I have prefixed to the several chapters. These discussions have extended that introduction, as well as some other parts of my work to a length beyond what might have been expected; but the state both of *Physiology and Pathology for ages past*, over the greater part of Europe, led me to think such discussions necessary. These speculations may often appear doubtful, especially to persons little exercised on this subject. I hope however they are well founded, and I offer them with entire deference to the judgment of the public."

So much I could not refrain from presenting to the reader, as evidence of the modest and diffident character of Dr. Cullen, whose merits as a physician and a man, stand high in the pages of medical literature.

In the same preface, p. ix, in recommending some works on the subject, Dr. Cullen particularly notices three, which he wishes to place in the hands of all his readers, viz: the *Treatise of the Materia Medica*, by Dr. Lewis—of Petrus

Jonas Bergius; "and the *Apparatus Medicaminum* by the learned Professor of Gottingen, Jo. Andreas Murray, knight of the royal order of Wasa."

In his "history of the *Materia Medica*" which he has given, Cullen thus follows out the character of Murray and his work alluded to. (p. 48.)

"To make amends for the errors and defects of preceding writers, the public have now received the *Apparatus Medicaminum*† of the very learned and ingenious professor MURRAY of Gottingen. The work is not yet finished, but it promises, when concluded, to be the most complete and perfect that has ever appeared upon the subject. In so far as it has yet proceeded, the author with great judgment and medical discernment, has, from former writers, and more especially from those of latest date, collected every thing which deserved to be repeated. He every where discovers an intimate acquaintance with all the writers on the subject, and always makes a judicious selection of what they afford."

The writings of this great man, thus highly but not too greatly extolled, by Dr. Cullen, were prominent in the course of Professor Barton. Let us here contrast this fact with the only notice, that is afforded of him by Professor Chapman, in his *Therapeutics*, vol. i. p. 18, Ed. 1.

"Now, I shall merely mention, that among the numerous works the science claims, there are three, which by reason of their superior merit, are entitled to be singled out and noticed. These are the celebrated systems of Lewis, Cullen, and MURRAY." To this is appended the following note, by the learned Professor—"I allude here to the work of my friend Dr. Murray of Edinburgh.‡ The "*Apparatus Medicaminum*" by an author of the same name, I have never been able to procure!" We are told the same in subsequent editions, (1823) and yet his successor in the chair of *Materia Medica*, Dr. Dorsey, who died in 1818, had a complete edition of the work, which I purchased at the sale of his library and now possess; from it I have ventured to draw a large proportion of the facts presented to the class, and which, probably, is what has led the Faculty to stigmatize, by their allusion to the necessity of self-experience.§

† Cullen's work is printed in 1789, at which time the first edition of Murray was extant; a second edition of the same appeared in 1793.

‡ An edition of this work of Dr. Murray of Edinburgh, was given to the public in —, but except that it was enriched by the luminous notes of Dr. Chapman, I really must express my opinion, that it had not much to recommend it, certainly not as much as that of his namesake.

§ At length, (dated November 1823,) we find the Professor had obtained "a casual inspection of the work," and he thus adverts to the fact at p. 13 of the preface to the fourth edition: "Despising an ostentatious display of obsolete or common-place learning, the common refuge of ignorance or dulness, I have sought not idly to parade the opinions of others, but to give to those, for whose instruction it is chiefly intended, the result of my own observations and experience, derived from an extensive practice both public and private of more than twenty years. The pedant or impostor who wishes to thumb over a rosary of names, only valued because not familiar, or to make a pompous display of learned references and citations, that have no useful bearing, may,

* The table of contents of Dr. Cullen's *Materia Medica*, will be found to contain nearly the whole of the substance of the sixteen lectures delivered by me, and affirmed to be an encroachment on another branch. I allude to that part of it which he calls introductory. The first chapter of which, embraces

The action of medicines upon the body in general.

Sect. 1. Of Temperaments.

Article 1. Of the simple solids.

2. Of the state of the Fluids.

3. Of the distribution of the Fluids.

4. Of the different proportion of Solid and Fluid in the body.

5. Of the state of the nervous power in sensibility—in irritability—in strength, and weakness.

Sect. 2. Of particular Temperaments.

3. Of Idiosyncrasies.

The above occupy nearly fifty 4to pages.

Chapter 2d. Treats of the several means of our learning the virtues of medicines.

Article 1. Of the use of *Chemical* resolution in investigating the virtues of different substances.

2. Of the use of *Botanical* affinities in ascertaining the medical virtues of plants.

3. Of the *sensible qualities* of substances, as pointing out their medical virtues.

4. Of acquiring the knowledge of the virtues of medicines by *experience*.

Chapter 3d. Of the most proper plan for a treatise on the *Materia Medica*.

The remainder of the 1st. vol. is taken up in the consideration of aliments, and its appendages of cookery, drinks and condiments; and the 2nd vol. embraces in detail, the subject of medicines in the subdivisions he has thought proper to employ.

Thus then we perceive, that Cullen deemed it necessary to *encroach* on other branches of the medical profession, as essential to the full comprehension of the *Materia Medica*; and he more fully demonstrates the propriety of this, at p. 159, and near the close of his *introductory lectures explanatory* of the principles laid down.

"Such is the plan, says he, I am to follow; and I am particularly willing that this treatise of the *Materia Medica*, should be considered as giving a *Therapeutice* or *methodus medendi*, from which part of the medical system the *Materia Medica* cannot properly be separated. It may indeed be alleged, that as the *Therapeutice* must be founded on a particular system of physiology and pathology, so it must be liable to all the errors and fallacies of these: but every treatise on the *Materia Medica*, which refers the virtues of medicines to general indications, must be exposed to the same objections; and though we cannot presume to say that our plan in this respect shall be without mistakes, yet our general plan in most of its parts being nearly the same with most other systems, we trust it shall not be very faulty; and as it is a principal purpose of this treatise to render the *methodus medendi*, or the establishing of general indications more correct, and better adapted to the particulars of the *Materia Medica*, than it has hitherto been, so it affords a particular reason for our following this plan; which in general is very much the same with that of Dr. BOERHAAVE, in his treatise *de Viribus Medicamentorum*, and such as have been followed by several late authors, as Spielman, Loesecke, and Licutaud."

Perhaps these extracts from a writer, so deservedly celebrated as Cullen, and whose treatise on the *Materia Medica* is one of the three recommended by Dr. Chapman himself, "by reason of their superior merit," might satisfy most readers, that in my *sixteen obnoxious* lectures, I had not deviated greatly from this illustrious example;

without labour, acquire his lesson from the *Apparatus Medicaminum* of Murray—a work which has been covertly invaded and despoiled by several of the late *erudite* writers on the *Materia Medica*.

"To derogate from the substantial merits of this celebrated production, or to undervalue medical industry and research when properly directed, is very remote from my purpose. Yet from a casual inspection of the work, for within a few days only have I had it for the first time in my hands, I must say that it owes much of its bloated dimensions, and perhaps some of its fame, to the introduction of what the eloquent BURKE, with his usual felicity of expression, denominates *barren* knowledge, that species which is unsusceptible of any practical application."

To this I shall not hesitate to say, that no one but a very casual inspector of the work in question, would ever have ventured on such a denunciation, or have questioned an authority so fully sustained by Cullen, and by every reviewer of it except himself. I do most solemnly declare my belief, that the assertion made is strictly true, that the inspection of the work has been casual in the extreme; nor do I doubt that such belief will be acceded to by every one who will seriously and candidly investigate its pages. I have myself examined the work closely and accurately,—not casually or for a few days—but for several years; and whether in its Botanical, Chemical, or Pharmaceutical arrangements, I defy Dr. Chapman to verify his affirmations as to its bloated dimensions, or its barren knowledge; and most sincerely do I trust that no one will be tempted to forego its benefits, by the ill-timed, the ill-judged, and erroneous review of it, if review it can be called, to which I thus refer.

but I proceed to state, that Dr. Griffiths, Professor of *Materia Medica* at the period of my studies, from 1790 to 1794, pursued him (Dr. Cullen) closely; nor was he less considered and acted on, by Dr. Barton, elected to the chair on the resignation of Dr. Griffiths. As they neither, I believe, ever published an express syllabus of their own lectures, these brief remarks will suffice; and I shall now uphold my right to a similar claim, from the example of Dr. Chapman himself, during the period of his holding the chair of *Materia Medica*, for three years, and largely encroaching on Dr. Barton, who was then profoundly lecturing on the practice of physic.

In the first edition of the *Therapeutics*, (the only one I particularly refer to, published in 1817, and stated in the preface to be the lectures "in the state in which they were read, without any alteration or amendment, in the matter or style,") he has (preface p. vi.) the following: "It will, at least, be useful to my class, as exhibiting more than can elsewhere be met with, of my own speculative and practical views. Numerous, too, as are the treatises on the *Materia Medica*, there is no one which I have seen, precisely on the plan of mine, uniting to some of the more useful pharmaceutical details,* copious practical instructions, adapted to the management of diseases, modified, as they confessedly are, by the peculiarity of the state of society, and climate, of our own country."

Speaking, p. viii, of the "general discussions on the *modus operandi*, and practical application of the several classes of medicines (as being) denominated *Therapeutics*, a province of our science exceedingly interesting, and which has been hitherto strangely neglected." "There was, here, a very wide field open to me. I have sometimes been led into physiological inquiries, and still oftener into discussions relative to the nature of disease, or the peculiar character of the affection directly before me. Disquisitions of this sort, though they may seem to trench (q. encroachment!) upon another department, must be allowed as being indispensable to a clear and intelligible application of our remedies. Could it, indeed, be possible to convey a distinct conception of the various uses of mercury, opium, bark, or of any active article of the *Materia Medica*, were we not permitted the privilege of entering so far into the history of the diseases, to which the medicine might be appropriate, as to enable us to point out the exact circumstances of the case in which it may be beneficially prescribed?" Compare, now, the communication of the Faculty on this point, and judge of the claims to even decent respect, which the opinions of the Professor in that communication should have upon the medical public.

This is all I shall at present say on the subject of the syllabi of Cullen, and our own Professors, to the time of Dorsey; but I cannot omit a few words here, on certain points of doctrine, and explanation of the *modus operandi* of medicines, which are apparently claimed as his own exclu-

* I must candidly confess, I have never been able to find these out.—Ed.

sively, by the author of Therapeutics, as the following quotations will prove:

"My theory of the operation of medicines is of modern date, and alleges, that they all act by exciting a local impression, which is extended through the medium of sympathy. By many, however, it is still believed that certain articles, at least, enter the circulation, and produce their effects in this way." p. 42.—If this theory be of modern date, the Professor certainly gives the credit of it to no one in this place, nor in page 49, where he holds the following language: "It results, on the whole, from what I have said, that we are to reject the fluids altogether, in our inquiries relative to the operations of medicines, because, in addition to the reasons already stated for doing so, we have, in that law of the animal economy termed *sympathy*, or consent of parts, a solution of the problem which comports infinitely better with the existing state of our knowledge."

Now let us hear what Cullen says on this particular—p. 123. "To conclude what we have to offer respecting the operation of medicines, it is proper now to remark, as I have said above, that in considering this subject, it is very necessary to attend to the *sympathy and consent* which takes place between the several parts of the human system; and although we cannot prosecute this consideration fully here, we must not omit taking notice of one very general case of very great influence in almost the whole of the doctrines of the *Materia Medica*, as this particular *sympathy* is concerned in the operation of the most part of medicines, and explains the operation of many which is otherwise difficult to be understood. This is the operation of medicines upon the stomach, from which motions are often propagated to almost every distant part of the human body, and peculiar effects produced in those parts, whilst the medicine itself is only in contact with the stomach."

Is it not rather extraordinary, that this doctrine of sympathy, and of the gastric operation of medicines, though so powerfully expressed by Cullen, and so strongly adapted, by his great authority, to build up any hypothesis, that might be seized upon, should not even be noticed in the Therapeutics? I shall not take up time to demonstrate that the opinions thus advanced, belong neither to the author of the Therapeutics, nor to Dr. Cullen; and that any credit from their *assumption* does not, by any means, authorize us to claim, as our own, that which can so readily be shown to have been previously inculcated. Here, at all events, may be seen, an *encroachment* on the writings of Cullen. Indeed, we may add, that the encroachment went so far as at length (as printers say) to crowd his works entirely out of our school, in which they had so long held a conspicuous standing. As to the truth of these doctrines, I have nothing to remark at present; probably it may be necessary to refer to some of these particulars on the winding up of the drama.

Dr. Dorsey, my immediate predecessor, formed the first regular Syllabus of the lectures on the *Materia Medica* here, and printed them for the use of the Class. As Dr. Chapman, in his dedication of his work to Dr. Dorsey, states that it

had been adopted by the latter as the text-book to his lectures, and that therefore "there would seem to be a propriety in inscribing it" to him, I am the more desirous of pointing out the character of Dr. Dorsey's lectures, by the aid of his syllabus, than I otherwise should be, because it is the real basis on which I constituted mine; that gentleman having not only presented me with the syllabus, but enabled me, by a perusal of his manuscript lectures themselves, greatly to curtail the labour of preparing a course of lectures for the ensuing season, on which, at the time I was appointed, I had not a solitary one in existence. Whoever, therefore, now asperses my course, runs a considerable risk of throwing an odium on my predecessor, to whom I was so greatly indebted. What Dr. Dorsey was thought of, at the time Dr. Chapman dedicated to him his first edition of his Therapeutics, may be learned by the tenor of that dedication, to which I refer the reader, and proceed to give the syllabus itself, at least so far as it is connected with my sixteen obnoxious lectures; which connexion will be seen by reference to mine.

PREFACE TO DR. DORSEY'S SYLLABUS.

"A cursory glance at the following pages will suffice to show, that a course of lectures upon the subjects they contain, must comprise much information not strictly included within the limits of the *Materia Medica*.

"There is no province in Medical Science, however, of which the boundary lines are so indefinite as this. In attempts to define them with accuracy, *encroachments* on the kindred sciences are with difficulty avoided. This difficulty is inherent, and arises necessarily from the nature of the case. In one point of view, *Materia Medica* is little more than a mixture of Chemistry and Botany. In another it assumes a different form, and borrows large stores of practical matter. Without neglecting the former of these sciences, the author of the lectures described in the present syllabus, has no hesitation in acknowledging, that his main object has been to render his course as far as possible a practical one. In this he has the sanction of the very eminent teachers who have preceded him, and whose talents and labours have given to the chair of *Materia Medica*, in the University of Pennsylvania, a degree of relative importance, far greater than has generally been attached to it in other schools.

"For refusing to adopt entirely, the plans of his distinguished predecessors, the author could render many reasons which satisfy himself, but would not be important to the reader."

"SYLLABUS or Heads of Lectures on *Materia Medica*.

PHYSIOLOGICAL remarks illustrative of those vital functions, which adapt the human body to the action of medicines.

Of animal life:

Life not a forced state.

Proofs that it is not the result of stimulant impressions.

Sympathy—Incompatibility of a plurality of

actions, in the same parts at the same time—
Limitations of the doctrine.

MATERIA MEDICA

Includes a history of aliments as well as medicines—The necessity of a knowledge of diet to a physician—Many diseases cured by diet alone—An attention to it necessary in all. Diseases resulting from a diet exclusively vegetable—From one exclusively animal.”

[Here he follows with the consideration of different varieties of food, &c. vegetable and animal, which we omit.]

SECTION II.

“OF THE MATERIA MEDICA PROPRIA.

Observations on medicinal articles, and the means employed in the investigation of their properties.

Therapeutical observations on the nature of diseased actions.

Observations on the nature of the actions produced by remedies.

Remedies sometimes employed simply, to lessen existing actions; sometimes to augment them.

Explanations of the nature of Stimulant and Sedative agency.

A direct sedative has no existence in the strictest sense of the term; but many medicines are employed, which produce an ultimate sedative operation;—illustrated in the effects of evacuating medicines;—of the various passions and emotions of mind; in the effects of cold and heat;—As a general principle, whatever produces a deviation from the natural condition of an animal body, occasions new actions; and in this limited sense is a stimulus. But the term Stimulant is reserved to designate a class of medicines used expressly for the purpose of augmenting the motions or powers of the body.

MODUS OPERANDI of medicines :

1. Medicines act primarily on the solids; chiefly the stomach and skin;—proofs.
2. It is not to be denied that medicinal articles occasionally enter the blood-vessels;—proofs.
3. Wherever the primary impression may be made, the subsequent effects result from sympathy; (sympathy defined action from remote impression);—illustrations.

Divisions of the Materia Medica Propria into two general sections.

- 1st. EVACUANTS; those by which fluids are drawn out from the body, or by which its powers and actions are diminished; (including classes of medicines, not strictly entitled to their place, but which cannot so well be arranged in the 2d division.)*
2. STIMULANTS; those which increase its actions and powers.

§ I. EVACUANTS.

