

A discourse, before the Humane Society, in Boston : delivered on the second Tuesday of June, 1787 / by John Lathrop, D.D.

Contributors

Lathrop, John, 1740-1816.

Russell, Ezekiel, 1743-1796

Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

National Library of Medicine (U.S.)

Publication/Creation

Boston : Printed by E. Russell, 1787.

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Mr Professor
Pearson
1707
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1787

DR. LATHROP'S

DISCOURSE

BEFORE THE

HUMANE SOCIETY.



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1853

A
DISCOURSE,

B E F O R E T H E

H U M A N E S O C I E T Y,

I N

B O S T O N :

D E L I V E R E D

On the Second TUESDAY of JUNE.

1787.



By JOHN LATHROP, D. D.

B O S T O N ; Printed by E. Russell. 1787.

At the Semiannual Meeting of the
HUMANE SOCIETY, June 12, 1787.

VOTED, That the Honourable
JAMES BOWDOIN, Esq; L.L.D. *President*,
Thomas Russell, Esq; First V. President,
Rev. *Simeon Howard*, D. D. Treasurer, Rev.
Samuel Parker, and Rev. *Peter Thatcher*, be
a Committee to wait on the Rev. *John La-*
throp, D. D. and return him the Thanks of
this Society for his excellent Discourse deli-
vered this day, and request a Copy thereof
to be printed at the Societys' Expence.

A true Copy from the Records,
Attest, SAMUEL PARKER, Rec. Sec'y.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM greatly honoured by the notice
which the HUMANE SOCIETY have
been pleased to take of the Discourse deli-
vered before them on the last Tuesday, and
by the very obliging manner in which they
have requested a Copy thereof to be printed.

A DESIRE in some measure to aid the
cause of Humanity, influenced me to ac-
cept the appointment made by the Trustees
of the Society, agreeably to the tenth Ar-
ticle of the Institutes; and influenced by the
opinion which the Society have been pleas-
ed to express, that the design of the Institu-
tion may be served by publishing the Dis-
course, I will give a Copy for that purpose.

Boston, June, 1787. JOHN LATHROP.

A
DISCOURSE.

LUKE ix. 56.

*The Son of Man is not come
to destroy men's lives, but to
save them.*

PUBLICK institutions, founded
on the general principles of bene-
volence, and calculated either to
promote the happiness, or to alleviate
the sufferings of human life, are ho-
noured and encouraged among all the
civilized nations of the world.

To feed the hungry, and clothe the
naked, to nourish the orphan, and
help the widow in distress, are servi-
ces acceptable and well pleasing in the
sight of GOD our Saviour.

BUT

BUT as the mind of man is affected with the *cries* of the needy, and with the *sight* of wretchedness, so the relief of *present* misery has been the object of those benevolent institutions in general which have heretofore been established by the wealthy and generous. The founders of benevolent institutions in general have carried their views no farther than apparent death, unless to provide a decent interment for such as could no longer receive the fruits of their liberalities. But since the discoveries of modern times have sufficiently proved, "That the total suspension of the vital functions of the animal body, is by no means incompatible with life," * institutions have been formed in various parts of the world, for the recovery of persons, after they had tasted death, and sunk into a state of insensibility, from which, if left without assistance, they could not have awoke, 'till the morning of the resurrection.

A

* Institution of the HUMANE SOCIETY in Boston.

A PROPOSAL for a society, for the purpose now mentioned, in former days of ignorance and superstition, would no doubt have been treated as impious and absurd : But the success which has attended the exertions of societies formed for the recovery of persons visibly dead, particularly such as were drowned, has far exceeded expectation.

EXCITED by the success which has attended *Humane Societies* in Europe, a number of Gentlemen lately formed themselves into a Society of the same name, and for the same benevolent purpose in this Commonwealth.

To aid the general design of the institution, this Society have a standing order, " That some person be appointed
 " to deliver a publick Discourse, on the
 " second Tuesday of June, every year,
 " upon some Medical Subject, connected with the principal objects of the
 " Society."

