

The steam doctor's defence : exhibiting the superiority of the Thomsonian system of medicine, in relieving and curing disease : consisting of facts and extracts, from the writings of the most respectable authors on the system : to which is added, some account of the cholera, and its treatment on the Thomsonian plan : with an engraved frontispiece / by Benjamin Thompson.

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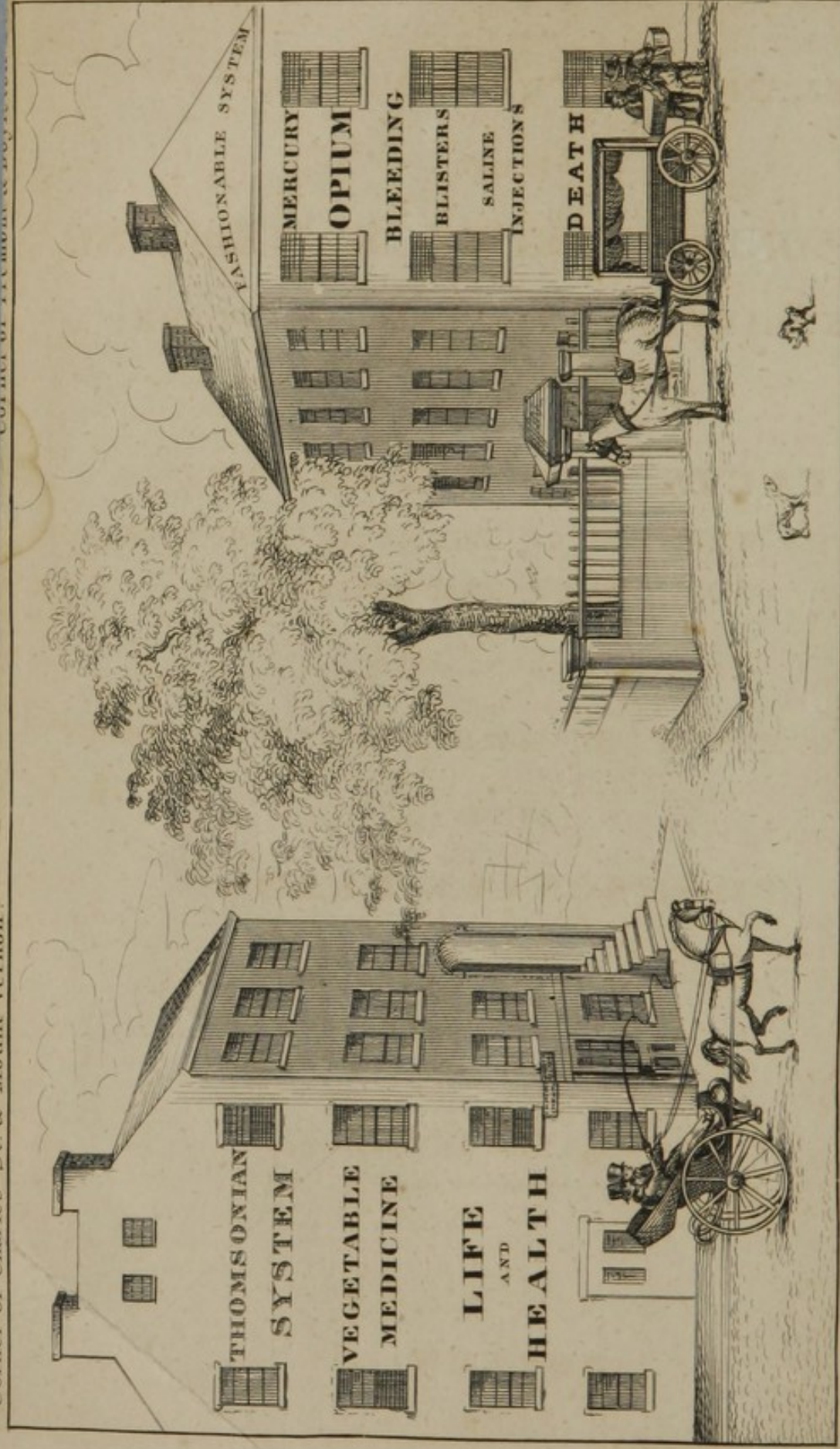