1. Blood-letting.
2. Emetics.

* These are, Antilithics, Anthelmintics, and Epispastics.

3. Cathartics.
4. Diuretics.
5. Antilithics.
6. Diaphoretics.
7. Emmenagogues.
8. Sialagogues.
9. Anthelmintics.
10. Epispastics.†

§ II. STIMULANTS.

1. Stimulants used for the alone purpose of stimulating; (i. e. of increasing action.)
2. Narcotics.
3. Antispasmodics.
4. Tonics.
5. Astringents.

EVACUANTS.

I. BLOOD-LETTING :

History of blood-letting,

Its general use,

Objections to it considered,

Its effects in health,

in disease,

Circumstances which demand, and which contra-indicate it in diseases,

Practical application to particular diseases.‡

LOCAL BLOOD-LETTING.

a. Scarification.

b. Cupping.

c. Leeches.

Practical application of each, &c. &c.

I ask now all my readers to reflect, after perusing the foregoing statements, how far they can conscientiously believe that the following Syllabus of my own, is a reprehensible departure from my legitimate rights :

“OUTLINE of Lectures on Materia Medica and Pharmacy, reported to the Medical Faculty, May 3d, 1830.

General remarks—Origin of Materia Medica—Its vast extent—Embraces all the kingdoms of nature—Proved by a cursory view of them—Its connexion with Pharmacy—Different views of Materia Medica at different periods—Cursory remarks on man, and his organization—Vitality, a primordial principle—General throughout the system—The vitality of the blood sustained, and its capability of being the recipient of morbid causes, equally with the solids—The doctrines of solidism and humoralism cannot be safely disunited—Both are essential to a perfect consideration of the modus operandi of remedial agents, and of the causes of disease—Organization of the blood a necessary consequence of its vitality—Of the motions of which matter is susceptible, viz. mechanical, chemical, vital; and by which alone the actions of medicines, &c. can be explained—Of the application of remedies to the system, by the stomach, skin, lungs, &c.—Of the

† Errhines and Expectorants are omitted, for reasons deemed sufficient: the expectorant virtues of such articles as are supposed to possess these qualities are not however neglected.

‡ In treating of the use of this and the following remedies in diseases, the Nosology of Cullen is used simply as a catalogue: however objectionable for most purposes, it sufficiently answers this.”

reception of medicines into the blood-vessels—Proofs of—Injection of articles therein, not always fatal—Proofs of mercury being found in the system—Cutaneous absorption defended; the endermic mode of medication dependant on it—Modus operandi of medicines considered.

MATERIA MEDICA, how best acquired—Considerations on experience in medicine, and difficulties attending—Mode of studying the science—Difficulty of a perfect arrangement evinced by the want of uniformity in writers—Necessity of connecting the *Materia Alimentaria* with the *Materia Medica*.

Arrangement adopted, viz. three Classes—*Sedantia*, *Incitantia*, and *Nutrientia*.

☐ These preliminary lectures occupy about sixteen,* and are the principal basis of the whole.

Sedantia.—General remarks—All, for the most part are evacuants, and are derived primarily or remotely from the blood—Division of this class into blood-letting, emetics, cathartics, anthelmintics, diuretics, antilithics, diaphoretics or dermatics, expectorants or pneumaretics, sialagogues, errhines, emmenagogues, and dermaphlegmantia.

1. *Blood-letting*—Its varieties—General remarks on its importance and character at different periods—Particulars as to its utility, &c. in the pyrexia, neuroses, &c.—Three lectures.

2. *Emetics*—Observations on, and their uses in the pyrexia, &c.—Are derived from the vegetable and mineral kingdom—Ipecac, Spiraea, Euphorbium, Tobacco, Squills, &c.—Antimony and its preparations—Copper, Zinc, Mercury—Doses, preparations, &c. &c.—About eight lectures.

3. *Cathartics*—Observations on, and their uses in the pyrexia, &c.—Derived from the vegetable and mineral kingdom—Manna, Podophyllum, Ricinus, Senna, Rhubarb, Jalap, Scammony, Aloes, Gamboge, Colocynth, Elaterium, Hellebore, Turpentine, Sulphur, Magnesia, Neutral Salts, Calomel, its history, doses, preparations, &c.—*Enemata*—*Anthelmintics*—Ten lectures.

4. *Diuretics*—Observations on, &c.—Considerations on the importance of the urinary discharge, its compound character and variation in disease—Use of Diuretics in the pyrexia, neuroses, &c. &c.—From the vegetable, animal and mineral kingdom—Alkalies, neutral salts, water, Squills, Seneka, Digitalis, Copaiivi, Colchicum, Cantharides—*Antilithics*—Urinary concretions—Acids and Alkalies, &c.—Five lectures.

5. *Diaphoretics*—Observations on, importance, &c.—Uses in the pyrexia, &c.—Derived from the vegetable and mineral kingdoms—Chiefly those enumerated under Emetics—also Guaiacum, Eupatorium, &c. &c.—Four lectures.

6. *Expectorants*—Observations on—Vegetable and Mineral—Variety in their operations—Many of the Emetics, fetid Gums, &c.—Three lectures.

7. *Sialagogues*—Observations on—Only one to be depended on—Mercury and its preparations—High importance—Use in pyrexia, neuroses, &c.—Three lectures.

8. *Errhines*—Observations on—Of comparatively trifling import—Sternutatories, Tobacco, Turpeth Mineral, Chlorine—One lecture.

* These are the unfortunate sixteen lectures, that were the ostensible, primary source of all the events commemorated in this Appeal.

9. *Emmenagogues*—General observations on—Varied action of—under different circumstances of the female—Vegetable, Animal, Mineral—Purgatives, Madder, Seneka, Ergot, Cantharides—Tonics, &c.—Two lectures.

10. *Dermaphlegmantia*—Comprising Rubefacients, Vesicatories, Caustics, Setons, Issues, &c.—Two lectures.

In all, about fifty-five lectures.

Incitantia.—General observations on—High importance, &c.—Division into two orders—*Stimulantia*, *Roborantia*—The first subdivided into three genera, viz. Stimulants proper, Antispasmodics, Narcotics—The latter, into two genera, Tonics, Astringents.

1. *Stimulants proper*—Observations on Stimulants—Uses—Cautions as to abuse of—In pyrexia, &c.—Alcohol and its combinations, Wine, Ether—Phosphorus, &c.—Three lectures.

2. *Antispasmodics*—General remarks—Uses—Abuses—Vegetable and animal, &c.—Camphor—Fetid Gums, &c.—Oil of Amber—Musk—Castor, &c.—Valerian—Warm Bath, &c.—Three lectures.

3. *Narcotics*—General observations, use, abuse, &c.—In different diseases, &c.—Opium—Lactucarium—Henbane—Belladonna—Cicuta—Stramonium—Prussic Acid, &c.—Five lectures.

4. *Tonics*—General observations—Too much abused—Use, &c.—Vegetable—Mineral—Cinchona—Quassia—Colomba—Gentian—Serpentaria—Oak, &c.—Iron, Silver, Copper, Zinc, Arsenic, Gold, Bismuth, &c.—Four Lectures.

5. *Astringents*—General observations—Their action obscure—Uses—Abuses—Vegetable and Mineral—Kino—Catechu—Galls—Alum—Iron, Lead, &c.—Three lectures.

General observations on compounding medicines—Preparation, &c. Tinctures—Pills et Alia. Two lectures.

Nutrientia—General observations on—High importance of Dietetics, &c.—Particular remarks on Vegetable and Animal food—Fruits, &c. &c. Five lectures.

☐ Altogether my course takes up about eighty to eighty-five lectures, including the pharmaceutical observations, &c. &c. interspersed—and the Dietetics. I have, as nearly as I can do it, made a division above, which cannot, however, be deemed perfectly correct."

We leave this subject for another, connected with the observation at page 5, of *unpleasant altercations occurring among the Faculty*. The instance adverted to, as connected with myself, was that of a Mr. John F. D. Heineken, who was examined for a degree on March 8, 1823. His inaugural dissertation, which devolved on me to examine, was on *Scrofula*. Towards the close of this, *otherwise* a very praiseworthy production, I found the following in praise of a nostrum, *which, only three weeks previously*, had been puffed into notice by two Professors, and another physician, then a lecturer, and since connected with the Medical Faculty. As I shall have to recur to this again, I shall not here say much. "The last remedy which I shall notice," says Mr. Heineken, "is Swaim's Panacea, *which has done more*

in *Scrofula than any other medicine*. It is now before the public, and its virtues will be fully tested, and should it be found generally successful, and its composition be ascertained, one of the opprobria of the profession will be removed."

It may appear to the reader, that little objection need have been taken to this; and that I should have carried my ideas in opposition to quackery too far, had I refused my assent to a degree on this alone. Here I must reply, that medicine, by its followers, like the wife of Cæsar, ought never to be suspected of the slightest approximation to empiricism. The proprietor of that nostrum had asked me, but a short time previously, to sanction it by my name, in an advertisement, like those to which the signatures of two Professors and the lecturer appear. I refused, as may be expected, and was not sorry to have an opportunity of thus expressing my opinion in the case alluded to, and before the assembled Faculty. That I may not be supposed to have acted with undue arrogance, I shall only remark, that the province of a Faculty, authorized to grant diplomas in medicine to the regularly instructed student, and to stand as a wall of separation between him and the Charlatan, must at once be useless, and academical instruction a waste of time and money, when individuals of the Faculty guarantee the worth of an unknown composition. Without entering into any consideration of its merits or demerits, I hesitate not to say, that one of the earliest and most fatal blows to the University, was thus administered by those, who should have shielded her from the aspersion of holding any intercourse that could even indirectly weaken her foundations. Such is the fact as far as I now recollect of the only instance of *medical discord* in the Faculty. When I recur to what the Faculty so boldly insist on—Experience—I must again revert to this event. I will merely state what examples have been made of regular members of the Profession, who have deviated from the strict line of duty, in other countries, and even in our own, by the honourable corporations to which they belonged. The particulars of each would occupy too much room in these pages. I refer, therefore, to the fact of the Medical Faculty of London expelling Dr. James, for becoming "the vender of his own excellent (then secret) febrifuge powder:"—"The most learned society of Europe erasing from their lists the name of the celebrated *Lower*, who had been convicted of venal practices:"—And, "within a few months, (*Medico-Chirurgical Review*, December, 1823,) as we are informed by Dr. Johnson, the name of Dr. *Thornton*, once highly respectable, has been in a similar manner disgraced, by being struck from the list of the Royal College of Physicians, because of his association with an itinerant Quack, or vender of American herbs in London."* See Hosack's *Medical Address*, p. 52 of his 3d vol. of *Essays*. "A similar course of decisive and vigorous conduct on

our part," adds Dr. Hosack, "would probably be productive of similar beneficial results, in preserving the respectability of the healing art in the United States. Indeed, gentlemen," he proceeds to say, "I cannot withhold the expression of the mortification I feel when I see the members of our profession, some, too, enjoying the most distinguished seats in our Universities, descending from their high estate, and lending the sanction of professorial authority to any new Syrup or Panacea that cupidity and the arts of the impostor can combine to fill the purses of the venders." But enough—I leave it for the medical public to determine whether I, if even convicted of the ignorance ascribed to me, or some others of my medical brethren, were most deserving of that expulsion from their Chairs, which I have now experienced. Nay, I will venture to assure the Trustees, that such an event would be hailed, even at this late period, as an appropriate offering to the insulted majesty of medical integrity!

At p. 6. reference is made to the *Materia Medica*, as having had its season of *highest estimation in the dark ages of medical credulity and superstition!* When this was penned by the author of the report, did the Faculty recollect that in the therapeutics of one of their body, the following was to be found, as a part of the lectures that had for three years been delivered to the students? At p. 17, 1st. edition, the learned author says, "Leaving now, these bold attempts at medical generalization, we revert to the more direct history of *our department*. (*Materia Medica*.) It can hardly be supposed, that *during the last century*, when physical science was so studiously cultivated, the *Materia Medica* should remain stationary. No section of medicine is insulated, and whatever light is thrown upon one, soon becomes reflected over the whole. The improvements which took place in the departments, even the most distantly related to it, were therefore not without effect. As physiology and pathology, the laws of the animal economy in a healthy, and the doctrines of its deranged condition, were further elucidated, we acquired more accurate views of the operation of medicines, and a happier manner of adapting them to the management of diseases. But, it was from those branches which are its immediate kindred, that the *Materia Medica* derived its principal acquisitions. Every province of natural history has been tributary to its extension. To the chemistry of modern times, especially, we owe the highest obligations. Correcting its own errors by the surest methods, it has also extended the spirit of reformation to our science, and while it has armed practitioners with some of the best means of combating disease, has not only expunged others which were inert, but inculcated the art of preparing and administering remedies with infinitely more neatness, precision and efficacy."

The writer of the paragraph just quoted, is Dr. CHAPMAN!—and it is the same Dr. Chapman, who in my case, wished to degrade the chair of *Materia Medica*, by representing the high estimation it has received, as sprung from the medical credulity and superstition which belonged to the dark ages.

Again, when pursuing their remarks, did the

* In the "Statuta Moralia" of the Royal College of Physicians, we find that no physician, whether Fellow, Candidate, or Licentiate, is allowed to confer with an empiric, or one rejected by the College, or forbid practice, or with any person *unduly exercising the art of Medicine*."

Professors of Surgery and of Midwifery recollect, that it is only within the limits of the present century, that both their respective chairs, have been admitted into the rank of separate and independent professorships in this, and every other school of medicine. Did the Professor of Surgery recall to mind, that but a century or less, has passed by, since the connexion of his branch was fixed and determined with the class of barbers! or the Professor of Midwifery, that his branch was almost entirely in the hands of old women, and had, at least, no connexion with a medical school? That both these branches, so lately only as in the time of Dr. Shippen, occupied in this school, merely the period of about three or four days of the latter part of the course. Whatever their claims may be, they reach not, we perceive, to the dark ages, when they both were comparatively unknown to the practitioner of physic.

We come now to what is alluded to at p. 10 of my observations on the remarks of the Faculty, that the three branches of Botany, Chemistry, and Pharmacy, in their relation to the *Materia Medica*, prove its dwindled and impoverished state.

Let us hear what the former Professor urges in his *Therapeutics* on these heads; premising, (in relation to that part of the reply to the Trustees, relative to the *expurgation* of the *Materia Medica*, "as we advanced in knowledge;") that the "formal essay" to which the faculty refer, as having been published by me on the subject, "some years ago," ought to have been *entirely* quoted, and not thus partially adduced, to answer their immediate intentions. I shall, therefore, beg leave to refer the reader to that "formal essay," which will be found, in p. 34, of the 1st volume of the *Philadelphia Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences*, edited by Dr. Chapman, *Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic and Clinical Practice*, in 1820. And I may remark that it was written expressly for that work, at the request of the Editor, who had just before issued the prospectus, and in the first number of which, he presents himself before the public, accompanied by five of the present Faculty.