To

To deliver a Discourse upon a Medical Subject, would be out of the line of my profession : But as the Trustees of the Society have signified their pleasure, that an Institution of so interesting a nature, be introduced with a Religious Exercise, and that the first Discourse be rather on the general object of the Society, than confined to the *Medical Science*, I cheerfully obey their order ; relying on the patience and candour of this respectable assembly.

THE words of our LORD, placed at the head of this Discourse, naturally lead us to consider the value of human life, and the duty of preserving it by every method in our power.

THE holy Evangelists who have faithfully recorded the life of JESUS CHRIST, abundantly testify that his actions perfectly corresponded with the declaration in the text : He constantly went about doing good. He not only fed
the

the hungry, and healed the sick, but on several occasions he invaded the empire of death, and restored to disconsolate mourners, their connexions and friends.

HE at once gave demonstration of the power which he had received from his Father in Heaven, and of the value which he set on human life, when, at the city *Nain*, he detained the funeral procession, which was performing the last kind office to the only son of an afflicted widow, and with a sovereign word, restored him again to his mother :—When he brought back to life the daughter of *Jairus*, after it was declared by all who saw her, that she was dead ; and more particularly, when he raised *Lazarus* from the grave, after he had been buried four days.

WE may be assisted in forming an estimate of human life, not only by considering the value which was set up-

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on

on it by the Son of Man, but by attending to the frame and constitution of our nature, together with the rank which we hold among the creatures of God;—by attending to the *desire* of life, which is almost universal among the human race, and by considering the services which the children of men are capable of rendering one another, in the several connexions and relations which they sustain.

M A N was designed by his Creator, to have dominion over other animals, and he was qualified for this superiour rank by receiving a capacity for improvement, beyond any other creatures on the earth.

W E A P O N S contrived by human skill, and directed by the feeble hand of man, are more fatal to the ravenous beasts of the forest, than all their strength and fury are to man.

S E -

SEVERAL of the inferiour animals indeed discover surprising art in providing for their support, and in securing themselves against their enemies : But while they are furnished with sufficient sagacity for the preservation of their species, it does not appear that the mental faculties which they have, are capable of any considerable enlargement. Their natural history does not inform us, that any tribes of animals below man, are better able to collect the means of subsistence, or to defend themselves with more success against such as would destroy them, than they were several thousand years ago.

BUT the improvements in useful knowledge, which have been made by man, are surprising.—Man, by tilling the earth, which seems to be his natural business, finds by experiments and observations, that the means of subsistence

ance may be gathered from a small piece of ground.—Man can also traverse the ocean, and by an art which no other creature hath learned, he can circum-navigate the globe, and please his taste with the produce of every clime : Or, by the use of letters, man may abide at home, and yet collect both knowledge and wealth from nations the most distant, and the least acquainted with each other.

FARTHER, to enlarge his mind, and increase his intellectual happiness, man, by the use of figures, and a few instruments which his own skill hath invented, can look into the heavenly regions—can survey those vast bodies which revolve about the common centre of the System to which we belong ; yea, he can look beyond our System, and make acquaintance with other worlds and other systems, until the grandeur of the Universe astonishes
his

his mind, and to use the words of a great Philosopher and Divine, “ He turns giddy * with the prospect.”

SUCH being his nature, and such his capacity for improvement in knowledge and intellectual felicity, we may be sure the Author of his existence designed him for a happy and honourable rank in creation.

MAN is at the head of the creatures which dwell on the face of the earth ; but the treasures of the earth cannot satisfy him : He seeks acquaintance with other worlds ;—he longs to converse with superiour beings, and feels the highest pleasure in contemplating the perfections of his Creator, in the boundless Universe.

SUCH pleasure belongs to man ; such pleasure he is capable of enjoying
in

* Rev. Dr. PRICE.

in the present life ; life is therefore desirable.—There is no evil which we so generally dread, as the loss of life : “ All
 “ that a man hath will he give for his
 “ life.” Every conceivable enjoyment on this side Heaven depends on the continuance of life. Crowns and sceptres lose their value as their owners draw near the grave. In that dark abode, the slave and the sovereign are equally impotent : In the grave there is no knowledge—no mental enjoyment. “ When
 “ the days of a man are finished, and
 “ he passeth away, his love and his hatred, and his envy perish with him.
 “ If his sons come to honour, he knoweth it not : If they are brought low
 “ he perceiveth it not of them.” *

As all sensation depends on the organs of life, so when those organs are destroyed, we have reason to fear all
 mental

* JOB xiv. 21.

mental exercises must cease, until he who first gave us existence shall restore us from the ruins of nature, and bring us forward to resume the task, and complete the work which we left unfinished.*

IF it be true, that every conceivable enjoyment on this side Heaven, depends on the continuance of life, we shall endeavour to protract our own existence, and we shall endeavour to rescue from the gate of death, such as are in danger of going down to the grave, before their proper time.