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Corner of Charles St. & Mount Vernon



*Two Gentlemen who have been in
Thomson's Infirmary, & got cured—
returning home with Health & Strength.*

THE TWO SHOPS. *Specimen of Cures performed in 1832.*

THE
STEAM DOCTOR'S DEFENCE;
EXHIBITING THE SUPERIORITY
OF THE
THOMSONIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINE,
IN RELIEVING AND CURING DISEASE;
CONSISTING OF
FACTS AND EXTRACTS,
FROM THE WRITINGS OF THE MOST RESPECTABLE
AUTHORS ON THE SYSTEM:
TO WHICH IS ADDED,
SOME ACCOUNT OF THE CHOLERA, AND ITS TREATMENT
ON THE
THOMSONIAN PLAN;
WITH AN ENGRAVED FRONTISPIECE.

By BENJAMIN THOMPSON.

BOSTON:
1838.



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1838

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THE STEAM DOCTOR'S DEFENCE, &c.

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE study of Medicine has, in all ages of the world, been considered as one of the most important subjects, in which the mind of man can be employed. Yet, notwithstanding thousands of years have elapsed, and millions of volumes have been written on the subject, the present fashionable system of practice is, in the highest degree, imperfect and uncertain. DR. RUSH compared it to "an unroofed temple, uncovered at the top and cracked at the foundation." "What unaccountable perversity is in our frames," says DR. HERVEY, "that we set ourselves so much against every thing new? Can any one behold without scorn, such drones of physicians, that, after the space of so many hundred years' experience and practice of their predecessors, not one single medicine has been detected that has the least force directly to prevent, oppose, and expel a continued fever. And should any, by a more sedulous observation, make the least step towards the discovery of such remedies, their hatred and envy *would swell against him like a legion of devils.* And this has always been the case."

Whenever an individual presumes to differ from the opinions of the Medical Faculty of the present day, he is sure to be persecuted and abused, his character calumniated, and his actions and medical practice ridiculed and misrepresented. In many of our States, if a person has not obtained a diploma—a piece of parchment from some medical society, he is subject to fine and imprisonment, should he *dare* to administer a particle of medicine, and take any reward or remuneration for so doing. But all this persecution has no other effect, than to open the eyes of the people to their situation. TRUTH is abroad in the world, and the *spirit of inquiry* has gone forth, and the people are beginning to awake, and shake off the chains of a pampered aristocracy, with which they have been so long burdened and enslaved; and the day has arrived, when men of learning and genius are neither afraid nor ashamed, but are proud to avow themselves THOMSONIANS, of the Thomsonian school—"a school not in the decline and about to perish, but one beginning to revive, to put on strength," and which has extended its influence through every section of our country, from Maine to Georgia, and from the Atlantic to the western wilds, and will continue to spread, "till the name of THOMSON is resounded throughout the world, from the Equator to the Poles."

The vegetable remedies, which the God of Nature has scattered with a lavish hand, over every hill and valley of our country, must and will, eventually, entirely supersede the use of mineral poisons. It is a fact deeply to be lamented, that, for many years, the "learned faculty" have employed the most deleterious and poisonous substances as healthy medicines. Thousands have been hurried to an untimely grave by the