At page 19, edit. 1st, the Professor in his *Therapeutics*, says—"No notice has hitherto been taken of the effort in the United States to advance the *Materia Medica*. These, owing to the long neglect of the subject, are comparatively slender and imperfect. It is true, the naturalists distributed through the different sections of the country, have, at no time, been altogether heedless of its physical productions. But their inquiries being directed rather to the botanical history than the medicinal properties of plants, very few important accessions were made to the stock of remedies. As soon, however, as our Medical School began to flourish, an attachment was awakened to the science, and it has since been considerably enriched from our native stores. Many of our graduates have signalized their talents by the investigation, in their inaugural dissertations, of no inconsiderable number of the indigenous medicinal plants. But the credit of leading in this new career, is indisputably due to my predecessor in the Chair of *Materia Medica*."—Indisputably, it was to the late Professor Barton, that the indigenous vegetable *Materia*

Medica of the United States is in a great measure owing. But why is my wish to promote a purgation of the whole extensive range of medicines, animal, vegetable, and mineral, to be assumed by the Faculty to my disadvantage, and the prostration of my Chair, when we find the following is the avowed opinion of Dr. Chapman himself, in the very preface of the *Therapeutics*. "By a recent writer, [he does not tell us who,] the *Materia Medica* has been compared to an inquisitive traveller, who, collecting everything which interests him, on his journey, sees his baggage increase every moment in bulk, and feels himself frequently obliged to stop and examine it, in order to free himself from the useless articles, or to arrange, in a more convenient order, those which he cannot dispense with, that they may occupy less room, and the carriage and the employment of them be more easy and commodious." Surely, the Faculty may safely allow me that privilege, when following up his views, our Professor adds—"This is a very happy and correct illustration, since surely, never was a science, to continue the allusion, so overcharged with superfluous lumber, as the *Materia Medica* in its present state." Now, under these circumstances of the case, what says the Professor to the public, in continuance? Why, that—"As such is indisputably the case, I have, with intrepid decision, endeavoured to cleanse this Augean accumulation, by expunging whatever substances are known to be inert or redundant, and to retain only such as, from their powerful or efficacious properties, are emphatically denominated the heroic remedies, or are confessed to be of unequivocal utility in the treatment of disease." Now, what have I said or done, in the "formal essay" alluded to, that is more reprehensible than the above? And if we advert to each of the branches referred to, more particularly than has already been done, we shall find, that whether we take the one or the other side of the question, the then Professor of *Materia Medica* can be brought in evidence of either. To proceed regularly, let us see how stands Botany as evidencing "the dwindled and impoverished state of the *Materia Medica*," in the writings of its then Professor. He opens his second discourse, p. 21, as follows:

"Considerations arising from a due estimate of its importance, have led, in every age, to the assiduous cultivation of the *Materia Medica*." Proceeding in the course of his remarks, he comes to speak of Chemistry and Botany. Of the latter, p. 25, he says, that "as soon as it assumed a regular shape, and was reduced to system, it came to be observed that many of the plants which had been arranged together from their agreement or affinity in botanical characters, were also allied in medicinal virtues. Nature having established, in not a few instances, a connexion of this sort, it was presumed that she had done so universally;" &c., and proceeds to show, that this is far from being correct in all cases—and that so far from this coincidence prevailing throughout the classes, established by Linnæus, it frequently does not obtain even in the species of the same genus. Proceeding to give proof of this, he further adds, that "many

vegetables, resembling each other in their general aspects, do not disagree in their medicinal properties. But this does not always hold, and (adds the Lecturer,) among the instances to the contrary, may be enumerated the *digitalis*, and the *verbascum*, or common mullein of our fields, *each of which is included in the same natural family!*" &c. May I take the liberty of asking the authority on which this assertion is made?—or what is meant by "the same natural family?" Certainly the Professor knows that *digitalis* is of the class *didynamia*, order *angiospermia*—whilst *verbascum* belongs to *pentandria*, order *monogynia*; and if, by the term adverted to above, he means the natural orders of Jussieu, he will probably recollect on reflection, that *digitalis* is in the natural order of *scrofulariæ*, and *verbascum* in that of *solaneæ*.

From this we may perceive that the interests of the *Materia Medica* may be either sustained or otherwise, by Botany, at the option of a writer. We must, however, exactly catch its merits, as intended to be taught. "Let us not, however," says the Lecturer, in continuation, "disparage the utility of Botany. To ascertain the identity of any plant, *which the arrangements of this science enable us to do, is an object of no minor importance.* Deprived of the aid which it lends us, the greater part of the experience of our predecessors would be lost to us. We should have to start anew in our investigation of plants, and, like mariners cast on a desolate shore, move through unexplored regions with a step, slow, faltering, and retarded."

This is all well, and *bespeaks an acquaintance* with the subject adverted to. May I then be permitted to inquire, how, at p. 132, under the head of *Scilla Maritima*, and one of our best, as well as most ancient remedies, when, as above, "to ascertain the identity of *any plant*, is an object of *no minor importance*" it is stated, *ex cathedra*, that "it is a plant with a large bulbous root, *resembling the tulip or onion?*" Now, which does it resemble of these, for bulbs of greater dissimilarity can scarcely be pointed out. One, a *solid* bulb throughout, the other, formed of a congeries of *scaly-like* appendages! No wonder that articles of a totally different character, have been sold in Philadelphia for the squill, when the great archiater of *Materia Medica* thus describes the article! When at p. 246, in treating of the *Digitalis*, we are told, that "connected by *botanical affinity*, with the *nicotiana*, the *hyosciamus*, the *cicuta*, the *solanum*, and other narcotic sedatives, it has, with some modifications, all the distinctive features of its *congenera* or *kindred plants*," was the author aware, that the first, as already stated, belonged to the class, *didynamia*, and *all the others* were included in that of *pentandria*! But, I must leave this, to take up the subject of Chemistry, in connexion with the assertion made by the Faculty in their reply alluded to; and here again we beg permission to recur to the printed lectures of the Therapeutics, as the actual state, in which they were, for three years, successively delivered to the Class, and publicity given to them in 1817.

After exposing the "extravagant expectations" of chemistry, to "illustrate every physical obscu-

rity," especially, "during the reign of the humoral pathology," and asserting that "they are no longer entertained;" the writer informs us that "Chemistry, however, in other respects, is of the utmost importance to the *Materia Medica*. Copious in resources, this noble science explores all nature, and educes from each province the most valuable remedies. The animal, the vegetable, the mineral kingdoms, it lays under contribution to our purposes, and by it we are moreover taught neatness and precision in our pharmaceutical preparations." p. 25.

In all this we cheerfully concur; and peruse the affirmations as derived from one deeply skilled in the science, and impressed with its absolute connexion with that of medicine! I shall here, as relates to the work on Therapeutics, advert to one particular alone, as I find it laid down at p. 143, of vol. 2, under the head of *Carbonas Ammoniacæ* in the class of stimulants. "As relates to its chemical history, (says the writer,) I shall only remark, that it is generally the result of animal putrefaction, *though it is contained in some few plants (carbonate of ammonia!)* a point long denied, so much so, that the existence of the ingredient was held to constitute a characteristic difference between the animal and vegetable kingdoms!"* I need say no more! I must

* Were it not that I have restricted myself chiefly to the first edition of Dr. Chapman's Therapeutics, I could be more diffuse; as it is, I shall barely remark, that in the third edition, (1823) p. 36, we find a remarkable instance of his ignorance of Vegetable Chemistry and Pharmaceutical information. Speaking of the influence of chemistry in the analysis of vegetable substances, and compelling them to confess their secret source of action: "Among these," says the Professor, "may be cited as of the first consequence, the extraction of the Sulphate of Quinine, or the active principle of *Peruvian Bark*."!!

This mistake, as to matter, is not very dissimilar to another *as to time*, which the Doctor makes in his communication on Cholera, in the August Journal of Medical Sciences, for 1833.

Attempting to prove the "close analogy of our own indigenous cholera in its more violent character, to the late epidemic form of the disease," (viz. that of 1832, so ably depicted in all its bearings in a letter to Dr. Tyler, of Frederick, during the period of panic, produced by the conjoint operation of the disease, and some of the profession,) he informs us that the article is a lecture he has delivered every season for the last twenty years, as a part of a course on the practice of physic, (that must have been, consequently, previous to his election to the *Materia Medica*;) and that he now presents it with alterations or additions only, which he has taken care to designate; and appealing for the fact being so, to those of the Class who have notes of the lecture; and also to the recollection of Doctors Miffin and Martin, who were attached to the Cholera Hospital under his charge, to whom it was read "on the first breaking out of the epidemic cholera in this city." He moreover states his intention of giving in the next number of the Journal, a communication on the disease. Can any of my readers inform me if this pledge has ever been redeemed?—and, if not—why not?

The alterations and additions alluded to, are enclosed in brackets; all, therefore, not so enclosed, is necessarily a part of the original lecture of twenty years standing. At p. 203, when speaking of the great gastric irritability preventing the retention of medicines, and commending the use of an anodyne enema in such cases, of which, he says, he had numerous instances within his own experience; and that when defeated in his design, "then, the endermic practice with morphia, offers a resource worthy of trial."

The lecture carrying us back twenty years, places the writer then in 1812. Now, morphia was first made known to the medical public in 1817, by Sertuerner,

be permitted, nevertheless, to make a few extracts from a work of infinite merit, written by Dr. Cooper, late President of Columbia College, in South Carolina, and delivered by him in an introductory lecture, in 1818, when elected as professor of Chemistry in the Faculty of Arts in the University of Pennsylvania. It is entitled—"A Discourse on the connexion between Chemistry and Medicine;" and well deserves to be read and reflected on by every Student. It will be recollected that this was the period at which I was elected to the Chair of *Materia Medica*, when that of Chemistry, (held by me from 1809,) being vacated, Dr. Cooper and Dr. Hare were the rival Candidates, and the latter was chosen, and is still the incumbent.

In page 4, of the Preface, Dr. Cooper writes as follows—"During the late discussions previous to the election of Dr. Hare to the Chair of Chemistry in the Faculty of Medicine of this University, two opinions appear to have been advanced by the Medical Faculty: 1st, (with the exception, perhaps, of Dr. Coxe,) that the Chair of Chemistry ought not, or at least need not, be filled by a medical character; because the Chair of Chemistry *was not necessary to, and ought to be separated from, the Faculty of Medicine*. This I know to have been the opinion of Dr. Dorsey, whose premature decease we have so much reason to deplore. This gentleman strongly advocated the election of Dr. Hare, against whom the objection was urged, *that he had no pretensions whatever to medical knowledge*. A second opinion was, that no person but one who had received a medical education, ought to be appointed to the chair of Chemistry; because, in his capacity of Professor, he would have to pass upon the merits of candidates for a degree in medicine: this was Dr. Chapman's opinion; this gentleman went further—and considering chemical knowledge rather an ornamental than indispensable, *or even useful part of medical education*—he thought the Chair of Chemistry ought to be *separated from the Medical Faculty*; and that the Students should be exonerated from the *necessity of attending to this branch of knowledge*, when they had so many other branches to attend to, which were absolutely indispensable.

"This appears to have been the general sentiments of the Medical Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania; for having applied to Dr. Hare, they persuaded him to relinquish his privilege and his duty, of passing upon the qualifications of the Medical Students when they came forward to be examined for a degree, and of signing their diplomas; confining himself simply to the examination of the Students, in Chemistry only: the rest of the Faculty reserving to themselves the exclusive right of deciding upon the results of such examination, which was to take place in their presence. To this proposal it was understood, and indeed announced, that Dr. Hare had assented. Whether the Trustees of the Institution will assent to it also, time only can show."

"This general opinion of the inutility of che-

mistry to medicine was not confined to the Medical Faculty in the University. On the very morning of the day that I delivered the ensuing discourse, my friend Dr. Caldwell, whose general talents and standing as a physician is among the very first class in this city, and whose sentiments are generally understood to coincide with Dr. Chapman's on this subject, took occasion, in a lecture before the Students of Medicine, to express an opinion that chemistry had been introduced into physiology without any benefit whatever to the former branch of medicine; and that it was hardly applicable to the doctrine of disease, *though it might be considered useful in the preparation of medicines to be exhibited in the cure of disorders*." All this Dr. Cooper combats: he thus goes on,

"It is not difficult to account for the prevailing opinion; but it appears to me impossible to approve it. When the gentlemen who are now professors, received their medical education 20 years ago, the science of chemistry was truly of very little use or application to physiology or pathology. It is no wonder therefore, that the opinion then formed of it, when they first entered on the practice of medicine, should prevail among them now; or that they should think lightly of a branch of science whose progress they have not traced, and whose present importance they are not sufficiently apprized of. How can they duly appreciate that knowledge which they have been at no pains to acquire, or inculcate its necessity upon others, when they cannot feel that necessity themselves?"

In reading the above observations of Dr. Cooper, in opposition to the opinions of the Faculty of Medicine, respecting the connexion of chemistry with physiology and pathology, it will be remarked, that by Dr. Caldwell's views, in which he joins Dr. Chapman, the merits of chemistry in relation to medicine, are restricted to its *pharmaceutic* link, alone: but the Faculty, as is seen by their reply, have now cut off this only remaining connexion, by sending the Student to pursue pharmacy in the shop of the apothecary! Where then, does the *Professor of Chemistry* profess to stand? By what sophistry can he remain in the Faculty of Medicine? That Faculty, have denied its connexion with physiology and pathology; (a denial, however, which Dr. Cooper has most ably demonstrated to be fallacious;) and even if it is proved to be, in those branches, closely united with medicine, still the present incumbent is, from his want of a medical education, neither practically, nor theoretically versed in the various medical, physiological, and pathological doctrines, which it would become a duty on his part, to deliver to his Class: and since he unites moreover, with his fellow professors in maintaining that pharmacy should be removed to the shop of the apothecary, and be no longer taught in our School: we beg leave to recommend to the Trustees, to take him at his word; and then, let us hear the grounds of his connexion with a Medical Faculty!*

the discoverer—that is, four or five years after Dr. Chapman's recommendation of it, in this lecture on cholera!

* Here, I cannot pretermitt the notice of Dr. Cooper, at the conclusion of his lecture "on the method of teaching Medical Chemistry."

† The brilliant and imposing experiments usually de-

I could cheerfully extract from Dr. Cooper's lecture much interesting matter, in vindication of the connexion of Chemistry with medicine, and in maintenance of the much vilified, and misunderstood doctrines of the humoral pathology! But this is not the place, further, than to state, that the application of that doctrine to my lectures, has been the principal source of all my persecution; since, it compelled me to notice, the extravagancies, the absurdities, nay, the falsehoods of some other systems, all arising from an undue self-estimation, and well expressed by Dr. Cooper, p. 21, in the following words:

"It is intolerance that is the bane of improvement. Intolerance in politics, intolerance in religion, intolerance in medicine. Those who deem themselves entitled to the patent right of a system, will admit of no competitor and no sharer. Every thing must be done and explained by the sole instrumentality of their exclusive method." "The fault of all system-makers is exclusiveness. New theories explain everything; new remedies are panaceas: hence the propensity in all of us, to reject what is useful, from its occasional alliance with unfounded pretension."

What I have extracted from Dr. Cooper must be received by the reader, as in some degree, a part of my justification. The interest of the whole lecture is such, that I cannot in justice, omit again to recommend its attentive perusal, to every student of medicine.

At p. 12 of my remarks on that part of the reply of the Faculty that has reference to my competence in the discharge of my duty; it will be seen that I there "claim from the Board, a full and impartial hearing" before condemnation on that charge; and I beg the reader to observe, in the progress of this singular conspiracy against me, that I repeatedly have called on the Faculty as a body, to proclaim aloud, the ignorance they denounce in me; that I have repeated my claim, to the Trustees, as a matter of right and justice; and that my claims on both, have not once been responded to. I take this opportunity in the relation of this transaction, now, publicly, before the Medical Profession and before my fellow-citizens, to call on each one of the Medical Faculty whose names are appended to the reply adverted to, or to that, which subsequently appears in these pages, individually to state, in a tangible

vised to gratify the sight, rather than inform the understanding, and to attract the ignorant and inexperienced, are misplaced here. A complicated and expensive apparatus is unnecessary, and therefore is misplaced here. After a few lectures in illustration of the general doctrines of chemical affinity, the experiments should be strictly confined to the subject matter; and brilliancy should be sacrificed to utility. I agree with that most able physician and chemist, Dr. Marcet, that the large and dismal subterraneous laboratory of the Old Chemists, is now changed for the fire-side of a comfortable study; and that under the auspices of Dr. Wollaston, and two or three more of the British chemists, the analysis of small quantities of matter with neatness and accuracy, promises to give an essential impulse to the progress of analytical chemistry. In fact, the apparatus for experiments in medical chemistry ought to occupy no more space than the drawer of a book-case, and the required investigations may be prosecuted without injury to a mahogany table by the fire-side."

form, wherein, in "travelling out of my proper sphere, my deficiencies are thus glaring?" Surely, when such language is employed, the facts must be at their fingers' ends! I call therefore upon you, gentlemen, each and individually, to redeem the pledge thus advanced against me, by specifying, not mere hearsay; but what you personally are acquainted with, as to my deficiencies, and which have led you all to declare me, unworthy of the confidence of the Trustees, or to hold a seat among your learned and illustrious body. If this is not replied to, I hereby brand you with the title of calumniators.

When the Faculty speak of absolute experience, and the weight which character as a practitioner confers, in order to teach any branch of practical medicine, how comes the Professor of Chemistry to join in the absurd proposition? I have, perhaps, sufficiently replied to it, in my answer to the Trustees.—But I cannot, in justice to myself, avoid calling on physicians, nay, even on the public itself, to say, how far in this instance, a gentleman, without any preliminary medical education, brought up to another profession, admitting his incompetency to examine students for their degrees, except in the branch of Chemistry, &c.; how far, I repeat, is his judgment to be accredited in the case before us, as deduced from his own absolute experience?—It may, possibly become necessary for me to come forward and state my absolute self-experience; but certainly I shall not do it, unless compelled thereto.—In the meantime, I would earnestly request each member of the Faculty to look into his own—and also, into his fellow Professors' experience, and let the Trustees and the public draw their deductions therefrom. I never should myself, have thought of appealing to this source, had not my brethren of the Faculty, deemed it proper to employ it, to my disadvantage.—Now, an old and excellent adage says, that one whose house is made of glass, should never throw a stone.—If my remarks, then, should pinch at all, it shall be acknowledged by every reader, that they are deducible, from the very experience absolute and insisted on, of the Professors themselves, who may be named. I have already adverted to Swaim and his panacea. Of its merits or otherwise, I am not here called upon to declare my sentiments; I shall merely say, "si populus vult dici, diciatur,"—and well and largely has this been accomplished. Is Mr. S. here culpable? No, surely. He believed, no doubt, the assertions as to the character of his panacea, and requested the concurrence in his opinion, of several professional gentlemen; amongst whom, we find several of the Faculty of medicine, eulogizing that nostrum, in a high strain—and that I may not be supposed to mistake, I shall give the eulogy of each, in his own words; I mean of those, (then, or now,) holding rank as Professors in the University of Pennsylvania—and proclaiming their opinions as the result of self-experience. I copy from a small work, entitled, "A Treatise on Swaim's Panacea," &c. printed in 1825, by Maxwell. A previous edition in 1822, had appeared; but it was not until 1823, that Mr. Swaim was enabled to append to his list, the names of Professors, the

very first of which, *in date and in location*, is that of Dr. Chapman.