THE value of human life will still rise in view, as we consider the services which the children of men are capable of rendering each other, in the several connexions and relations which they sustain.

SUCH are our *connexions*, that our happiness greatly depends on one another.—

* Dr. HARTLEY'S *Observations on Man*.

ther.—The happiness of a whole empire may depend on the life of a wife and good monarch.—The happiness of a state or province may depend on the life of rulers, whose abilities and fidelity merit the confidence of the people.—The happiness of parents depends on the life of their children : And the happiness of children depends on the life of their parents, especially in their young and tender years.—Next to our own dissolution, there is nothing we dread so much as the death of those with whom we are intimately connected.

OTHER considerations might be suggested to illustrate the value of human life, were I not afraid of protracting this Discourse to an improper length.

THE strength of kingdoms and empires, is in proportion to the number of inhabitants, provided they are well governed and employed.

BUT the value of human life, is not to be wholly estimated by the enjoyments

ments of the present state, and the services which the children of men are capable of rendering each other : The present mode of our existence may be considered as a state of discipline, designed by an allwise Creator to prepare us for higher employments, and more perfect felicity.—The present life may be considered, with reference to a future state, as childhood with reference to mature age. In another world we may act with much more knowledge, and with manly vigour.—At present we know but in part, but in a future state we may know even as we are known.—Knowledge and happiness may be poured in upon our mind, in ways which far exceed our present conceptions.—Our happiness however, at our entering on a future state, will be proportioned to the improvement we *now* make of our mental faculties, and of the opportunities we have to be useful, to others. The longer therefore we continue in the present state, provided we make good improvement of our abilities, and opportunities for usefulness, the better shall we be prepared for a future world.

FROM all that has been said, human life appears highly valuable : It is our duty to preserve our own life, and the life of others. “ The SON of MAN came not “to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.”

To save human life, when in imminent danger, is the great object of the *Humane Societies* which have been established in various parts of *Europe* ; and of the Society of the same name, but lately established in this Commonwealth.

As the history of the *Humane Societies* which have been formed within the last twenty years, is not generally known, I presume it will not be displeasing to give a short account of them : This Assembly will then judge whether a Society of this sort merits encouragement.

THE first Society of this kind which I shall mention, and the first for ought I know in the world, was established at *Amsterdam*, in the year 1767. A few wealthy Gentlemen of that City, struck with a variety of instances in which persons falling
into

into the water, were lost for want of proper treatment when brought on the shore, formed themselves into a Society for the recovery of drowned persons.

THE reports of that Society inform us, that in the space of four years from the date of the Institution, one hundred and fifty drowned persons were recovered by the use of the means, which the Society recommended. *—— Some of the persons thus restored to life had been under water an hour and a half.

THE astonishing success which attended the exertions of the Societies at *Amsterdam*, and at *Hamburg*, encouraged similar Institutions at *Venice*, *Milan*, *Padua*, *Vienna*, *Paris* and *London*.

IN nine months after the *Humane Society* was established at *Paris*, the experiments were made on twenty-eight drowned persons, and twenty-three of them were recovered.

FROM

* DOCTOR ALEXANDER JOHNSON'S Account of Societies for the recovery of drowned persons, &c.

FROM the reports of the *Humane Society in Great-Britain*, it appears, that in the first ten years, “ Seven
 “ hundred and ninety-six were re-
 “ stored from apparent death :” By far the greatest part had been drown-
 ed ; some had lain under water an hour and a half, and one, two hours.