use of these poisons, when simple vegetable remedies would have relieved and cured them almost immediately. The Thomsonian System of Medicine is before the people for examination; it is at the "bar of public opinion; brought before the Legislature of one of the greatest States in the Union, and even perjury could not substantiate a plea against it." Thousands of living witnesses are scattered over every part of our country, who can testify by their own experience, to the value and efficacy of this medicine. This system has not been practised on a few solitary individuals, but on thousands of cases, and some of the most malignant type, when given over by the regular physicians, and by them pronounced incurable. In this system is offered to an enlightened public, a certain and effectual cure for every disease within the reach of medicine, to which the human family is liable. This may seem to many like the ravings of an Empiric, but it is not so. "Facts are stubborn things." Go to a family, some members of which have been rescued from the grave by this medicine (and hundreds such may be found in our country)—*go to them*, and ask them what would tempt them to be deprived of the use of it, and they would tell you, that *all the wealth of these United States* would be as "dust in the balance," compared with the worth of the knowledge they have gained. These answers have been made, and will continue to be made, while a man loves his wife and children better than the perishing dross of gold and silver. The regular physicians will *laugh* and *sneer*, and endeavor to cry down this medicine, by the stale cry of "*poison! poison!!*" And why? Simply because they have no medicine *but poison*, which will exert such a powerful effect upon the system. This medicine effects a speedy and permanent cure, without leaving the dregs and sediments lurking in the system, producing loss of appetite, pale and emaciated countenances, and diseased and decaying bones, which mineral poisons inevitably do. This fact alone should give the preference, in all cases, to the Thomsonian System.

Many people, when they hear of a new medicine, are very apt to ask, "Has there any cases like mine been cured? If I could be sure of that, I would try it." Now, if every case which has been cured by this medicine should be published, they would make a volume so unwieldy, that, laying aside the expense, nobody would trouble themselves to read it. The answer lies here; according to this system, the stomach is the grand reservoir from which all parts of the body are nourished, and, by proper food well digested, warmed, enlivened and invigorated. While the stomach is in a well-regulated state, the whole man is in perfect health. When, through cold, carelessness in diet, or whatever cause, the stomach becomes disordered, the food is not properly digested, obstructions arise in all parts of the system, the blood becomes impure, and the whole man becomes diseased. Now a medicine is wanted to create an internal heat, to remove obstructions, to expel the cold from the system, and restore the digestive powers, and then the stomach resumes its office, the food nourishes and strengthens the body, and the man regains his health and strength. This effect the Thomsonian remedies have had in all cases where they have had a fair trial. Those malignant and fatal diseases, which have defied and baffled all the skill and science of the learned physicians, have readily yielded to the power of the Thomsonian medicines. That dreadful pestilence, which, rising on the burning plains of Asia, spread through Europe, across the Atlantic,

and is now making its fearful ravages in sections of our own country, the Asiatic Cholera, has been immediately checked and cured by the use of this truly wonderful medicine.

FELLOW CITIZENS! What shall we say to these things? "It is not a light matter for which we contend," but one of the utmost consequence to ourselves and families. Shall the wealth of the country be expended for *foreign poisons*, when the most salutary *vegetable remedies* lie in profusion at our feet? Shall we sacrifice our time, our substance, and even our lives, to a system in the highest degree uncertain and deleterious? No! let us cast off the shackles with which the mere *force of habit*, and *prejudices of education* have enchained us, and, rising like *freemen*, assert our moral independence, with an energy that shall shake this unhallowed combination of "*learned quackery*" to its very foundations.

PLAIN AND UNDENIABLE FACTS.

THE peculiar and distinguishing excellence of Doctor Thomson's system of medical practice appears to be, that he has adapted his whole plan to the comprehension of the common reader. The plain English scholar is not insulted by the Greek and Latin terms, and bombastic technicalities of the mere bookmaker. His writings are plain, and easy to be understood. He has not aspired to plunge into the dark abyss of mystical philosophy. Unskilled in the legendary lore of ancient or modern Universities, he explores the volume of Nature, and draws the rich treasures of wisdom and knowledge from her simple page. He writes, not for amusement, but for instruction—not for applause and admiration, but to be useful to mankind—not to acquire a great name, and accumulate a fortune for himself or his patrons, but to diffuse the knowledge and benefits of his discoveries to the remotest habitations of civilized society.