Page vii. "From N. Chapman, Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic and Clinical Practice, in the University of Pennsylvania, President of the Academy of Medicine of Philadelphia, &c. &c.

"I have within the last two years had an opportunity of seeing several cases of very inveterate ulcers, which, having resisted previously the regular modes of treatment, were healed by the use of Mr. Swaim's PANACEA; and I do believe, from what I have seen, that it will prove an important remedy in scrofulous, venereal and mercurial diseases.

"Signed, N. CHAPMAN, M. D.
"Philadelphia, Feb. 16, 1823."

"From W. Gibson, Professor of Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania, Surgeon, and Clinical Lecturer to the Alms-house Infirmary, &c. &c.

"I have employed the PANACEA of Mr. Swaim, in numerous instances, within the last three years, and have always found it extremely efficacious, especially in secondary syphilis and in mercurial disease. I have no hesitation in pronouncing it a medicine of inestimable value.

"Signed, W. GIBSON, M. D.
"February 17, 1823."

"From Wm. P. Dewees, Lecturer on Midwifery, member of the Philosophical Society, &c. &c.

"I have much pleasure in saying I have witnessed the most decided and happy effects in several instances of inveterate disease from Mr. Swaim's PANACEA, where other remedies had failed—one was that of Mrs. Brown.

"Signed, WM. P. DEWEES, M. D.
"Philadelphia, Feb. 20, 1823."

As I am concerned only in reply to the Faculty, I have nothing to do with the other signers obtained by Mr. Swaim.—But, with the above laudatory encomia on the Panacea, founded on self-experience, of seeing, witnessing, and actually employing it, in several instances, &c., was that gentleman to derive no use from their respective documents in his favour? He would, indeed, have been a greater fool than I take him to be, had he not employed this bridge (of gold to him, the pons asinorum of others,) they thus had erected, for the triumphal career of one, whom in vain they subsequently strove to depress. But, let my readers determine, whether the language employed above, is not that of "much absolute self-experience?" Is it not plain, perspicuous, and conveying without circumlocution, the highest possible panegyric, which regular practitioners and Professors could give, to a remedy the most universally known and approved of? But this is that nostrum adverted to by Mr. Heineken, (page 49,) in his Thesis—and which gave rise about three weeks after the above signatures, to the altercation alluded to by the Faculty!

Could it for a moment be credited, that experi-

ence, thus publicly proclaimed, of two and three years' standing, was aught but correct and true? Could any one imagine that such experience was to be controverted by the same pen? Let us see how the matter stands.

In almost every paper of the Union, the above certificates were sedulously advertised, bringing an abundant harvest to the fortunate inventor, or captor, of the panaceal prescription. To add to its high and exalted standing before the public, the Professor of Surgery, not content with the certificate, had, it seems, already promulgated its merits to his class in the University, by exhibiting to them, at his lecture on the 14th of January, 1822, two patients, "who had been afflicted with ulceration, in its most frightful form, for several years: the throat, lips, and nose, as well as the bones and soft parts of the face, were partly destroyed in both patients; and in one, an eye was entirely lost." The learned Professor, in the course of his lecture, stated the cases of these patients; that "they had been treated in the usual way without success; and that they were finally restored to perfect health by the use of a medicine recently introduced in this city, known by the name of SWAIM'S PANACEA." The writer, who signs himself "A STUDENT," moreover adds: "That remedy, which a learned and respectable Professor has thought worthy of a particular notice before a numerous class of students, would seem to have claims to the attention of every Professor of the healing art." The names of the individuals thus introduced to the class, are Catharine McRoy and Elizabeth Soby; their cases are particularly noticed in the treatise above adverted to on the Panacea.

Who could possibly wish for stronger testimonials in favour of the Panacea, though unknown in composition, than those of Drs. Chapman, Gibson, and Dewees? Could any one suppose an opposite experience would, in a few years, be set forth, with the intention of breaking down the pons asinorum, to which I have alluded? and that, by these very gentlemen who had lauded it to the skies, and to the extreme humiliation of the medical profession! What, but their constant adherence to it, when established in its reputation by members of the Medical Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, produced the anathemas to be found in the "Report of the Committee of the Philadelphia Medical Society on Quack Medicines," in December, 1827, against Dr. Price and others? If those gentlemen continued to think of it equally as at first, after a longer continued experience, and when Europe as well as America resounded in its praise, why were they to be treated with obloquy, whilst the higher authorities were so cheaply dismissed? In order to comprehend this, it becomes necessary now to mention the opposite and contradictory experience of the above Professors, as delivered by themselves; and then let every reader determine for himself, by what right they ventured so boldly to animadvert on my want of experience, on any topic connected with my professional duties!

From the Periscope, p. 483, of the American Journal of Medical Sciences, No. 2, for February, 1828, we extract the following, from the report of a committee on this subject:

Letter from Professor Chapman, dated September 29, 1827, or three and a half years posterior to his former statement :

"Excepting Swaim's Panacea, I have no knowledge of any of the nostrums to which you allude in your communication to me. Early in the history of that article, *I was induced to employ it*, as well from professional as common report in favour of its efficacy, and was well pleased at the result in several cases. But! more extensive experience with it soon convinced me that *I had overrated its value*, and for a long period I have entirely ceased to prescribe it."

"It were easy to point out, and indeed to demonstrate, the great mischief which has resulted from the indiscriminate employment of this nostrum [Who aided in promoting such indiscriminate use of it?]; and I am in possession of not a few cases, [why were they not communicated?] which, if you wish them, are at your service, eminently calculated to alarm the public on this subject."

In the report of the Committee, they state their investigation to have been pursued in the following order: 1. *The sense in which the physicians who gave their certificates in favour of the Panacea intend their evidence to be received, &c.* We beg leave to say, *it is not how they now intend*, but what was the intrinsic and simple meaning of those certificates, as presented to the public! What conclusion a few plain words were palpably intended to, and did actually, convey to the public!

"On the first point, say the Committee, (Report, p. 4,) we beg leave to present the following statements to the Society: Dr. Chapman acknowledges having 'overrated the value of the Panacea of Swaim,' [yet observe, it was the result of much self-experience in and anterior to 1823, during a period of two years at least,] and for a long period he has 'entirely ceased to prescribe it,' &c. &c.

"Dr. Gibson says he has found the Panacea succeed in cases of secondary syphilis, and fail in others; and adds, 'I have never found the remedy of any service in scrofula,' &c. Oct. 25, 1827. Yet he had used it for three years in numerous other cases, prior to the date of his certificate, and always found it useful!

"Dr. Dewees' experience of this article having been found useful, is limited to 'four, or, at most, five cases;' whereas, his own practice, in which he has prescribed it several times, does not, he acknowledges, furnish a single case of any decided advantage following its use." October 26, 1827.*

* Let us here submit to the public, however, what the Report on Quack Medicines says to the subject-matter of the first question alluded to! "The real nature of the hitherto imposing evidence of Drs. Chapman, Gibson, and Dewees, having been exhibited in the sense which those gentlemen, from some years additional observation of the effects of the Panacea, wish to be affixed to it, (no doubt!) and the entire want of support of his assertions, which Swaim can derive from public and hospital practice," &c. &c. p. 7.

At page 25—When explaining the reasons why, in the hands of an uninformed Quack, a particular nostrum may fail, whilst, "when the same, or nearly a similar formula, has been prescribed by the regular physician, success has followed," &c. from the judicious timing of the remedy on the part of a physician; which word, it is

Here, then, we see, is much absolute experience in favour of the remedy—and much absolute experience in opposition to it, given under the signatures of the same individuals. Which is to govern us, when both alike claim to be founded on experience! Alas! it is here an unmeaning term; and must so present itself to the individuals in question. Can these counter statements annul the certificates—without, at least, throwing a shade over the deliberate judgment of these illustrious Teachers? Will they, or can they undo, what the certificates have effected, in raising the reputation of the nostrum—and pouring wealth into the pockets of its proprietor. This asserted experience, my want of which, has been so confidently charged by the Faculty, is here shown in the case of three of the Professors, to have been grossly fallacious on one side or the other. It is a matter of no consequence to these remarks on which side the false pretension lies.

I shall, in this place, refer to Cullen's remarks on the subject of a false experience, and one on which I was accustomed to lay great stress, in some of those preliminary lectures, which have led to all the difficulties that press upon me. At p. 142, 4th edit., when speaking "of acquiring the knowledge of the virtues of medicine by experience;"—this experience is, in its employment, he tells us, "extremely fallacious and uncertain; and the writers on the Materia Medica abound with numberless false conclusions, which are, however, supposed or pretended to be drawn from experience." And after further remarks of the same nature, Dr. Cullen points out "the many mistakes and falsehoods which seem to have been drawn from pretended experience." This he does, under eight different heads; the instances enumerated under those heads respectively, he adds, "are to be found in almost every writer on the subject;" and that "it will appear that these writings are, for the most part, a compilation of mistakes and falsehoods, against the imposition of which, a student should be very much on his guard. It indeed requires more knowledge, discernment, and experience, than the student at the time he commonly enters upon this study can possibly have; but it may be of use to inspire him with general doubt and diffidence." And immediately after, he thus proceeds—"Before dismissing this subject, it is incumbent upon me to observe,

added, "has no place in the vocabulary of a Quack, any more than the practice could be appreciated by his limited capacity." I must be permitted to say, that this philippic of the Committee is infinitely too extended; unless, indeed, they mean to lead us to believe, that quackery is less frequent within, than without, the pale of a medical diploma. The sentence immediately following must be approved of by every regular son of our University; viz. that "were the merits of this, or any other Panacea or quack medicine, of even a decided nature, the insurmountable objection remains against receiving, under any circumstances, into medical practice, or of fostering by medical eulogy, the use of a secret compound, since there is so little certainty of its uniform preparation, that the recommendation of a bottle of Panacea to-day, cannot apply to another bottle prepared to-morrow;" and I would recommend the whole Report, as an able and judicious one, which should be carefully read, and reflected upon, by every student, and by every practitioner, more especially, when assuming a superiority to his brethren, from an affirmation of a great and absolute self-experience!

that the writers upon the *Materia Medica* have reported the false experiences mentioned, chiefly from their mistaken judgment. (We trust this to be the case with the Members of the Faculty, in their double experience as to the Panacea, above pointed out,) and rarely under any consciousness of falsehood. But it must, however, be acknowledged, that this last has also unhappily taken place, and that many facts have been obtruded upon the public, by persons conscious of their being false. This has happened sometimes from an attachment to particular theories, which their authors have desired to maintain, and have, therefore, often supported by pretended facts and experiments. Sometimes the same effects have been produced by an attachment to a particular method of cure, or to particular remedies, which their authors supposed they had discovered or invented, and which they have often supported by facts which perhaps their prejudices have made them suppose to be true, but which they have admitted without rigorous examination of their truth, and sometimes conscious of their falsehood."

May I ask of the Medical Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, abounding, as they necessarily must, in much absolute self-experience;—may I ask of the more humble and private practitioner, who has not the title of their experience;—may I ask of the Tyro, just separated by his Diploma, from the swaddling clothes of his Alma Mater—whether Dr. Cullen's exposition on the subject of *false experience*, is not strictly true—and whether they could not, individually, point to examples in the writings of every period?

But let me give a few lines of admonition to the young physician, from the same great authority, and closely connected with the preceding, of a "very fertile source of false facts that has been opened for some time past. This is, in some young physicians, the vanity of being the authors of observations, which are often too hastily made, and sometimes perhaps very entirely dressed in the closet. We dare not, at present, be particular," says Cullen; "but the next age will discern many instances of perhaps the direct falsehoods—and certainly, the many mistakes in fact, produced in the present age, concerning the powers and virtues of medicines."

On this subject of experience, did I not enlighten my reader, from the luminous exposition given by Professor Chapman in his *Therapeutics*, and show how greatly he coincides with Cullen, (although regarding his treatise on the *Materia Medica*, as "in a certain degree, antiquated, and even obsolete in many of its parts, in theory as well as practice."—p. 19.) I should think I did both him and myself injustice!—Speaking of the difficulty of ascertaining the medicinal virtues of substances, p. 30—he thus proceeds: "*Experience* of their effects on the body, in a diseased condition, is the only mode of determining the virtues of medicines.* But even

this is liable to fallacy, and its dictates must be received with doubt and hesitation."

"Medical conclusions differ very widely from every other species of evidence. We cheat ourselves by a thousand illusions, and have imposed upon us still more deceptions. It is not necessary that I should enforce this remark by the enumeration of any examples. No one who is conversant with the practice of physic need be told how often his own deductions have proved erroneous, or how little credit is to be reposed in those pompous recommendations with which medicines are daily promulgated."

"If, therefore, we cannot trust to experience, what must be our resource?"

"There is a true and a false experience. The latter, which is the creature of ignorance, or results from ardent and precipitate observation, can be distinguished by a careful scrutiny, and ought to be repudiated. Yet, it must be confessed, that it is exceedingly difficult to determine the precise powers of a medicine."

It is to be hoped, the reader, after perusing Cullen and Chapman, on the doubtful subject of experience, even if much and absolute, will generously draw a veil over my alleged inadequacy in that particular! Although, since the primary attack upon my lectures, referred merely, to the first sixteen, or preliminary theoretical ones, (the contents of which are noted in the syllabus, page 48,) it will be seen, that not a practical object, is connected therewith—at least in relation to that experience, on which the Faculty, so solicitously contend.

Leaving this research into experience, I shall be permitted to add a few words, to what I have said in my reply, at page 12, on what the Faculty advance of "the weight which character, as a practitioner confers."

Whether practice, invariably confers character, I leave the Faculty and the profession at large, to decide! The reverse will not hold good; for character, does not always lead to practice.—Obsequiousness to patrons—an impudent and overbearing deportment to some—a fawning and cringing servility to others, have often as much to do, in the elevation of an individual in medical, as in political standing. I ask the public to judge, whether in all the members of the Faculty, to say nothing of the profession at large, the weight of character is always in proportion to practice—or reversely, their practice in the exact ratio of character?

I have already shown in this Appendix, from the printed lectures of Dr. Chapman, admitted by the author to be "in the state in which they were read, without any alteration or amendment, in the matter or style,"—and which had been delivered for three successive years; that no objections could be possibly taken, against my using this first edition, both as a groundwork of my own lectures—and as the subject of opposition when I judged it right, as being public property through the medium of the press. This work has indeed, been my text book, excepting as to the pharmaceutical parts of my course; and as pharmacy embraces in a degree, both chemistry and the objects of the three kingdoms of nature, I have ventured in the Appendix to point to some errone-

* Quere—whether the cases of *Panaceal experiences*, were in a diseased condition, since such different deductions have arisen, from the much absolute experience of the same reporters!

ous notions and facts, both in botany and in chemistry, that had emanated from the Professor for three successive years. I do not consider him altogether, a perfectly competent judge of my qualifications either as to pharmacy, botany, or chemistry. Now, it will be remembered that these branches are, according to the Faculty, the very main springs and support of the *Materia Medica*. Neither, from his own admission, had I been even convicted of unduly meddling with the chair of surgery, should I have admitted him to be a judge. As I mean to give nothing here without proof, and proof that cannot be gainsaid, I shall refer the reader to the following extract from the work in question—1st edition, vol. 2, page 328—when speaking of the use of mercury in glandular affections, he adds, “it is right, that I should here make a remark or two on scirrhus and cancer. But these are subjects coming *more immediately within the province of surgery, and of which I have no great experience,*” and terminating the chapter, by referring to its use in ulcers generally, he says, “To do justice, however, to this subject, requires *more surgical skill and discrimination than I possess,* and therefore, I decline it.”