BESIDES the numerous instances of recovery after drowning, and several after suffocating, strangling and other accidents, a singular case is related by the Rev. Mr. THOMPSON, who preached a Sermon for the *Humane Society*, at *Brompton-Chapel*, of a Lad about eighteen years old, who was struck apparently dead by a flash of Lightning.—One hour and a half passed, before any means were used to recover him, and the means were continued three hours, before any signs of life appeared ; at length animation was restored, and in a short time after he recovered to perfect health. *

IT

* The above remarkable case is entered on the margin of, “ A brief Account of the *Humane Society* established
 “ in

IT is to be wished this successful case may be generally known, that like trials may be made, whenever there shall be occasion.

WHERE no signs of life have appeared after severe strokes of Lightning, there have seldom, I believe, been any attempts of consequence made to restore animation. But in such cases of
apparent

“ in this kingdom, (*Great-Britain*) in the year 1774.

“ By Doctor W. HAWES, Register and Secretary.”

ALTHOUGH the Lightning rends the knotty oak and splits the hardest rocks, no breach is made on the animal body, by strokes which occasion instant death. *How Lightning kills*, seems not to be generally determined by those Gentlemen who have given attention to the subject.—If very heavy strokes *destroy* the tender parts of the system, so as to render all endeavours to restore animation ineffectual, the above case will incline us to think, persons may be struck *apparently* dead, when no essential injury is done to the organs of the body.

THAT great Philosopher, “ Doctor PRIESTLEY, has
“ given us some curious experiments, in the second
“ part of his ingenious Treatise on Air, tending to
“ prove, from the diminution of common air by
“ the *electric spark*, that the latter either is, or contains Phlogiston, since it does the very same
“ thing that Phlogiston does.” * If

* Doctor THOMAS HENRY, F. R. S.

apparent death, if the essential organs of life are not injured, perhaps the use of proper means may be attended with as happy success, as in cases of drowning, strangling, or suffocation.

THE astonishing success which has attended the exertions of Societies established in other parts of the world for the recovery of drowned persons, and others in whom, by various accidents, the vital flame seemed to be wholly

If the electric spark is Phlogiston, or contains Phlogiston, may we not suppose when a volume of Lightning passes through, or involves an animal in its way from a cloud, or from the earth, the portion of respirable air which the animal possessed, will be immediately surcharged with Phlogiston: In that case, the lungs will collapse, and all the vital functions instantly cease, as in cases where animals are plunged into inflammable air, or any other deadly vapours.

M. LAVOISIER has proved by chemical experiments, that only one fifth part of the atmospherick air, in which we live, is capable of supporting life; and therefore, should that small part be surcharged with Phlogiston, or by any means be rendered mephitick, the effect on such animals as may happen to be involved in such air must be instant suffocation and death, unless prevented by supplying the lungs with good air.

wholly extinguished, encouraged several Gentlemen in this Commonwealth, to form themselves into a Society for like benevolent purposes : But from the time in which the Society was instituted, hitherto, no person has been drowned in this neighbourhood, on whom the experiments could be made.

As the great object of the Society is to save life, they not only promise a reward to such as first discover, and bring intelligence to one of the Physicians of the Society of any accidents producing apparent death, but they also promise a reward to any, who, by a signal exertion, shall save another from death.

ONE case of this sort has happened, and a reward has been given to a Person in this Town, for exerting himself, and hazarding his own life, to save a Lad who was in danger of perishing under the ice. *

THE

* Young Mr. SLOANE saw a Lad fall through the ice, into the Mill-Pond ; and hastening to the place, without waiting to pull off his clothes, he plunged into the water, and brought the Lad to the shore, after he had sunk several times to the bottom.

THE Society have also printed and dispersed, a considerable number of Pamphlets, containing Methods of Treatment to be used with persons apparently dead, from drowning, and from several other accidents, which in a short time must prove fatal, if no assistance can be had.

THE Society also, taking into consideration the deplorable condition, in which many of our sea-faring Brethren have perished after shipwreck, for want of a shelter from the storm and cold, determined to erect a few small buildings, on the most dangerous parts of the sea-coast, in which shall be lodged materials for the comfort of such as may be cast on shore. Two of those buildings will be soon finished, when notice will be given of their situation.