The novelty of his system—the demonstrations of its superiority—the unequivocal efficacy of his remedies in the removal of disease, are circumstances worthy the profound attention of all honest people. Testimonials of the successfulness of Thomsonian medicine, strictly so called, have been so extensively multiplied and so thoroughly confirmed, as to preclude the possibility of successful contradiction. The tide of opposition has set heavily against him and his disciples, from the commencement of his career in medical discoveries. The regular Faculty were unwilling to believe that Samuel Thomson, a man unknown in the schools of physic, a peasant from the wild wood shade and isolated scenery of ALSTEAD, could be able to teach them the first principles of medicine. Shall the "voice of one crying in the wilderness"—a voice issuing from the lonely haunts of poverty, bring any welcome tidings to our ears? Can any good thing spring from the obscurity of Nazareth? was an ancient inquiry. For a while, every thing passed smoothly on. As his fame began to spread, jealousy began to rear its haggard visage. Dungeons and chains were the portion of him who sought the welfare of all. The fire of persecution was kindled from Hampshire to Georgia, and from the Atlantic to the far distant wilds of the western world. The civil authorities were every where engaged to put him down. The Windham Pills were in peaceful circulation—Perkins was amusing the credulous with his metallic tractors—Dyott was vending his nostrums—

Quackery was playing its pranks without molestation. The mercu-
rializers were carrying on the work of death, and met not a frown from
the dupes of learned impositions; but Thomson had reared the formida-
ble standard of truth, at which error trembled, black hearted malice
pushed at him a deadly sabre; but Thomson, with philosophic stability,
pursued the even tenor of his way. Disease, in its most terrific forms,
yielded to his matchless skill; patrons have been multiplied, until thou-
sands of families in these United States, possessed of a competent degree
of his knowledge in the healing art, are rejoicing in his discoveries, and
bless the day they first heard his name and became acquainted with his
masterly skill. Many generous sons of science award him the meed of
deserved praise.

Yet, strange to tell, such is the incorrigible obstinacy of many, that
they will close their eyes and ears against the truth, without candid,
honest, faithful inquiry; condemn by wholesale what they have never
clearly understood, and with them the name of Thomson is a by-word,
and song of reproach. The mighty cause is working its way—cures
have been multiplied to the astonishment of its most vindictive enemies.
Its triumph over the ancient practice in these United States has been
complete in the late distressing visitation by the Asiatic Cholera. The
strenuous efforts at contradiction have been too scandalous, impudent,
and incredible to sustain a sinking cause. Thomson's botanic remedies
have been put to the test—they have been tried as by fire, and have
acquired a reputation not to be shaken by envy or deposed by insolence
and falsehood. The Faculty as usual have been, and still are, at war
among themselves. Contradictory theories are asserted and maintained
by learned professors. The literary tornados, of conflicting theories and
conflicting practice, sweep through our medical colleges, and extend a
desolating influence through all sections of our country—with some,
calomel and the lancet are a tree of life; with others, they are ranked
with the most formidable weapons of death. How then shall the igno-
rant and unlearned repose confidence in their scientific wisdom? "Who
shall decide, when doctors disagree?" Surely the regular Faculty are
destitute of any regular system. They sail without any regular compass,
helm or pilot. They drift down the dangerous stream of dark conjec-
ture, or ride on the boisterous billows of scientific pride and delusion.
In the high places of medical science, the House and Kingdom of the
regular Doctors is divided, sorely divided, and rapidly approximating to a
state of consummated desolation. Thomson's discoveries are like a
flaming beacon, on the mountain summit, that cannot be concealed. It
is a light calculated for family use. His remedies are simple, and effica-
cious. His plan uniform, with only incidental allowances accommod-
ated to circumstantial occurrences, requires no pathological devices, to
elude inquiry and deceive the multitude. His remedies are few in num-
ber, but most sure in producing a happy result, when judiciously applied,
of any with which the world is at present acquainted. Instead of such
a multitude of remedies for a multitude of diseases, as taught in the
ancient schools of physic, he has reduced every thing to such a simple
state, in his descriptions and prescriptions, that plain honest common
sense need not miss the road, but travel on with perfect safety—follow
their leader without danger, and, in all curable cases—all cases within
the reach of art, they may proceed in the full confidence of almost infal-
lible success. Who, then, having this knowledge, will turn aside to