We have thus prepared the way, in some measure, for a simple statement of facts affirmed by Dr. Chapman; and all intended to subvert the superstructure raised by him, on that doctrine which has so long been taught in our school, of sympathy founded on the views of *exclusive solidism*; and in which, *all connexion* with the Humoral theories, is sedulously and uniformly abjured. In the views by me presented to the students, my wish was to harmonize those conflicting doctrines, by conjoining as much as possible, the estimable parts of each, so far as facts would permit, and I hope, not altogether unsuccessfully; yet, in so doing, it was my unhappy lot to deny without restraint, some of those positive dogmas and assertions of facts, founded on a responsibility of a few imperfect and inadequate experiments made by Dr. Chapman whilst a mere tyro, and two years before he graduated.* It is true, the gentleman informs us in his writings, that he yields up his own experience to no man! But we shall see, that independently of results altogether opposed to those boyish experiments, during a period of 200 years, in various parts of the globe, a series of similar experiments were made by the late Dr. Seybert, and were detailed in his thesis, not ten years previously, in this very University; all of which go for nothing; that is, if they were known to the gentleman; and if they were not, what will be said of the extensive reading he boasts of in these very lectures, and of which we shall shortly say something.†

I deem it right to premise to what is further to be said on this head, of EXPERIENCE, OBSERVATION, &c.; the following most excellent remarks from the very interesting work, entitled “Re-

cherches sur le Pouls par rapport aux Crises,” by Dr. *Theophilus de Bordeau*. (12mo. Paris, 1772, vol. 2, p. 293, &c.) After saying, that all the problems he had advanced, ought to be decided by observation, excluding thereby all notions purely hypothetical, which should have no place in matters of fact; he adds, that the principal point ought to be, that the observations were well made, and accurately proved (*bien faites et bien constatées*.) That is to say, adds he, an observation on which we may rely—one of long standing—noticed without any particular view, either for or against an opinion, and presented, before employing it, to some learned body.” That I may not be suspected of imperfection in translating my author, I shall give his own words, especially as the French is now so generally understood amongst us.

“Il seroit bon qu'on exigeât des preuves d'observation, et que chaque Observateur eût ses Journaux à pouvoir communiquer à tout le monde: car fortes de précautions sont nécessaires, parce qu'on se trompe souvent soi-même; on adopte une opinion quelquefois par hasard; on se rappelle vaguement tout ce qu'on a vu de favorable à cette opinion; mais pour le reste on l'oublie insensiblement. L'observateur, ou celui qui pourroit fournir des observations bien faites, ne seroit point, à ce compte, celui que se contenteroit de dire, *j'ai vu, j'ai fait, j'ai observé*; formules avilies aujourd'hui par le grand nombre d'aveugles de naissance, qui les employent. Il faudroit que l'observateur pût prouver ce qu'il avance par des pièces justificatives, et qu'il démontrât qu'il a vu et su voir en tel tems; ce seroit le seul moyen de convaincre les pyrrhoniens, qui n'ont que le droit de vous dire, *où avez-vous vu? Comment avez-vous vu?* et qui plus est encore, *de quel droit avez-vous vu? de quel droit croyez-vous avoir vu? qui vous a dit que vous avez vu?*”

I introduce the above, because I think it may prove beneficial to our *would-be experimenters*, before they have adequate attainments for just observations. With very few exceptions, boys of eighteen or nineteen years, and just entering into the rudiments of a profession, cannot be deemed authority in even a limited degree—much less, when, as we shall presently see, this pretended observation runs counter to thousands of an opposite character of long standing, and even of daily recurrence. What presumption! what arrogance!—to set up such idle vagaries as the basis of a theory; and persecute all who may not bow down to worship the bantling of fancy!

One quotation more, from the same author, p. 297, and I shall leave him, though deserving of being better known.

“Quant aux Médecins qui sont faits pour enseigner dans les Ecoles, ils ne sont que trop souvent obligés de s'attacher à un système que leur vaut toute leur considération. C'est de cette sorte de Médecins, très respectables et très utiles sans doute, qu'on peut dire avec Hippocrate, *unusquisque suæ orationi testimonia et conjecturas addit. . . . Vincit que hic, modò ille, modò iste, cui potissimum lingua volubilis ad populum contigerit*: i. e. ‘Chacun cherche à s'appuyer de conjectures et d'autorités: . . . l'un terrasse au-

* The particular detail of these experiments I have never met with, if indeed they have ever been published.

† Known, they were, for in the Therapeutics, the experiments of Dr. Seybert are referred to, as proving some of the positions assumed by Dr. Chapman.

jourd'hui son adversaire, et il vient à en être terrassé à son tour; le plus fort est communément celui dont le peuple trouve la langue la mieux pendue.' Ce sont les malheurs de l'état de Professeur, qui a bien des avantages d'ailleurs."

Times seem not to have greatly changed in many respects since the days of the Father of Medicine. Perhaps law, theology, and politics were, in the same particular, the same then, as we now perceive them. But our business is only with medicine; and should the cap apply to any of my readers, they must carry back their resentment, we perceive, to Hippocrates himself. And let me request each one fairly and impartially to examine himself, as an observer, by the above rules from Bordeau, and see how far the remark will apply "mutato nomine, de te fabula narratur."

Experience—so much demanded of me on the part of the Faculty—seems, however, to have been of secondary importance in the mind of Dr. Chapman, when compared to the "vigorous sallies of speculative genius which seize truth, as it were by intuition, and reveal it in a burst of light of celestial brightness!!" "Nevertheless," he immediately adds, "while we cherish a due attachment to theory, we ought not to despise the humbler employment of observation and experience.* There is a natural alliance between them, which should never be dissolved. Let our zeal for speculation be tempered by the recollection that before we can raise the edifice, the materials must be supplied, which can only be done by the unwearied exertion of this inferior species of diligence. Certainly the annals of medicine are already sufficiently crowded and deformed with the abortions of theory, to moderate our ardour, and create in future, some degree of restraint and circumspection." p. 36.—And once more, at p. 38, we find him alluding to the "spirit of speculation, or what is termed reasoning in medicine." "Nothing," adds the Doctor, "has been more prejudicial than the abuse of this noble prerogative. Consulting the records of our science, we cannot help being disgusted with the multitude of hypotheses which have been obtruded upon us at different times. No where is the imagination displayed to greater extent, and perhaps, says an eloquent writer, so ample an exhibition of the resources of human invention might gratify our vanity, if it were not more than counterbalanced by the humiliating view of so much absurdity, contradiction and falsehood."

At length, we come to the first of the particular objects of my remark, and which up to this last course of my lectures, it has been my lot to combat. Brought forward as strengthening and supporting the theories he adopted, and founded, as I have stated, on the imperfect experiments of a lad just commencing his medical studies, they have been most sedulously and obstinately en-

* It is extremely difficult to ascertain the real estimate of the word *experience*, as employed by the collected faculty, or by its individual fragments. Exalted as we have seen it, (p. 7, and elsewhere,) and in the highest degree spoken of as the *sine qua non* of superiority in lectures, &c., by the united Sanhedrim; we here perceive it noticed as of an "humbler" character!—and yet, not to be despised.

forced upon his hearers, without any of the statements of an opposite character!

At p. 45, vol. 1, 1st Ed. of the Therapeutics, after giving his views of the process of assimilation, as completely decomposing all substances and reducing them to a homogeneous fluid, &c., the author thus proceeds:

"Whether this explanation be received or not, it must at least be acknowledged that no substance in its active state does reach the circulation, since experiments have shown that a few drops even of the mildest fluid, as milk or mucilage, oil or pus, cannot be injected into the blood-vessels without occasioning the most fatal consequences."†

This affirmative of the Professor must have arisen entirely out of his negative experiments, which are thus referred to by him in a note, and which, I believe constitutes the sole record of these precocious deductions:

"In the year 1799, (that is, in the first year of his pupilage with Dr. Rush) in conjunction with my friend the late Dr. George Lec, then resident in the Pennsylvania Hospital, I instituted a series of experiments, (the reader is requested here to recur to the remarks of Bordeau above introduced) with a view of ascertaining the effects of certain substances when injected into the blood-vessels. All the articles enumerated above were tried in succession, together with some others of an acrid and stimulating nature on dogs and cats, the animals selected for the purpose. But diversified as those substances are in their properties, we could discern no material difference in their effects, the whole seeming to act merely as extraneous matter in error loci, producing at first great distress to the animal, as was indicated by its movements and cries, followed by difficult panting respiration, vomiting and purging, nervous tremors, convulsions and death."

To say nothing of the proofs to be derived even from the above experiments of the truths of Humoralism, we may remark that at p. 29 of this same volume, the Dr., referring to experiments largely made on the *Brute Creation*, in order to determine the powers of medicines, informs us that "subsequent experience has however taught us that it cannot be trusted," and that "different animals are variously affected by the same article;" if so, why then has he drawn such positive deductions as to the human system, from the (imperfectly detailed) experiments on dogs and

† As iron is however found in the blood, and might therefore be presumed by most persons of common sense, to present a dilemma to the ideas advanced by the Professor, of articles not reaching that fluid unchanged, &c. by the lacteals; he has found it absolutely requisite, much as he dislikes chemical agencies in the living system, to affirm that it is "obvious that it (the iron) must be generated by the natural processes, in the same manner as many other things are elaborated!" (vol. i. p. 79, 4th Ed.) (☞ which are they?)—as iron, according to present ideas, is a simple body; from what more simple principles could the "natural processes" generate it? Perhaps the mercury, which we shall show presently in opposition to the opinion of Dr. Chapman, has absolutely been found also in the living system, may have been equally generated there by the natural processes!

In the event of the demise of the present accomplished President of the Philosophical Society, an event not very distant, it may be well to be prepared for a successor to that gentleman. I have heard some named, and I deem the interests of Philosophy are implicated, in making a judicious choice!

cats? And yet, with these inconclusive documents he triumphantly raises an *immortal and unperishing trophy*, in the doctrines he advocates against the humoral pathology.*

It would suffice the object in view to refer the reader simply to the experiments of the late Dr. Seybert, as detailed in his inaugural essay in 1793, entitled, an "Attempt to disprove the doctrine of the putrefaction of the blood of living animals," and made the preceding year; that is seven years prior to those of Dr. Chapman. His thesis was then in the hospital, of which Dr. Lee was a resident. I shall merely state that they amount to between 20 and 30 recorded experiments, and that of these, 15 are of injections of different materials into the vessels; 8 of which suffered no ultimate injury; the 3 last mentioned by Dr. Seybert were on the *same dog* successively; the injection into the vessels consisting of *ten, twenty-five, and forty-five grains of Carbonate of Ammonia*, or mild volatile alkali. Now I ask if it is possible that experiments so recently made, on a topic so interesting as that of Dr. Seybert's, could have been unknown to an inmate, and he, from his situation, the librarian of the Hospital, or even to Dr. Chapman himself. If they were, why have they *never even to this day, in the last edition* of his Therapeutics been referred to, that his Class might at least know, that *his own assertions* were not devoid of opposition?† Can

* In order to get rid of some troublesome experiments by Drs. Lawrence, Coates, and Harlan, reported in the Philadelphia Journal at a subsequent period, when he was no longer Professor of Materia Medica, and which are referred to in his 4th Ed. p. 83, he thus attempts their invalidation: "Conceding the accuracy of these, (that is, the cognizance of sulphate of iron and prussiate of potash in the blood, &c.) which I do without hesitation, I must still insist, *waiving all other objections*, that conclusions derived from experiments in which the animal is subjected to the most excruciating torture, as was the case here, (Quere! was it greater than in his own on which he so confidently relies?) can never be brought forward to illustrate a healthy process. In such a state of agony, the natural order of things is disturbed—functions are deranged, and events happen wholly unknown to the sound condition of the animal economy," &c. Were his own experiments then exceptions to the rule thus laid down?

† Could it be credited that in later editions (see 4th edit., pp. 71, 72.) of his Therapeutics, the Professor actually refers to Dr. Seybert's inaugural essay, as arriving at similar conclusions with some of his own, from his experiments; and is it possible that those I have adverted to, were unnoticed by him. Nay, even in the 6th edition of 1831, he affirms that a practical application of venous injections has never been made, and that the most zealous disciples of that doctrine have not ventured to introduce medicines directly into the blood. "In vain, says he, have they been *challenged to subject their notions to the decisive test*," and that they "have shrunk from the proposal of having a few drops of the blandest fluid thrown into the circulation." Will the Doctor put me to the test of proving the contrary, even in opposition to his *extensive researches*? But where is this asserted challenge to be found, and by whom made? I do not myself, recollect ever to have met with it. Without adverting to numerous cases, as I can, and will if necessary, I shall here only notice, that in the year 1832, in the Cholera Hospital committed to his charge, we find that *Alcohol and Ammonia*, were both injected; and although not immediately by himself, yet as having the full control and command of that Institution, we have full right to affirm the legal maxim, "Qui facit per alterum, facit per se." I leave him in the dilemma in which he has involved himself. But even in this challenge, the Doctor proves how little his researches have been beneficial to him. I could point to many experiments, if necessary, of such attempts, but

we wonder, if *ignorant of them*, that in spite of his "very extensive researches," he has probably *overlooked* those analogous instances of by-gone times! That the reader may have reference to such, should he desire to peruse them, the following outline may suffice; I think I could without difficulty, present to his notice some hundreds of cases; and yet with facts like these staring me in the face, I may not boldly declare to my Class that Dr. Chapman's experiments are altogether invalid, and contradictory to others made by men of *mature age*, during a period of at least 150 years!‡

If any experiments of Venous Injections were made before the time of Baglivi, I am not fully acquainted with them, supposing them to have been recorded, at a period when printing was not so extended as at present. The boldness of his experiments lead me, however, to the conviction, that they must have been often pursued by others anterior to him, and indeed he himself adverts to them. The book he published on the "Practice of Physic, reduced to the ancient way of Observation," has the date (English, Second Edition, London, 1723,) in the Preface, from Rome, February 29, 1696—consequently, ninety-seven years prior to the experiments of Dr. Chapman. At page 412, of this named edition, we find "A Collection of Experiments, made by the *Art of Infusion*, upon living animals." Four experiments of such infusions, by himself, are detailed. The first, ten years previously, in which he injected into the jugular vein, half an ounce of *spirit of vitriol*. The dog on whom it was made, died after a few hours. In the second, he injected into the right crural vein, two ounces of *rectified spirit of wine*. "After the injection, the dog shivered and shook all over for half a quarter of an hour, then he voided urine in great plenty, and was well as to all the functions of life." Another dog died, under the same amount. In his fourth experiment, in 1691, he injected four ounces of cold water, but without death ensuing. In some previous experiments detailed by him, page 376, on the effects of cantharides, he injected two ounces of a tincture of cantharides made by digesting 23 of the powder in six ounces of water of carduus, which did not prove fatal until the fourth day. Now, was Dr. Chapman, or was he not acquainted with these facts? If he was not, *ought he not to have been*, before drawing such positive conclusions from his own experiments; but if he was, what then?

Fracassati, Fabricius, and others, detail instances of similar experiments unaccompanied

shall mention only, that in the works of Lanzoni, and of Libavius, numerous instances are recorded, derived from various sources!

‡ Although Dr. Chapman's experiments were made in 1799, yet did he not know that Dr. Tongue who graduated *one year* before him, had actually recorded his own absolute experiments of injecting into the blood-vessels *quicksilver* itself without death ensuing, and that to the amount of an ounce! Calomel also was injected in very small doses without death ensuing, although fatal in larger amount. See his essay published in 1806, among others in a volume of Thesis, edited by Dr. Caldwell, p. 387. This metallic fluid had been *formerly experimented with* in the same mode of injection into the blood, as related in the Royal Philos. Trans. v. 17, p. 486; and v. 20, p. 184.

by death, in the early volumes of the Philosophical Transactions of Great Britain—among them we find injected, opium, wine, vinegar, sugar, common salt, spirit of wine, oil of sage, a decoction of senna, bile, and other articles.—Alston in his *Materia Medica*, mentions some experiments of a similar character.—Lanzoni has spread throughout his works other instances—and the celebrated John Hunter, has equally demonstrated the same by his experiments.—And are those of Dr. Chapman, at his first steps towards the temple of Medicine, to falsify the whole of these: or, is his ipse dixit, at that early period of his life, absolutely to destroy the positive assertions of some of the highest authorities of which our profession can boast! But none of these counter experiments are detailed in his work; and I ask again, whether this arose from ignorance, or—from what? I have said, I presume, enough on this head; if denied, I will give chapter and verse for every assertion above stated.—But *they will not be denied*, although unalluded to, in a work that has gone through six editions as a text book. Dr. Chapman quotes Orfila, in several parts of his *Therapeutics*, but *which of his works*, is not mentioned; if his *Toxicology* is intended, such venous injections appear in every page, some fatal—some innocuous!

I leave this, and proceed to a *second particular* noticed in his work, which it equally became necessary for me to disprove; it is thus laid down in it, and rests upon the unquestionable authority of his own extensive researches. Considering the *stomach* as the great centre of sympathy, and “the throne of the vital principle,” he proceeds thus to speak of it, at p. 53, (1st edition.) “Destitute of a stomach, no animal can exist. Life may be sustained, even in the perfect animals, independently of almost every other organ. Examples are numerous of *fatuses* being born of a full size, without a brain, spinal marrow, heart, lungs, liver, or uterus. *No instance, however, has been met with, in the course of my very extensive (!) researches on this subject, where the stomach was wanting.*”

It is my business to demonstrate, that a research, by no means *very extensive on this subject*, (since it was incidentally afforded in casual reading,) demonstrates the fallacy of this assertion.