THUS far has the Society proceeded : Considerable funds may be necessary in order to carry their designs fully into execution. They have no doubt but they shall receive every encouragement which they can have reason to expect, from the Government of the Commonwealth ; and they presume it will not be
dis-

displeasing to request a collection of such of the present Assembly, as are able and willing to aid their benevolent designs.

SHOULD the funds be sufficient, great improvements may be made on the original plan. Premiums may be enlarged for the encouragement of such as shall exert themselves to save life: Experiments more numerous and more satisfactory may be made to restore animation, in cases which have been generally thought desperate, by which a more perfect acquaintance with the human constitution, no doubt may be obtained, and the art of healing may be rendered more extensively useful.

ALTHOUGH we are not to expect the fatal effects of diseases can be wholly prevented by any efforts of human wisdom, and human benevolence, we may however indulge a hope, that by progressive improvements in the knowledge of nature in general, and the noble art of healing in particular, many diseases which have heretofore spread desolation far and wide, may be greatly mitigated.

ONE dreadful disease, * which next to the plague, had been for ages the terror and destroyer of mankind, is now almost deprived of its power to hurt.—It is impossible to say how far other diseases may be subdued in consequence of future discoveries.

As the human system is composed of materials, subject to daily *alterations*, from the very aliments which we receive, and from the air which we inspire, we must not expect in the present world, to be exempt from diseases and death : But the discoveries lately made by chemical experiments, and particularly by experiments on *air*, encourage a hope, that remedies may be found to counteract, and for a much longer time than heretofore, prevent the fatal consequences of those *alterations* in the animal system, to which it is liable. †

AIR

* The SMALL-POX.

† “It is with peculiar pleasure,” says Doctor HENRY, “that I can congratulate the Publick, on the acquisition of so valuable an addition to the *Materia Medica*, (*fixed air*.)—Doctor PERCIVAL has favoured the Publick with some cases, in which fixed air thrown into the intestines produced considerable benefit : That Gentleman’s

AIR and *heat* may be considered, as principal causes of animation. When the great AUTHOR of nature had completed the human body, *He breathed into it*, and gave it life.—Future experiments must determine, if the discovery shall ever be made, how long the body may remain insensible, and apparently dead, and yet, if the organs are not essentially injured, may be animated by inducing heat, and supplying the lungs with good air.—It is demonstrated that the body may be animated, after all appearances of life have ceased for several hours.

BUT lest any, from what has been said on the subject of restoring animation, should wish to have experiments made in cases where there can be no probability of success, it may not be amiss to observe,—attempts cannot be encouraged for the recovery of those who are
WORN

“man’s practice, and the observations of other ingenious Physicians, have since furnished some additional cases, in which the good effects of this medicine were indisputable. It has also been applied with great success as a fumigation to foul ulcers, and I have used it with the most happy event in *putrid sore throats*, and ulcerated mouths and gums, attended with putrid symptoms.”
Vide. M. LAVOISIER’s Essays Physical and Chemical.

worn out with age, or die of diseases which essentially injure the organs of the body.

CASES which afford hope of success are those in general called sudden deaths ;—such as drowning, fainting, suffocating by the noxious vapours of burning coal, fermenting liquors, wells, cisterns, and other confined and deep places, to which we may add, strokes of lightning, strangling ; * — and in general all cases of apparent death, where there is reason to suppose the organization of the body remains intire. WHEN—

* There are several cases related by Doctor JOHNSON, of persons restored from apparent death, after being suffocated and strangled.

Mr. GLOVER, Surgeon in Doctor's Commons, London, communicated the case of *Patrick Redman*, who was hanged in the City of *Cork*, for a street-robbery.

THIS Culprit hung twenty-nine minutes ; no signs of life appeared after the first four minutes.

ON the Sheriff's retiring, the rope was cut, and the body was carried to a field, near the place of execution, where the usual methods for recovering persons apparently dead were used near four hours, without any effect.

“ Mr. GLOVER then made an incision through the skin,
 “ into the wind-pipe, in the usual manner, and blew
 “ strongly through a canula into the lungs : About
 “ twenty minutes after, the blood, at the temporal artery,
 “ which had been opened, began to run, and a slow
 “ pulse was just perceptible.” The experiments

were

WHENEVER we are happy enough to recover any of our fellow-creatures from apparent death, the Humanity which we profess, will excite us to afford them all needed assistance, so that their ransomed days may prove peculiarly advantageous.