pursue an *Ignus fatuus*, called reformation? It is Thomson's scheme of practice that has astonished the world by its successfulness, any thing in the vain, proud, vaunting pretensions of reforming plagiarism to the contrary notwithstanding. *Thomsonian Recorder.*

The following article first appeared in the Boston Patriot some years since, and was written by DR. BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE, a learned and venerable physician, for many years lecturer on the theory and practice of Medicine, in Cambridge University. The testimony of Dr. Waterhouse is worth more than volumes written by little snarling M. D.'s, who think none so learned and wise as themselves.

THE ECLECTIC.—NO. 1.

SAMUEL THOMSON,

"BOTANIST," AND PATENTED PRACTITIONER OF MEDICINE.

MESSRS. EDITORS—

I have lately read, with considerable interest and some surprise, a little volume of nearly 200 pages, entitled, "A Narrative of the Life and Medical Discoveries of SAMUEL THOMSON, containing an account of his system of practice, and the MANNER of curing disease, with VEGETABLE medicines, upon a *plan entirely new*;" to which is added his "*New Guide to Health*, containing the PRINCIPLES upon which the system is founded."

While reading the book, I said to those who recommended it to my perusal, this man is no "QUACK." He *narrates* his medical discoveries, gives an *account* of his system of practice, together with *his manner* of curing diseases, upon a plan confessedly *new*; to which he adds the *principles* on which his *new system* is founded. He who does this is no *Charlatan*, but by uniting theory to his practice, however erroneous the theory, merits attention. With these ideas of the cultivation and promulgation of human knowledge, I read the narrative of Samuel Thomson, and soon perceived that he was a man of good capacity, persevering temper, and benevolent disposition; and that he acquired his knowledge of the hitherto unknown virtues of certain plants by *experiments*, first on himself, then on those about him. In the course of twenty or thirty years, he arranged his experimental knowledge into a system, as did the father of Physic before him, however imperfect; and having done this to the best of his power (for he had no literary education) he published the result of his experience, labor and thoughts to the world, for them to judge of it, and of him.

AUTO-BIOGRAPHY is a profitable species of writing to the world, but dangerous to the writer himself, especially if he be a professional man, or a political partisan; before he can gain credit for one honorable motive, every sinister object that can be imagined will be laid to his account. Who among his competitors will exercise that impartiality on hearing his story, which they require of him in relating it? Narrow minded jealousy will pervert every thing. We may allow for a little high coloring in controversy with rivals, very few physicians or divines

are free from it ; but if Samuel Thomson, in the narrative of his life, has not turned aside from facts, he has been unjustly treated, and, in some instances, most cruelly persecuted. He has given names, dates, places and events, and spoken of judges, juries, sheriffs, jailors and witnesses, in a style so plain as to exclude all equivocation ; and the same of a noted preacher. If what he has said of them be false, he ought to be exposed and publicly punished ; if true, he merits protection. His discoveries are valuable or insignificant, his practice a nuisance or a benefit, his writings useful or a tissue of lies and calumnies, his *Patent* honorable or a disgrace to our government ; and it is not beneath the dignity of any Physician, Divine, or Philosopher, to inquire into the truth of a series of experiments published with so much confidence, and purporting to be for the benefit of mankind.