To begin, then, with an author of *so trifling an authority* in medicine as the celebrated HALLER, whose writings, especially his *Physiology and Pathology*, in ten or twelve quartos, printed at Lausanne, in 1768, might be reasonably expected to be in the library of every teacher of the Institutes. It will be seen that reference is made by him (*opera minora*, vol. 3,) to several instances of “*fatuses* being born” without a stomach, as well as being defective in the other organs enumerated above. At page 20, reference is made to a case related in the 4th vol. of the “*Mémoires des Savans étrangers.*” At page 23, another, from the “*Bresl. Samlung,*” 1722, m. Jun. Page 24, another, from “*Recueil de l’Acad. de Montpel.*” Page 104, another, from Salzmann—*Journ. des Savans*, 1727. Page 35,

refers again to the *Bresl. Samlungen, &c.* And at page 36, to other sources. At page 79, another is referred to, in the 3d vol. of “*Journ. de Medicine.*”—But as Haller is, perhaps, not sufficiently known to the medical reader! we shall refer to some other works, in which cases are recorded or adverted to, and amongst these the *Philosophical Transactions* of Great Britain, a work the Doctor elsewhere refers to. Amongst the numerous cases of monstrous births recorded, from the earliest to the latest volumes, are two or three of the nature we are considering. The celebrated *Le Cat*, in the 57th vol. gives an account of a monstrous fetus, deficient in head, heart, lungs, *stomach*, spleen,* &c. &c. In the volume for 1793, Dr. John Clarke relates the case of a birth, still more defective, and in which *none of the viscera* subservient to digestion, excepting a little portion of small intestines, were present. In the 41st vol. for 1740, are several cases of monsters—one of a deficiency of the stomach—and another in vol. 65, for 1775, by a Dr. Cooper.

Still nearer to us, and not long before the Dr. visited Edinburgh, we find in the third volume of *Transactions of the Royal Society* of that place, published in 1795, a paper of Dr. Munro, read in 1792, in which he describes minutely, a human male monster, in whom, besides other deficiencies, *the stomach* and all the small intestines, save the end of the ilium were wanting. In the *Medical and Chirurgical Review*, v. 5, for 1798-9, we find a review of the celebrated Dr. J. J. Sue’s physiological researches on vitality, wherein reference is made to a fetus (p. 396) of five months, that “had neither head, breast, *stomach*, nor small intestines.” In *Southwell’s Medical Essays and Observations* abridged from the memoirs of the Royal Academy printed at London, 1764, we find v. ii. p. 330, reference to an instance of the *same deficiency*, produced by M. Mery before the Academy in 1720. I have more references of a similar kind, but the above are probably sufficient; and possibly the reader may exclaim, what has this to do with the stomach in the adult after birth? Had not the Doctor limited his observation to the fetus, as above quoted, the remark might have been proper, and I might have avoided the above references. Yet I will now go further, and if credence is to be awarded to a very plain and straightforward relation, I will demonstrate at least one case of a *stomach absolutely wanting* in the adult. In the third volume of “*Collection Academique,*” containing the “*Ephémérides Curieuses de la nature d’Allemagne,*” and printed at Dijon, 1755, at p. 600, we find the following title to the paper in question: “*Sur une femme qui n’avoit point d’estomac,* par Francois Lowenwald, professeur de Médecine à Pragues;† the paper is too long to copy: It is sufficient to state that he mentions his dissection of a woman, in December, 1676, at the hospital at Prague, *more than forty years old*, and a very interesting dissection it was in every particular; but we are concerned only as to the

* This is also recorded in the Gentleman’s Magazine, vol. 38, p. 526.

† This memoir was communicated to Dr. Lowenwald, by Jaques Jean Wenceslas Dobrzanski de Negrepoint, Professor of Medicine and of Philosophy at Prague.

fact before us. "But that" says the Professor, "which surprised us most, and which I believe has never before been noticed in any subject, was that *she absolutely had no stomach*, (que cette femme n'avoit point absolument d'estomac) and we saw in the place it should occupy, *only the Duodenum*, and that not even of its ordinary dimensions." After some speculations on this singular circumstance, he adds, "That since the woman had lived for more than forty years without a stomach, it proves that that viscus was not absolutely necessary to life, and that although a very rare and unique case, it is not the less true, nor should it on that score be regarded as a prodigy." He adds moreover, that Bonetus, (anat. practica) when speaking of diseases of the stomach, mentions things nearly as extraordinary.

I have, I believe, fully established my position, and would feel gratified by learning in what direction the "*very extensive researches on this subject*" were pursued; and I should also desire to know, whether I was not in the line of my duty when I stated these facts in opposition to mere negative assertions, founded on researches, which however extensive, seem most surprisingly to have overlooked works that are not all very difficult to be procured; and as I have for a period of 15 or 16 courses of lectures, annually detailed them to my class, it is surprising that they should not have been shown to be erroneous, or if that was impossible, that then the repeating of the Therapeutic paragraph should have been sedulously avoided.

The only other particular I shall at present notice, is the following. Bent upon sustaining his assertions that no medicine was conveyed into the blood-vessels, he (Professor Chapman,) more especially denies it in respect to mercury—and how? By any absolute proof to the contrary, which might satisfy fully those whom he addressed? No, certainly, if they gave any thought on the subject dilated on! At p. 364, 2d vol. of the Therapeutics, we find the following assertions: "Of all the notions relating to the mode of operation of mercury, that which alleges its entrance into the circulation, is *surely the most gratuitous and absurd*;" and almost immediately after, he says, "Against all this, (that is his objections to the fact) however, it is said that mercury has actually been found in the cells of the bones, and *Boerhaave is cited for the fact*." He does not give his authority for this assertion, although marked as a quotation by inverted commas; but supposes he demolishes it altogether, by the following ridicule thrown out against that great man, and which, to render it more impressive is printed in Italics: "It is stated by the same high authority, that '*he once saw with his own eyes, and hence could not be deceived, in the semen of a ram, the germs of the future animal following each other exactly like a flock of sheep entering a pen*.'" "Without meaning at all, continues the Professor, to impeach the veracity of this truly pious and illustrious man, I cannot forbear to remark, that such sentiments strongly remind us of the uncertainty of human testimony, where the judgment permits itself to be perverted by the ardour of fancy, or by an ambitious desire to establish preconceived notions." Perhaps be-

fore we have done, the reader may exclaim "*mutato nomine, de te narratur*."

At p. 14, vol. 1, Dr. C. thus eulogizes the man whom he has thus devoted to ridicule.

"No one could have been better prepared than Boerhaave to construct a medical system. To a mind, *calm, reflecting, and discriminative, he united the widest range of erudition, and the most patient industry*. All the branches of knowledge auxiliary to his profession he had diligently cultivated." Stop now a moment, reader, and reflect, if such a man is deserving of being exposed to the sneers of a class of Students, by the slang thus enunciated, *ex-Cathedra*?—And when you have answered, as I doubt not you will, *he ought not*; and that if he so asserted, something more than ridicule was required to controvert it! What then will you say, when I hereby assert, that Boerhaave has no where affirmed what is thus attributed to him; and moreover, when I shall have proved by testimony, numerous and unquestionable, *that mercury has been found*, not only in the cells of the bones, but likewise in some of the secretions of the body! Confining myself to facts alone, I shall bring forward evidence to the full as entitled to respect and confidence as Dr. Chapman himself—and whom I suspect he will be cautious of implicating by similar language.

The celebrated Dr. MEAD, who stands high in the annals of medicine, in his medical works, 4to edit., London, 1762, at p. 101, thus expressly declares:—

"I remember, that *I once found some quantity of it [mercury] in the perinæum of a subject taken from the gallows for a dissection*, (whose rotten bones discovered what disease had required the use of it, and that, I suppose by unction) without any marks of corrosion of the parts where it was collected." And at p. 107, he refers to others who had affirmed the same. "It is no wonder," says he, "if they often met with very untoward symptoms from so severe a treatment; and if (as some of them affirm) they now and then found mercury in the rotten bones of their patients, who had, it may be, suffered too much both from their disease and their physician." Here, in a note, he refers to the instances spoken of. "*Argentum vivum accipi ex osse cujusdam corrupto, quem perunctum ob empyricis plus decies ferebant, non semel emanavisse*."—Anton. Gall. in lib. de ligno sancto.

"Non semel in sepulchris argentum vivum in mortuorum capitibus reperi."—Anton. Musa Brasavolus, in tract. de Morb. Gall. He refers also to the Ephemerides German., Dec. 3, ann. 5, obs. 172; and if Dr. Mead asserts, that he himself found it, and gives the testimony of others to the same effect, is Dr. Chapman's sneer upon Boerhaave, in order to maintain an untenable proposition—and as if he supposed that Boerhaave alone upheld the fact he dares to doubt, is his ipse dixit to shake the evidence of men like Mead or Boerhaave? But I must ask him, before I proceed, to give to the public, *his authority for the assertion*, thus advanced against a man of such high worth, if we may estimate him by the character given by Dr. Chapman himself. It is given as a quotation, but I shall take nothing

for granted, except by actual examination of the writer from whom Dr. Chapman derives it.

Did the Doctor know of such a man as *Van Swieten*, who wrote commentaries upon *Boerhaave's Aphorisms* (in 18 vol., Edin. edit., 1776,)—and that amongst these is one on Syphilis? Had he given himself the trouble of only consulting this very learned Commentator, on the man he traduces, it would appear that he had adduced numerous instances, from authorities *no way inferior* to Dr. Chapman, of similar facts, that is, of mercury found in the bones, &c. Thus he refers to *Antonius Musa Brassavolus*, to *Bonetus*, *Schenkius*, *Fallopianus*, and *Fernelius*. Are they not credible witnesses? *Who is to be believed on their own authority*, if they are not? In order to establish this sneered-at fact, and prevent the error spreading among our classes, without its antidote, I shall quote the authors above mentioned.

Bonetus—*Sepulchretum*, vol. 3, p. 452, obs. 3, gives us several instances, collected from *Renodæus*, who states from *Trajanus*, that in a body dissected, “hydrargyrus copiosus repertus est, in *cranio nempe, scapularum et brachiorum juncturis*.”—From *Nic. Fontanus* “dissecto cadavere circa juncturas gutturæ tremulæ hydrargyri à me inventa sunt.”—*Castellus* in *Xenodochio incurabili*, in *illis qui post mercuriales inunctiones obierant, capitibus tibiæ et ossium cavitates argento vivo scatere deprehendit*.” And the same, *ad binas uncias*, was found in a female who had often employed the ointment.

Eustachius Rudius states, that himself and others had observed certain bodies dissected, “in quibus argenti vivi in ossium cavitatibus non exigua copia ex inunctione in morbo gallico.”

Schenkius is referred to likewise, by *Van Swieten*—*Obs. Medic. lib. 6, obs. 12*—who relates from the proper authority of *Garnerus*, that he dissected the head of an individual, the factor of which was so extreme, that even in the open air, it could scarcely be borne. He nevertheless persevered, and “superiorem cerebri partem cultello satis largo amputavi, et confusus omnibus ferè cerebri ventriculis, multum argenti vivi cum cochleari in eis collegi, et illud ipsum charè resurvavi.”

Fallopianus is also referred to, to the same effect, in his treatise, *de morbo gallico, cap. 76*. Unfortunately, the copy I possess of this great man's works, has lost this, and several other parts, and is otherwise, evidence per se, that it must have been in the hands of some Goth or Vandal, who knew not, or cared not, for its value and importance.

Fernelius—(*de Luis Veneræ Curatione, fol. edit., Geneva, 1679—ch. 7, p. 587*.)—speaking of the injurious effects of mercury, even on the bones, says—“Siquidem dentes eo sæpius inuncti statim postea vacillant et livescentes marcescunt, alia verò crassiora cariem parte quadam contrahunt, quam ferro excidens guttulas argenti vivi tremulas non raro ipse comperi.”

And are all these high authorities to yield implicitly to a Professor of the University of Pennsylvania! Surely, had they been known to him, he would not have treated *Boerhaave* so contumeliously, and pointed him out to the derision

of his Class, in his lectures; and to that of the public, in no less than six successive editions of his *Therapeutics*!

But these are old, and rather scarce works—yet I presume attainable if desirable. We shall, therefore, omit others, giving only a reference, for those who desire further satisfaction. To say nothing of *Haller*, in his *Physiology*, vol. 5, p. 86, and vol. 6, p. 215, as merely referring to those above mentioned and others, we have in *Woodal's Surgery*, p. 244, a reference to *Cardanus*, who took two ounces of crude mercury out of the head of a patient, who had been attended by himself: and references are afforded by *Sennerthus*, vol. 2, fol., Ven., 1641—p. 175; vol. 3, p. 521, and 525.

Petrus Poterius—*Op. Omn., Ven., 4to, 1741—p. 205*. *Boyle*, in his *Treatise on Specific Medicines, &c.* *Renodæus*, in his *Dispensatory*.

I cannot omit one or two more instances, of comparatively recent date—and we would not do so much discredit to the Professor's reading, as to suppose they had not met his eye.

The first is to be found as the communication of *Dr. Broadbelt*, in the 5th Vol. of *Memoirs of the Medical Society of London*, printed in 1799. The detail is interesting; but it must suffice to say, that he establishes it by his own authority, on dissection, having found evidences of it in the os hyoides, the thyroid and cricoid cartilages, os frontis, sternum and tibia, &c. If this also be denied, let us refer the reader to a paper in the 3d Vol. of the *American Medical Review*, edited in this city, a few years ago, by *Dr. Eberle*, page 436; it is taken from the *Medical and Physical Journal*, and is related from Professor *Otto* and *Dr. Guret*, of Berlin. The mercury was found in two different subjects, both young, in the ribs, the ilia and bones of the legs!

In the *Journal des Progr. des Sciences, &c.*, Vol. 6, p. 251, may be found an account of mercury detected in its metallic state in the mammary glands of a young woman, as also in the mesentery, large intestines and salivary glands; and reference is there likewise made to the authorities of *Fourcroy*, *Dumeril*, *Orfila*, and *Cruveilhier*, who have also found this metal in their examination of bodies, in different parts. In the same *Journal* noticed above, (in the 2d Vol., I believe,) metallic mercury has even been discovered in the Urine, by *Dr. Canter*. That gentleman took 60 lbs. of urine of syphilitic patients, who had been treated by mercury—a sediment formed, and the fluid part, separated therefrom, was evaporated, and distilled at a red heat, with charcoal and carbonate of potash. It showed, however, no trace of mercury. He then treated the sediment in the same manner, and obtained more than 20 grains of mercury, exclusive of what remained in the neck of the retort. I may add, that nearly twenty years ago, I pursued the same experiments on the fluid part of urine, from patients in a high state of salivation; and finding no evidence of mercury, as I had anticipated, I neglected to pursue it on the sediment, as *Dr. Canter* did; and failed thereby, probably, of effecting this discovery before him.

The celebrated *Dover*, whose name is so closely associated with a well-known medicine, and

whose works have been quoted by Dr. Chapman, as those of an author of his acquaintance, has, in his "Physician's Legacy," (7th Ed. p. 192,) given us a letter from a Mr. Assenton, wherein he details his own particular case, and the benefit he derived, as he presumes, from the use of crude mercury. He used 2 oz. daily, for six days together, and saved most of his water "during this operation, in the sediment of which, says he, I found some globules of mercury," &c. I am no further interested in this, than pointing to an affirmed fact, which a mere denial cannot put down. At p. 206 we find the following references of the fact of quicksilver passing by the urine: "In answer to one of your inquiries, (says Dr. Dover,) if there can be any instances produced of quicksilver's passing by urine? I am willing to give you entire satisfaction by referring you to the following persons:" (After naming several, he proceeds)—"I don't in the least question, if the proper glasses were used, but you might see the quicksilver voided by urine, in more or less quantities, by almost every person that takes it." &c.

And now, with facts so numerous around us, what can be said of the sarcasm above reported, on Boerhaave, which will not recoil on the rude assailant of that great man, viz. "that such statements strongly remind us of the uncertainty of human testimony, where the judgment permits itself to be perverted by the ardour of fancy, or by an ambitious desire to establish preconceived notions!"