To the honour of the *Humane Society* in *Great-Britain*, they not only endeavour to save life when in imminent danger, but they provide means of instruction for such as by their exertions, have been saved from death.—Persons thus recovered, are assembled at stated periods for religious worship, and devotional books, suited to their circumstances, are distributed among them.

You will allow me to insert a few sentences from a Letter sent by an eminent Physician in *England*, to one of the *Institutors* of that *Humane Society*, accompanying

were carried on from two o'clock, until a little after seven, before the poor Creature was sufficiently alive to open his eyes : But the second day he was so well as to walk eight miles back into the Country, to elude the search of the Officers of Justice.—He was seen several years afterwards, by persons who related that he was in good health.

aying, a sum of money to purchase books for the purpose just mentioned.

“ IN reflecting,” says he, “ upon the
 “ nature and design of the *Humane Socie-*
 “ *ty*, one cannot but recal to mind, with
 “ a kind of pious retrospection, the won-
 “ derful example of our SAVIOUR, in
 “ raising multitudes from the dead, and
 “ going about to save life, and promote
 “ religion. This divine example the
 “ Society has laudably imitated, and its
 “ endeavours have been blessed with suc-
 “ cess. The husband has been restored
 “ to the disconsolate wife, the father to
 “ the helpless child ; and above all,
 “ many an unhappy victim of intempe-
 “ rance and despair has revived to
 “ sentiments of virtue and piety.

“ IN most of the Institutions in this
 “ Metropolis, founded by the benevo-
 “ lence and humanity of its Inhabitants,
 “ the principal object has been the re-
 “ lief of present misery : But the atten-
 “ tion of the *Humane Society*, has been
 “ extended beyond the grave : In giv-
 “ ing life to the expiring corpse they
 “ have

“ have likewise endeavoured to reani-
 “ mate the mind, and awaken it to a
 “ sense of reverential gratitude to the
 “ great GIVER and PRESERVER of life.

“ THERE is no picture in history so
 “ tenderly affecting, as the assemblage of
 “ the numerous objects whom the Society
 “ have been made the instruments of
 “ redeeming from death, when united
 “ in publick devotion.

“ THE tear of compassion and sympa-
 “ thy, drawn from every eye, by such a
 “ sight, is the strongest tribute of pub-
 “ lick approbation that can be given to
 “ the exertions of the Society.” *

THE pious and truly benevolent senti-
 ments expressed in this Letter, do honour
 to the Writer, and to the Institution of
 which he is a Member.—More need
 not be said to encourage the use of pro-
 per means, and show the high probability
 of restoring animation in many cases,
 after the body hath lain a considerable
 time apparently dead.

No

* Dr. JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM, Sambrook-House.

No tongue can express the joy we should feel, were the companion of our soul—were a beloved child, or any dear friend, who had been snatched from us by some dreadful accident, restored again to our bosom, from the shroud, or from the coffin !

THIS joy has been realized by successful experiments, in other parts of the world : This joy, it is possible, some of our connexions or acquaintance, may have an opportunity to realize, in future time.

A REMARKABLE case has been communicated to the Society, of a Gentleman, who, I suppose, is now living in *Philadelphia* :—Five or six years ago he was in *France*, where 'he was sick, and was supposed to have died :—Three days after his supposed death, a Physician happening to look into the coffin, just before the corpse was to have been buried, judged from the countenance, animation might be restored : The funeral was delayed, and by the use of proper means, the Gentleman was restored to his friends and to the world.

THIS

THIS instance should caution us against hastening the body of our friends to the grave. In cases of sudden death, the last solemn rite should not be performed until there be evident marks of putrefaction. *

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BUT

* Another case, communicated by JONATHAN WILLIAMS, jun. Esq; which he received from Dr. FRANKLIN, I sling into this note, on account of its singular nature. #

A GENTLEMAN, who laboured under a disease which he himself supposed would prove mortal : When he approached the last agonies, his faithful Servant was weeping by his side ; he ordered the Servant to watch him, and when he had breathed his last, to get naked into his bed, and as far as possible encompass the body ; then to breathe forcibly into his mouth, and to continue this act until he should recover, or become cold : The Servant punctually obeyed : The Gentleman recovered, and lived to relate the story many years after.