I have no doubt but that Samuel Thomson has added a very valuable article to our *Materia Medica*, and that he has again and again relieved the sick where others have failed. From all that I can collect, I am induced to believe that he is not an avaricious man, but one who is more flattered by his success in relieving the sick than in receiving their money. This, at least, entitles him to a fair and patient hearing. It is possible he may have deceived himself ; but it does not appear that he has laid himself out, like a conjuror, to deceive others. If this man has devoted the greater part of his life to the relief of his fellow men, his labors claim respect, and his errors our indulgence ; for who of us are free from them ? Let the unprejudiced man, who reads his *Narrative* and *Guide to Health*, judge for himself ; and should he boggle at his theory of *heat* and *cold*, let him remember that Thomson, without knowing it, has adopted a theory of GALEN'S ; and his idea of the preserving power of nature, the curer of diseases and preserver of life, appears to be the same as that acknowledged by HIPPOCRATES ; but the writer could not express it in Greek.

Thomson is not a *Quack*, if by quack we mean a vain, artful, tricking practitioner in physic. He is an *Experimentor*, who accumulates knowledge by his *own experience*. There was a sect among the ancients who assumed that appellation, to distinguish themselves from *Dogmatists*, who, instead of experience, taught dogmas. If Samuel Thomson be a quack, he is a quack *suigeneris*, for being an enemy to concealment, he tells all he knows, in as plain a manner as he possibly can, and leaves you to form your own judgment, provided you divest yourself of the *fashion* of this world in physic, which, with priestcraft, is fast passing away.

Read this book, men of New England, and, after making due allowance for his condition and situation and provocations, judge whether such a man merits the *persecution* he has endured, and the treatment he has met with.

AN ECLECTIC.

DR. HERSEY'S ADDRESS

To the Thomsonian Botanic Convention, held at Columbus, Ohio, in December, 1832.

GENTLEMEN,—It was with much difficulty I accepted the appointment of the Presidency of this Convention.—I have endeavored to discharge the duties incumbent on me in that official capacity with fidelity

and precision, and I feel peculiar gratification in having obtained the approbation of this august intelligent assemblage of the delegates of the Botanic Society in the United States. I congratulate the Convention and the Society at large on the constant accumulation of talents, and men of high and honorable standing, who are rallying round the peaceful standard of the Thomsonian System. We feel happy to announce to the world the social harmony and mutual good will that has prevailed in all your deliberations. The principles and practice of the Thomsonian scheme appear to be every where sustained with a unanimity that has seldom, if ever, obtained among so numerous a body of citizens, dispersed over such a vast extent of territory. A steady adherence to first principles establishes the cause on an immutable basis. In these we seek not improvements; from these we spurn at reformation. Auxiliary remedies for disease that accord with these principles, whenever such auxiliaries can be ascertained, lead us not to abdicate the cause, but confirm and sustain our confidence in the founder of this Institution. We should try the spirits of the age, and by ingenious, well directed efforts, conscientiously endeavor to suppress that speculative rage, that leads a number of persons to sacrifice truth and jeopardise the health and lives of the people at the shrine of personal popularity and emolument. This love of money, that blinds the eyes of many, who once appeared zealous advocates of the system, but have turned aside after the mammon of unrighteousness, should be discountenanced with a manly philosophic firmness, that the apostatising wanderers after filthy lucre may be ashamed and confounded. As you have selected the Thomsonian Recorder to be the mouth piece of the Society, it will be important to give it a decided patronage, as you have resolved to do, that it may not share the fate of other periodicals that have been started in divers sections of the American Union. There are several periodicals of more limited circulation, to which we wish honorable support, long life and prosperity. It will be much for the interest of the cause to give them an honorable support.

As you have honored me with the appointment of Secretary of general correspondence of the Society, to all the Branch Societies in these United States, to collect, collate and make public, whatever may subserve the general interest, I shall endeavor to be attentive and faithful in the discharge of the duties that devolve on me in the arduous and responsible station, to which I have been promoted by the unanimous suffrages of this enlightened and respectable Convention.