But having thus settled, I presume, the fact, even although denied by Dr. Chapman, that mercury has been found in the bones and other parts of the body; I now proceed to prove that Boerhaave never made the assertion which has called forth the unscientific sarcasm of the Professor. I have already stated that, although a quotation, and in *Italics*, the place in which it is to be found is not afforded. I have the more to regret this, since it led me to an unprofitable search in the writings of Boerhaave, to ascertain the fact, but in vain; and it was accident alone that led me to the truth of this affair. The author of the assertion is the celebrated *Leuwenhoek*, who (as Baker on the Microscope tells us,) affirms of a drop of the semen of a ram, examined by him, "that it abounded with animalculæ in as great a number as the seminal matter of other animals; but with this extraordinary singularity, that multitudes of them swam the same way together, and seemed to have the inclination of sheep to follow their leader, and move in flocks." Can any doubt, that this is the origin of the sentiment ascribed to Boerhaave? If, however, he does, the following will conclusively settle it. Reading, incidentally, on the interesting subject of generation, as treated of by M. Buffon, in his *Natural History* (12mo. Edition of 1769, Paris), 3d Vol. p. 365, I find what follows, and which fully shows, that Boerhaave did not affirm what Dr. Chapman has attributed to him. People should be careful of assertions void of proof!

"Le fameux Boerhaave ayant demandé à *Leeuwenhoek* s'il n'avoit pas observé dans les animaux spermatiques différens degrés d'accroissement et de grandeur, *Leeuwenhoek* lui répond

qu'ayant fait disséquer un lapin, il a pris la liqueur qui étoit dans les épидидymes, and qu'il a vu et fait voir à deux autres personnes une infinité d'animaux vivans: *Incredibilem*, dit-il, *viventium animalculorum numerum conspexerunt, cum hæc animalcula scypho imposita vitreo et illic immortua, in rariores ordines disparassem, et per continuos aliquot dies sæpius visu examinassem quædam ad justam magnitudinem nondum excrevisse adverti,*" &c. &c. After some remarks on this, Buffon thus proceeds: "Dans la meme lettre à *Boerhaave*, il dit, qu'ayant fait apporter chez lui les testicules encore chauds d'un bélier qui venoit d'être tué, il vit, dans la liqueur qu'il en tira, les animalcules aller en troupeau comme vont les moutons. A tribus circiter annis testes arietis, adhuc calentes, ad ades meas deferri curaveram; cum igitur materiam ex epididymibus eductam, ope microscopii contemplerer, non sine ingenti voluptate advertēbam animalcula omnia, quotquot innatabant semini masculino, eundem natando cursum tenere, ita nimirum ut quo itinere priora prænatarent, eodem posteriora subsequerentur, adeò ut hisce animalculis quasi sit ingenitum, quod oves facillime videmus, scilicet ut præcedentium vestigiis grex universus incedat."

From this we clearly see that the observation ascribed to Boerhaave, by Dr. Chapman, belongs altogether to *Leuwenhoek*, to whom, if any ridicule attaches, it consequently belongs. But what makes the ridicule attach to Dr. Chapman rather than to either of the celebrated men mentioned, is, that Buffon himself, almost immediately afterwards, confirms the fact:—for he says, that *Leuwenhoek*, after forty-five years of microscopic observations, and thirty-six years from his publication of the discovery of the spermatie animals, now, for the first time, saw in the seminal fluid of the ram, that which is seen in every seminal fluid, and which he had often seen, and stated in the 6th chap. art. 9, of the semen of man; art. 12, of that of the dog; and art. 29, of that of the bitch. "Il n'est pas nécessaire (adds he, p. 368,) de recourir au naturel des moutons, et de transporter leur instinct aux animaux spermatiques du bélier, pour expliquer le mouvement de ces animalcules qui vont en troupeau, puisque ceux de l'homme, ceux du chien et ceux de la chienne, vont de meme, et que ce mouvement depend uniquement de quelques circonstances particulières, dont la principale est que toute la matière fluide de la semence soit d'un côté, tandis que la partie épaisse est de l'autre; car alors tous les corps en mouvement se dégagent du mucilage du même côté, et suivent la même route dans la partie la plus fluide de la liqueur."

Something further is added on the subject, by Buffon, but the above is adequate, I believe, to prove that the laugh is entirely against Dr. Chapman, and deservedly, from his attempt to throw it upon Boerhaave, without being himself, in any respect master of the subject. I have stated the outline of these facts constantly in my lectures, and even pointed them out to Dr. Chapman himself, several years ago, and yet the same obnoxious paragraph has been continued in the successive editions of his *Therapeutics*!

Disagreeable as this exposition is to me, the circumstances in which I have been placed, give

me no alternative, in the endeavour to vindicate my character from the aspersions, by which I have been driven from the Chair of *Materia Medica*. I leave to the Medical profession to judge of the reality of the charges made against me, and to draw their conclusions as to the remote causes of my persecution. Much more I could add, but I forbear, yet, before I conclude, since *EXPERIENCE* is the word on which so many changes have been rung, and by indirect insinuations, it has been attempted to lead the Trustees to believe that I have none to boast of, I must be pardoned for giving a short view of my medical career, that may help to establish some claim for me in the eyes of my fellow-citizens. It is painful to me to do this, but under the existing state of things, it would be a false modesty alone that should or would prevent it.

At an early period of my life I went to England, and after several years passed in the public schools, proceeded to Edinburgh, in my sixteenth year, under the direction of a well established classical teacher, and with the intention of pursuing, during the summer months, the lectures on Botany, then given by Dr. Rutherford, and those on Natural History, by the Reverend Dr. Walker. I boarded at this time in the house of a surgeon and apothecary, by whom I was induced, thus early, to attend the Hospital, and having spent nearly fifteen months in Edinburgh, returned to London towards the close of the year 1789, and during the following winter I attended two courses of Anatomy and one of Chemistry, at the London Hospital, by Mr. Blizard, and Dr. Hamilton. In 1790, I left England for the purpose of more directly studying medicine under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Rush, with whom I continued, until I obtained my degree here, in the University of Pennsylvania, of Doctor in Medicine, in 1794. Having, during nearly four years' apprenticeship, attended the various lectures then delivered by Drs. Shippen, Kuhn, Rush, Wistar, Hutchinson, and Griffith, and having their respective signatures to my diploma, with the exception of that of Dr. Hutchinson, who, it is well known, fell a sacrifice to his active exertions during the eventful period of 1793, when the yellow fever spread terror and desolation through our devoted city. Hundreds of my fellow-citizens recollect that season of dismay, rendered more so, at the time, by the general conviction, then entertained by all classes of society, of its contagious character! The unwearied attention of my preceptor is well depicted in his graphic description of the disease and its accompanying events. During a period of four months continuance, I was not once absent from my post, and from the immensity of applicants for Dr. Rush's aid, he was obliged to transfer a very large proportion to his students. Seldom, I believe, had I less than thirty to fifty a day to-visit and prescribe for, and when necessary, likewise to bleed. Of four other fellow students, three fell victims to their unwearied philanthropy, and the other was within the verge of existence in two several attacks. This gentleman, Dr. Fisher, is yet living, and a practitioner of the highest character in Columbia, South Carolina. Here, then, I had an ample

field of experience, not readily to be forgotten, exclusive of that which I might be presumed to acquire during three years attending the practice of the hospital physicians, and also of a number of pauper patients committed to my charge by Dr. Rush, as was his usual custom, at a period when the Dispensary was just starting into full existence, and had not yet obstructed the proportion of that class of patients, which fell to the care of every practitioner. I shall here take permission to add, that on the termination of the epidemic above alluded to, Dr. Rush presented to me a copy of Van Swieten's Commentaries upon Boerhaave's aphorisms, in eighteen volumes, as a mark of his approbation—and which even now I value more highly than any other work in my library. In the blank leaf of the first volume of this work, the following lines are written by Dr. Rush himself:

"JANUARY 24, 1794.—As a testimony of the skill, fortitude, patience, perseverance, and humanity, with which Mr. John Redman Coxe, (then a Student of Medicine) discharged his duty to the sick, during the prevalence of the Yellow Fever, in the autumn of 1793, and which proved fatal to three out of four of his fellow-students, this edition of Van Swieten's Commentaries on Dr. Boerhaave's Aphorisms, is presented to him by his friend and preceptor, BENJ. RUSH."

I might adduce, to the above highly flattering acknowledgement of my preceptor, others, from several citizens, whose lives, and the lives of their families, I was instrumental in saving—some of whom, on reading this, will probably recall to mind their youthful attendant, when Dr. Rush's illness prevented his assistance. Of these, one alone, I think proper to notice, because it is of the character of the one above, viz. a book at that time in high esteem, as one of the first and best on Chemistry. It is the "Elements of Chemistry," by the celebrated Chaptal, in three volumes; and, in the blank leaf, the donor, Mr. Richard Wells, has thus commemorated his esteem for my exertions in his behalf; dated Jan. 18th, 1794.

"To Dr. John Redman Coxe, (student with Dr. Benjamin Rush, then confined by a malignant fever) a small token of gratitude for the skilful and unremitting attention shown by him during the late fatal sickness in Philadelphia, to Richard Wells and his family."

The few Drug Stores in this city, previous to this period, was one cause, probably, independently of long continued habit of each physician having his prescriptions prepared in his own office by his students, which gave them much insight into practical pharmacy; and of this, during the whole period of my being with Dr. Rush, I had my full proportion.

Immediately after obtaining my degree, I returned to England, and for several months was an inmate and dresser in the London Hospital, under Mr. Blizard, whose dissections and lectures on Anatomy, and Hamilton's on Chemistry, I again attended. Subsequently, I became house-pupil in the Store Street Midwifery Hospital, un-

der the direction of Dr. Clarke, whose lectures, both alone and in conjunction with Dr. Osborne, I also attended. I again visited Edinburgh for a winter course—attending the Infirmary and Clinical lectures; those of Gregory, Black, Munroe and Duncan, besides some of the private teachers.—In the spring and summer of 1796, I was in Paris for five or six months; and, although the political turbulence of the times had partly abated, yet comparatively little was to be then attained by regular studies. I did not, however, lose altogether my time. The Hôtel Dieu was open to me, and I became acquainted with Fourcroy, Vauquelin, Swediaur, and several other scientific men, whose friendship afforded me opportunities of improvement. I left England in the fall of that year—and early in 1797, settled down to practice in this city, after seven years of previous study and apprenticeship. In *this* year the Yellow Fever again appeared; and I was one of the physicians appointed by the Board of Health to attend the poor of the city in that disease.—Here again, whilst several of my colleagues were swept away by it, I was protected, and had an ample share of practice in it. I soon also became physician to the Dispensary, continuing in that capacity for five or six years. I was, moreover, elected one of the physicians to the Pennsylvania Hospital, and resigned the situation after several years attendance on its duties; having opened and established a Drug Store, which, from its progressive extension, occupied much of my time and superintendence, and even broke in upon my practical pursuits. At the death of Dr. Woodhouse, in 1809, and my election to the chair of Chemistry, following that event, I closed the Drug business, and in the duties of the professorship, gradually relinquished, although never wholly, a practice that had for several years been lucrative. Such then, as concisely as I could, I have stated my pretensions to some degree of practical experience; and that, I will venture to add, not of that fallacious kind, which appears to have accompanied my former colleagues, so as to render their judgment doubtful, and *their* boasted experience not worth a groat—at least in my estimation, for I know not how soon it may change again, either in the case of Swaim's Panacea itself, or any other subject. I would earnestly recommend them to discontinue this ridiculous repetition about experience; it is not well calculated for *retrospection*, and the less *said about it*, the better. At all events it is not seemly to have the names of Professors, in a regular and *well ordered* University, like that of Pennsylvania, appended to certificates in favour of nostrums.

I have nothing further to add. The Trustees have deemed my existence in the University *inexpedient and injurious* to that Institution. The Medical Faculty, still more alarmed, assure the Committee, "that the *prosperity* of the School, and *perhaps its very existence*, demands the immediate removal," &c.—Prodigious!—Could not five gentlemen, of *first-rate talents* in their respective chairs, save from ruin, that School they *so long had dignified*, merely because one un-

lucky colleague had thought proper to follow lead, and pasture on the fields of an adjoining comrade! The act is accomplished—and now the public will mark the result. Will parents, on reflection, send their children to study in a School in which such insubordination has found access? Will those young men who now, and formerly, have arrayed themselves in opposition to me, upon serious reflection of a few years, be pleased with their retrospect, when they perceive that they really were mere puppets in the hands of jugglers. Will these, I say, be satisfied to send their own children to witness or engage in similar scenes of extravagance and folly? We think not—and if all this proves true, where then will be the boasted superiority of men, who so arrogantly tell the Trustees that they rank above all others.

I commit this communication to the impartial scrutiny of the members of our Profession, both here, and elsewhere; and I beg of them candidly to declare whether, all things duly considered, the declaration of the Medical Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, is sufficient to demonstrate my incompetency in *Materia Medica* and *Pharmacy*? In truth, there is *but one member* of that Body, whom I consider as so adequately and intimately acquainted with those two branches, that I should place confidence in his opinions therein, beyond the mere *experience* of daily routine with the few articles they may individually deem proper to employ. Nor do I at all credit their actual belief, in my asserted deficiency. If they actually do so, then I ask them again, in concluding my vindication, and I call upon them before the community at large, to *bring forward those especial particulars in tangible accusation* against me; and if they fail of this, I again proclaim them calumniators, and undeserving of the stations they occupy.

And now, in conclusion, the Medical Faculty having declared my incompetency, at the earliest period of their attack upon my Chair, and having continued this declaration to their final communication to the Trustees, together with their conviction of the absolute necessity for my removal, yet, without affording any proof thereof, beyond assertion, made as a body, and not maintained individually; I feel no hesitation in hereby *protesting against their proceedings, and those of the Trustees*; and of publicly proclaiming the insufficiency of the Faculty, by any resolve of a majority of a quorum of their Board, to whose competency I would assent, to pass an act of condemnation against me. There are but two members of that Body, one of whom is an adjunct, to whose competency I would at all submit. Men, who as members of a Medical Faculty, have openly tolerated Empiricism—and aided in its establishment, by their individual signatures, and yet, in a short time have proclaimed their uncertain judgment, by opposing declarations;—men, who thus have broken down the line of demarcation between the regular and irregular member of the Profession, and have, as far as example reaches or precept directs, done away with regular study, in our profession, and consequently may be said to negative the necessity of a Medical School or Faculty! Such men have no title to be received as competent judges of medical qualification in

any case; and least of all in a case where they are personally ignorant of the facts by which qualification or disqualification is to be proved. Whatever be their merits, and their qualifications otherwise, I beg leave to tell them, that in the profession of Medicine, I deem them no longer my equals, nor to be qualified to sit in judgment upon me, either as a Physician or a Teacher! For the same reasons, I deem them unqualified for the high station entrusted to them, and therefore unfit teachers for a Medical School; and as expediency has been the main source of my removal, I would declare my belief, that the insulted honour of our Science, renders another sacrifice expedient, and absolutely necessary, for the integrity of our University, together with such modification of its rules, as shall preclude, in future the existence of an Imperium in Imperio, stronger, in fact, than the power from which it originated.

To those of the profession who are unacquainted with the Institution to which I have referred in the progress of these pages, viz.—the “Medical Institute of Philadelphia,” I offer the following brief account, as published a few years past, in Desilver’s Directory, 1828.—

“This institution, having for its object the improvement of medical education in this country, began in the year 1817, under the auspices of N. Chapman, M. D. The course of instruction lasts for a whole year, beginning about the first or second Monday of April, and ending about the last of the following March. It is divided into two terms—one extends from April to the last Saturday of October, a vacation being allowed during August, and consists in lectures. The second term begins early in November, and is continued to the end of March; it consists in examinations.

“From inconsiderable beginnings, the Medical Institute has reached to the condition of a systematic and popular course of instruction. For some years past, more than one hundred Students have been annually registered on its list. Students are not permitted to enter for one set of lectures only, but must engage in the whole, as it induces them to adopt an extensive and varied course of medical schooling, much to their advantage.

“A degree in medicine is not conferred, but a certificate, signed by the Lecturers,* respectively, is issued, indicating the time during which the lectures have been followed. It has been thought inexpedient to issue medical degrees upon this course of instruction, because emanating originally from one of the Professors of the University, the Institute has been intended, invariably, as subsidiary to the course of instruction there; and has heretofore been conducted with that view.”

The reader will not fail to perceive the control that such an Institution obtains, and was in fact intended to obtain over the students, who were afterwards matriculated in the University. He may also perceive the power which it gives, and

* Four of the Lecturers were also Professors in the University.

probably was intended to give to the Medical Faculty, in opposition to the Trustees of the University in case of collision. To the control, or influence upon the students, so derived, I do not doubt that I owe, in a great degree, my removal from the University. The Trustees may do well to consider what is to be the effect of such an Institute upon them, if they attempt to regain their authority over the Faculty of Medicine. It would have been as consistent with the fact, to have stated, that the Institute was intended as subsidiary to the independence of the Medical Faculty, and the exemption of its Professors from any real government by the Board of Trustees, as to say that “it was subsidiary to the course of instruction” in the University. If the Trustees shall give their attention to this Faculty, it will be well for them to consider, whether it is wise and safe for them to extend their sanction to Professors, who, in truth, lecture in two schools, which if not rivals at this time, may at any moment be made so at the pleasure of the Professors, who in seceding from the University, may have the advantage of starting with “more than one hundred students annually registered on its lists.”