WITHOUT taking any thing from the *miracle*, in the recovery of the young *Shunammite*, recorded in the fourth chapter of the second book of *Kings*, we cannot help observing, the Prophet *Elisha* made use of means somewhat similar to those used in the case just related. “ And he went up and lay upon the child, and put “ his mouth upon *his* mouth, and his eyes upon *his* “ eyes, and his hands upon *his* hands, and he stretched himself upon the child, and the *flesh of the child* “ WAXED WARM.—And the child sneezed---and “ opened his eyes.”

BUT while we drop a tear over the grave of such of our fellow-creatures, as may have, alas ! too soon, been joined to the congregation of the dead, let us present our grateful acknowledgments to the FATHER of LIFE, that he hath, in this age of rapid improvement, led to those important discoveries, by which many of the human race may be saved from an untimely end.

THE tender feelings of our heart, and the Spirit of our holy Religion, happily unite in the cause of Humanity.

THE SON of GOD came into the world to save the life, and promote the happiness of the children of men.

LET it be our determination to follow his most amiable example. Let us be constant and unwearied in works of Humanity, and we shall receive the full reward of our labours, when those who found relief from our hand, when ready to perish, shall rise up and call us BLESSED.

APPENDIX:

Containing a short Account of the
HUMANE SOCIETY, in
the Commonwealth of MASSA-
CHUSETTS: Together with the
METHOD of TREATMENT to
be used with Persons apparently
dead from drowning, &c.

IN the Year 1785 several Physicians,
and a number of other Gentlemen
in the Town of *Boston*, having some ac-
quaintance with Societies in *Europe*, which
have been formed within the last twen-
ty years, for the recovery of persons ap-
parently dead from *drowning, suffocation,*
strangling and other accidents, proposed
to establish a Society of a similar kind
in this Commonwealth. A Subscription
was accordingly opened; and a sufficient
Number having entered their Names, a
Meeting was appointed for the choice of
Officers, and the establishment of such Rules
as were thought necessary for the future
direction of the Society. THE

ii A P P E N D I X.

THE annual Meeting for the choice of Officers, is on the first Tuesday in December. The present Officers of the Society are,

The HONOURABLE
JAMES BOWDOIN, Esq; L. L. D.
PRESIDENT.

THOMAS RUSSELL, Esq;
First Vice-President.

JOHN WARREN, M. D.
Second Vice-President.

Rev. SIMEON HOWARD, D. D.
Treasurer.

Rev. SAMUEL PARKER,
Recording-Secretary.

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AGREEABLY

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AGREEABLY to the tenth Article of the Institutes, at the Semiannual Meeting, which is on the second Tuesday in June, a Publick Discourse is delivered by some Person appointed by the Trustees for that purpose, upon some Medical Subject, connected with the principal objects of the Society ; and on the same day agreeably to the thirteenth Article, the President and Trustees adjudge a Medal to the Author of the most approved Dissertation which they shall have received in the course of the preceeding year.

METHODS

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METHODS of TREATMENT to
be used with Persons apparently
dead from drowning, &c.

THOUGH the following Methods
are chiefly adapted to cases of apparent
death from *drowning*, yet the Society
think it proper to observe, that most
of the means of restoration herein re-
commended are applicable to a con-
siderable variety of other cases, such as
hanging, convulsion fits, cold, suffo-
cation by damps, or noxious vapours,
the confined air of wells, cisterns,
caves, or the must of fermenting li-
quors.—The Society have in the most
essential Articles of Treatment, fol-
lowed the recommendations of foreign
Societies of a similar nature ; though
they have endeavoured by a few ne-
cessary alterations, to render them
more conformable to the particular
circumstances of the Country.

I. **T**HE unfortunate person is to be
conveyed carefully to the nearest
publick or other house open for its
reception, in such a manner as to prevent
the extinction of any small remains of
life that may exist : For this purpose the
head is to be raised a little, as in bed,
and

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and the body should be carried in a natural and easy posture, as in the same situation.

II. THE object is to be immediately stripped, and laid on a warm bed, and the *skin* well dried with heated flannels, the mud and froth to be removed from the mouth and nostrils; if the body was naked at the time of the accident, it is then to be surrounded as expeditiously as possible with a hot blanket, and thoroughly dried with coarse cloths or flannels.

III. WHEN the air is very *cold* or *moist*, the various Methods of Treatment are to be made use of *near a large fire*, or in a *heated* apartment. On the other hand, if the weather is *warm*, or *sultry*, (as in the summer season) the windows and doors of the room should be opened; and in every other possible way a cool refreshing air obtained; as it is of the greatest importance in bringing forward the latent spark of life, or in restoring natural breathing.

IV. No persons are to be admitted into the room, but those who are actually employed in exerting their utmost endeavours for the recovery of the unfortunate; six persons are therefore the greatest number that can ever prove useful on such occasions; and those who are by-standers for

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for the sake of curiosity should be requested to withdraw, as their presence may retard or totally prevent the restoration.

V. THE smoke of tobacco thrown up the fundament should be ranked among the earliest applications ; if a *fumigator* * should not be at hand, the common pipe will answer the purpose of applying this vapour to the bowels. So easy and important an operation should be repeatedly performed, as the good effects of tobacco smoke have been proved in many cases.

VI. THE skin is to be gently rubbed with warm woollen cloths, and a warming-pan heated (the body being surrounded with flannel) may lightly be moved up and down the back for a considerable time. Wooden bottles, filled with hot water, &c. or *heated bricks*, covered with flannel, may be efficaciously applied to the soles of the feet, palms of the hands, and other parts of the body.

VII.

* Two sets of these instruments are already procured at the expence of the Society ; one set is deposited, by order of the Trustees, with Doct. JOHN WARREN, in School-Street, another with Doct. DAVID TOWNSEND, in Essex-Street : The Trustees intend, as soon as possible, to procure one or two more sets, when the Publick will be notified with whom they are lodged.—When the common pipe is used, the smoke is to be blown with the mouth from the bowl, through the stem, into the fundament, covering the bowl with a handkerchief, or thin piece of linen.

VII. IF a child has been drowned, its body should be wiped perfectly dry, and immediately placed in bed between two persons of good constitution; the salutary effects of the natural vital warmth have been clearly proved in a variety of successful cases.

VIII. THE body is to be rubbed with flannels, sprinkled with spirits, and fomentations of hot rum are to be applied to the breast, &c. and often renewed. The nostrils may be every now and then tickled with a feather; *snuff* and *volatiles* should be occasionally made use of, to excite sneezing if possible. The various means of recovery should be made use of by the *assistants* for several hours, the body is to be gently shaken every ten minutes, in order to render the process more certainly successful; and the bodies of *children* in particular are to be agitated, by taking hold of their arms and legs frequently, and for a continuance of time. In a variety of instances agitation, in conjunction with the methods laid down, has forwarded the recovery of boys who had been drowned, and continued for a considerable time apparently dead.

IX. IF there be any signs of returning life, such as sighing, gasping, convulsive motions, pulsation or a natural warmth, a
F spoonful

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spoonful of any warm liquid may be administered ; and if it proves that the power of swallowing is returned, then a cordial draught may be given in small quantities, but not without the direction of a Physician.

BLEEDING is never to be employed in such cases, unless by the direction of one of the Medical Assistants, or some other respectable Gentleman of the Faculty, who has paid attention to such unfortunate accidents.

THE methods which have been so fully recommended, are to be made use of with vigour for several hours, although no favourable circumstances should arise ; for it is a vulgar and dangerous opinion to suppose that persons are irrecoverable, because life does not soon make its appearance ; and upon this opinion, an immense number of the seemingly dead have been committed to the grave, who might have been RESTORED TO LIFE, by *resolution* and *perseverance* in the Plans of Treatment now recommended.

WHENEVER any good has been produced by the means recommended, the Person who has superintended the cure is desired to write a circumstantial account of it to the Society.

LIST

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