Since the present “Appeal” has been printing, I have received several letters from medical gentlemen in different parts of the Union, expressing their detestation of the arts employed for my removal, and their sympathy for my unmerited persecution. A confirmation of several particulars, already adverted to, are therein to be found; and therefore they may be considered as part of my vindication. I shall however at present, give but one of these communications; although I doubt not, from present impressions, that before many weeks elapse, I shall have additional confirmation of every asserted fact, from numerous witnesses of the different transactions alluded to in the Appeal.

“Pennsylvania, April 6th, 1835.

“Doctor J. R. COXE,

“Honoured Sir—I have just finished the perusal of a small pamphlet, entitled “A short account of the occurrences which led to the removal of Dr. John Redman Coxe from the Chair of Materia Medica and Pharmacy in the University of Pennsylvania.

“Permit me, sir, to declare that I have seldom perused a narrative which has given rise, in my breast, to so much sincere sympathy for an injured and persecuted individual; so much indignation at the low schemes and dishonourable intrigues of his persecutors; or so much regret for the disgrace brought upon an ancient, and, hitherto, venerated and highly useful scientific institution.

“It is not for me to decide the question as to the competency or incompetency of the late Professor of Materia Medica, or as to the expediency of his removal. The declarations of certain men at one time that *the department of Materia Medica, &c., was too insignificant to occupy the*

whole time of a Professor; and at another time, that the reputation of the School was rapidly sinking in consequence of the incompetency of the occupant of that Chair, are too inconsistent to prove what they aver. I must say that you, sir, have been most inhumanly persecuted. No man who is not lost to all the nobler feelings of his nature, can read the narrative without painfully sympathizing in your unmerited sufferings: no man, who has a spark of true honour in his composition, can fail to be filled with indignation, when he thinks of the tricks and expedients which were resorted to in order to effect your removal: no man who has any proper sense of the great importance of discipline in an institution for the instruction of youth, can fail to regret most deeply, the spirit of insubordination which has of late prevailed in the Medical Department of the University, and the countenance which has been given to that spirit, by those to whom it peculiarly belonged to use the influence and authority of their stations, for its suppression.

"Till recently, the writer would have yielded to no man, in veneration and attachment to that ancient and honourable institution. Since 1813, when he first entered the University as a student of medicine, his attachment has been the warmest and most unwavering. Her honour, he considered his honour. He viewed with a jealous eye every the slightest attempt to injure her high reputation. He might almost say, he was envious of the reputation and prosperity of rival institutions, even though they were the institutions of his own country, or the metropolis of his own, his native state.

"But the occurrences of the last winter, if they have not entirely alienated his affections, have very much cooled their ardour. Still, however, he fondly hopes that the well-known intelligence and energy of her Board may yet restore her to the high character of which she once could boast.

* * * * *

"I have heard another professor, for the sake, as it seemed to me, of gaining popularity, minister to the impure passions of his youthful audience, by retailing obscene and indecent stories; and I have felt as if it were a virtue to rid, not only the School, but

"Though not personally known to you, I could not, sir, refrain from thus expressing to you my detestation of those means which have been practised, to bring about your removal, and the interest which I feel in your welfare.

"Permit me, in conclusion, to express the hope, that when the history of these transactions shall have been published, a generous and intelligent public will pronounce a just judgment on your relentless persecutors.

"Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant."

☞ As this letter was of a private and confidential character, I thought it proper to ask permission of the writer to use it in my public ap-

peal; and it is with great gratification I introduce his assent, in the following prompt and decided reply:

"Pennsylvania, April 16th, 1835.

"Doctor J. R. COXE,

"SIR—Your favour of 11th inst. has been received. I have felt uncertain how I ought to determine as to your request for permission to use my former letter in your vindication. I am exceedingly reluctant to appear before the public as a voluntary witness against any human being.

"But on reflection, I feel satisfied that a proper regard to the interests of the University, as well as justice to yourself, forbids that I should be deterred, by any fear of consequences to myself, from complying with your request. If, therefore, any thing I said in my former communication, or any thing I may say in this, should in your judgment be really important to your defence, or to a fair exposition of the conduct and character of your late colleagues, I do not feel at liberty to refuse you permission to use it for that purpose.

"I regret much that my memory, (never retentive of details) does not enable me to be more circumstantial in my statements. I can give but little more than general impressions.

"The winter of 1830-31, I spent in Philadelphia for the purpose of attending a course of lectures in the College of Pharmacy. I also attended the lectures in the University as constantly as I could, while availing myself of Dr. Wood's kind permission to be with him in the College during his preparation for the lectures on Chemistry in the evening. On one occasion, I well remember

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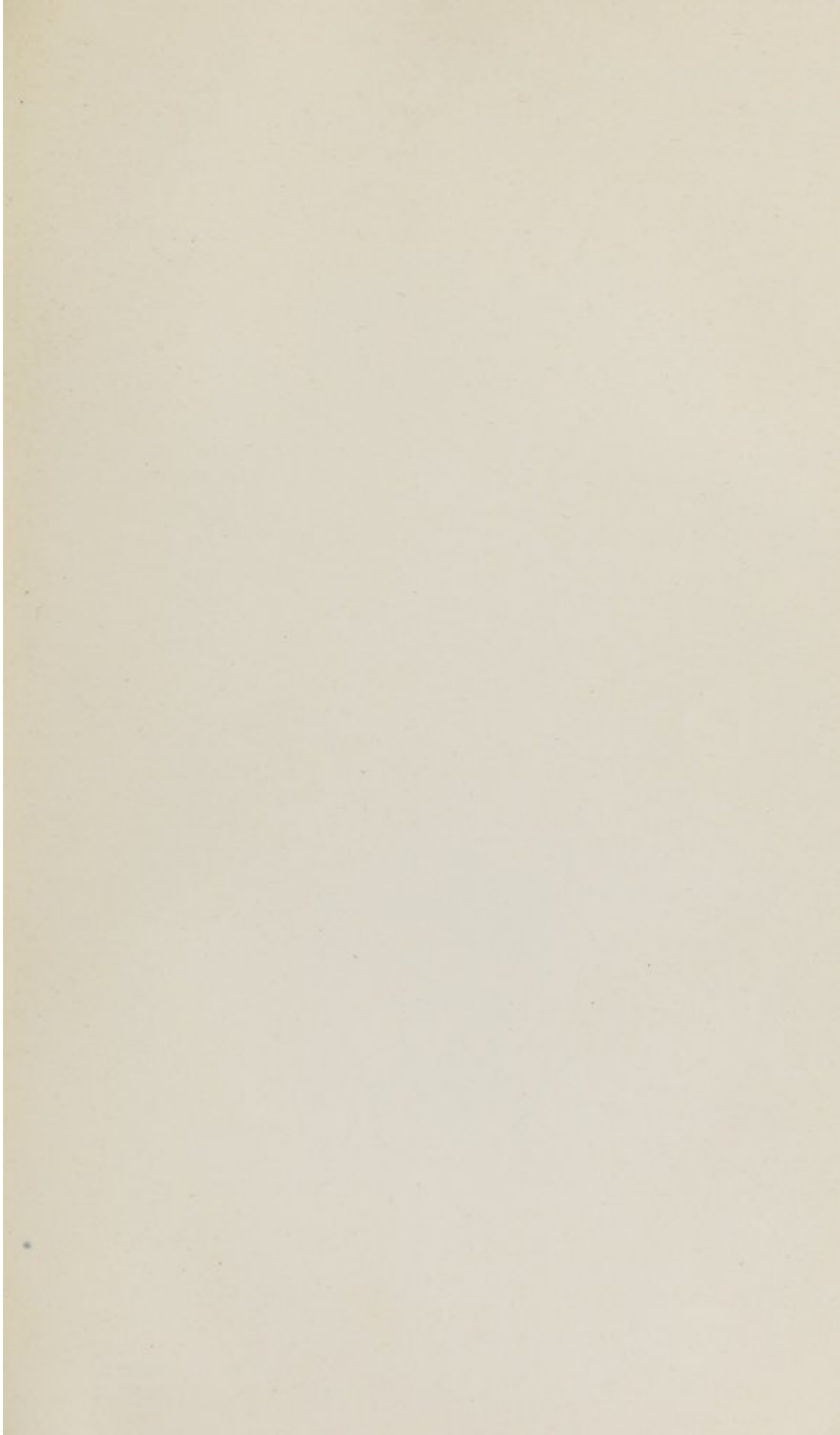
I could not then, nor can I now imagine what connexion these explanations* might have with the proper subject of his lecture, or how they were calculated to render his pupils more respectable or more skilful in their profession.

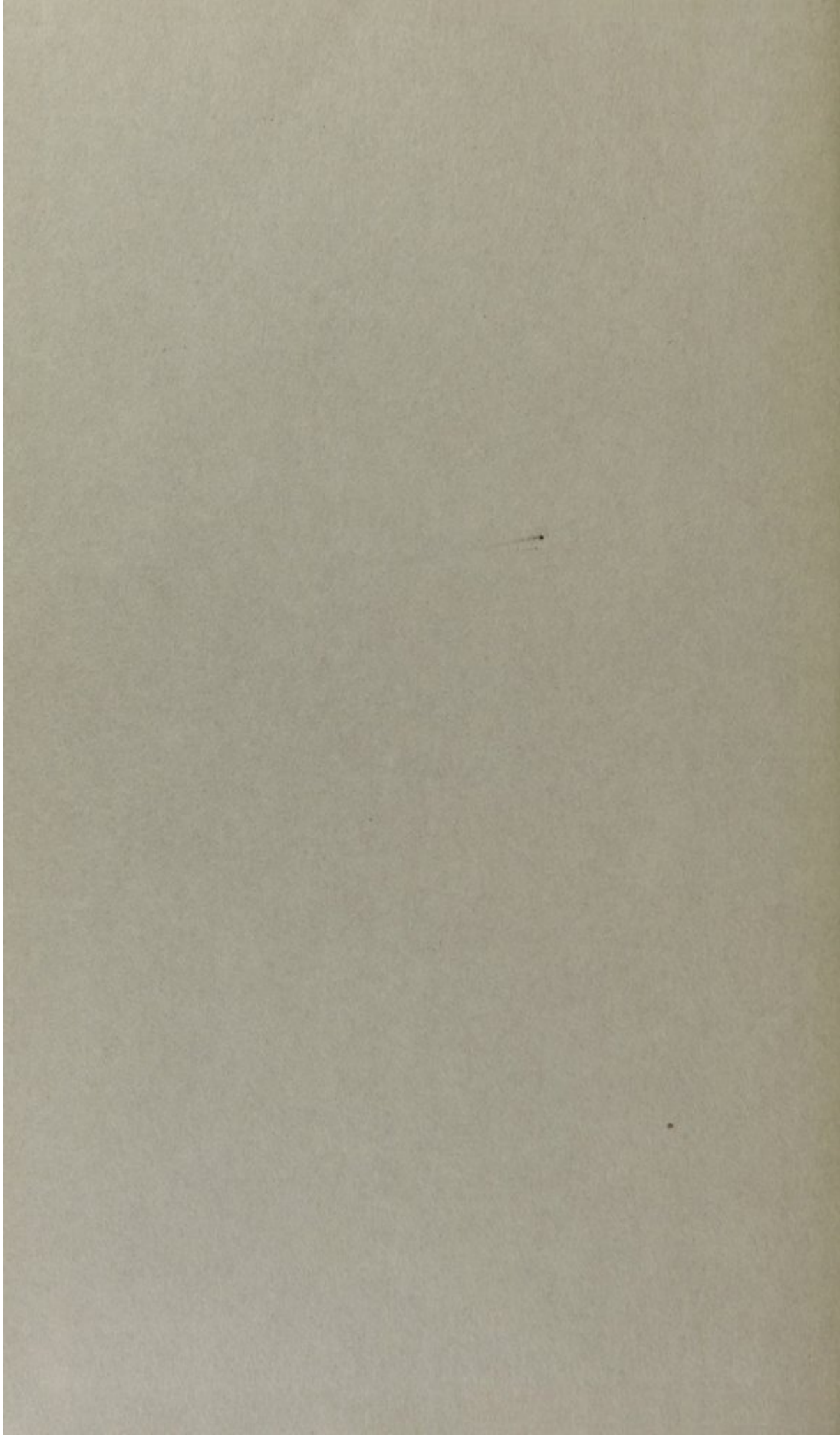
"That indecent and obscene allusions, irrelevant to the subject of his lecture, were made by the same Professor at other times, I also well remember. I remember too his using on one occasion, language inculcating the idea that a duel was the proper and honourable mode of settling disputes between gentlemen. But my memory does not enable me to say more than that these were then, and have ever since, been my impressions.

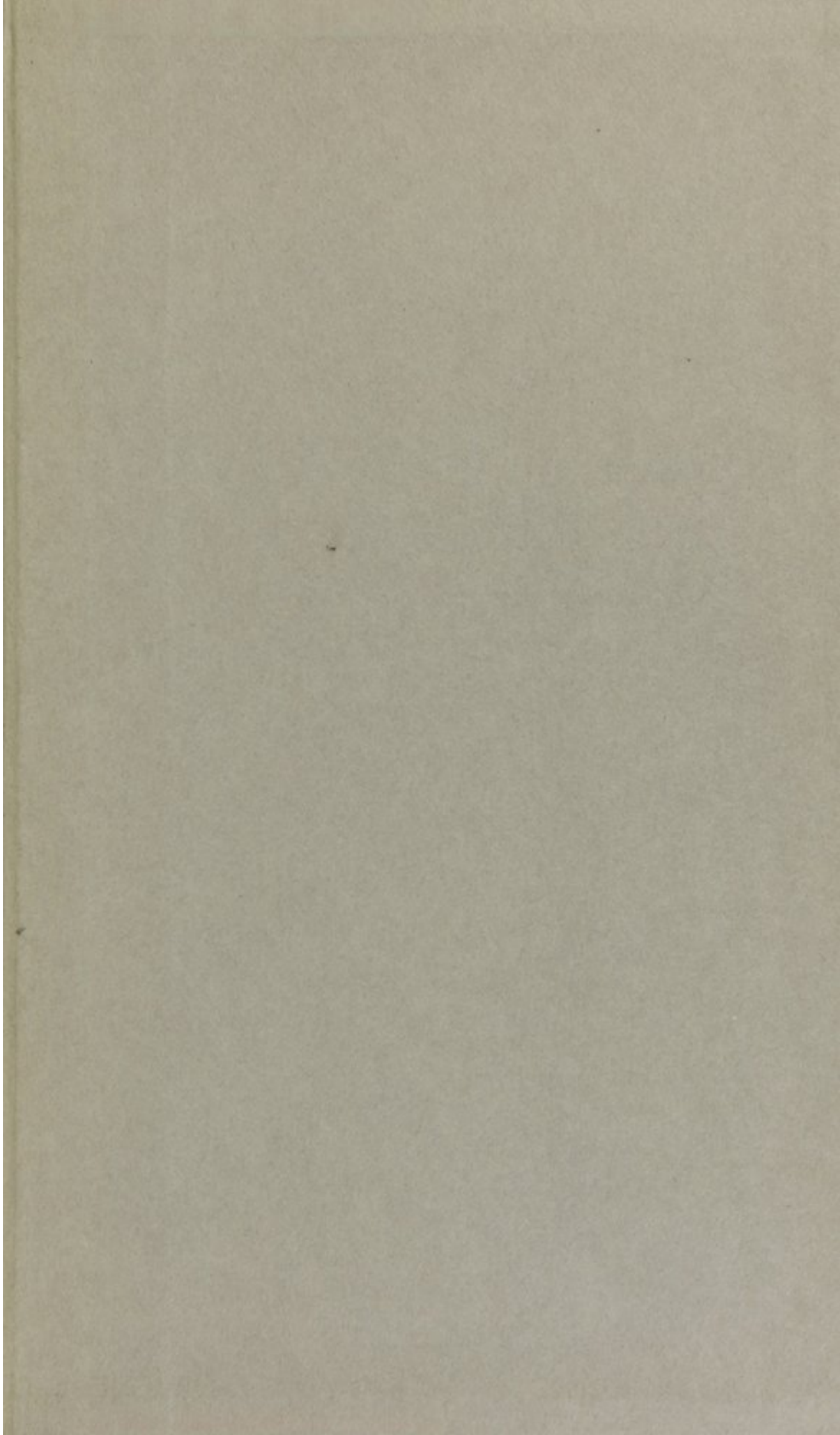
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"Very respectfully, &c."

* [The part here omitted contains a specification of the obscenity alluded to in the former letter of my correspondent; but although I have full authority to make it public, I do not feel disposed to do so. I hold myself at liberty to give the names of all my correspondents, and to show their letters to any persons having a right to call upon me for them.]







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