You will bear with you to your respective places of abode, my best wishes for your personal welfare, and the prosperity of the system. I have been drawn into the acknowledgment and adoption of this system, in subserviency to my own convictions of the innocency, efficacy, and certainty of the remedies prescribed, for the removal of disease. More than forty years of my life have been devoted to the ancient and regular practice. Ten years have been spent in investigating the merits, and ascertaining the justness of the claims of this system on public confidence. A partial leaning was the first step; the result was a mixed practice, which I soon discovered could not succeed; I discovered I must be a Thomsonian altogether, or abandon the cause. I resolved on the experiment, on the joint testimony of my own impartial experience and the testimony of others on whose information I could rely without suspicion. The result has been that thus resolutely pursuing this course, I was really astonished at the success. This rivalled any

thing with which I had ever been acquainted in domestic practice, or in my former official capacity of surgeon of the U. S. Army, or any private or public station I had ever been called to fill.

To enter minutely into a labored detail of incidents, connected with this conversion to Thomsonism, would be uninteresting and useless. I know, that in these concessions and this devotedness to the botanic system, I forfeit the good opinion of many reputable friends and literary acquaintances; but those who know how highly and cordially I esteem a multitude of these, will be fully convinced that I could never have been induced to have risked this forfeit, or endanger that friendship and confidence, from any less motive, than the conscious and unavoidable impress of truth. Were they to make the same impartial investigation, with truth alone for their object, and could they have access to the same weight of testimony, I candidly believe, if the influence of mere self-interest could be banished from their minds, we should have a large accession of converts.

I am happy to learn, from the most unquestionable documents, that Thomsonism is extending its benign and salutary influence through the United States—many of the learned professional characters, of preeminent standing, are not to be deterred from espousing the cause; many physicians, whose literary attainments would do honor to any institution, boldly espouse and defend the system; others, like some ancient disciples, who approached the Messiah by night, for fear of the Jews, support the cause in a more covert way; events are ripening fast—a momentous crisis in medical practice is standing at the door—the lancet, calomel, nitre, antimony, arsenic, opium and blisters, must prevail, or they must be laid aside. Thomsonians wish not for any legal indulgence in the use of these deleterious, life depressing articles. They are willing to be restricted in the use of these—they are willing to be confined to botanical remedies, and those exclusively. In the use of these remedies amidst all oppositions, the success tramples on authorities and powers, it travels gloriously and victoriously, and never shrinks from the severest scrutiny. This is not the time nor place to enlarge on this interesting theme.

Remember, in your retirement, to give every facility to your Secretary in the discharge of his official duties—give the information required, which it is your interest and ours to communicate—your origin, age, number, discoveries, important cases, successfulness, competitors, persecutors, and comparative views of the effects of the ancient and modern practice, will furnish abundant matter for your heads and pens.

The moment of our adjournment has now arrived.—A moment big with the fate of Thomsonism and the world. If we behold each other no more in this vale of tears, may we meet in that world, where the plant of renown shall infuse immortality in man. The physician shall be needed no more, for none of the inhabitants of that world shall ever say, "I am sick."

[FROM THE THOMSONIAN RECORDER.]

LETTER OF DR. MONTGOMERY.

The following extract is from a letter dated Liberty Hill, Kershaw District, South Carolina, February 11, 1832. It is from the pen of the talented, patriotic statesman and physician, Dr. Robert D. Montgomery. It

was originally addressed to the Rev. William Carlisle. The contents of the letter have been forwarded to us by R. Ferriss, Esq. of Winsborough, enclosed in a communication bearing date October 19th, 1832.

Mr. Carlisle prefaces the letter by the following remarks: "The circumstances that gave rise to the publication of the following letter, were these: Dr. Montgomery applied to me for a Thomsonian Family Right, he pledged himself to report his opinion of the system as soon as he should have opportunity of fairly testing it. A request being sent to him by the Thomsonians for that purpose, the following letter is his reply;" after an interesting detail of his patriotism and public services, in conclusion he adds: "suffice it to say, that Dr. Montgomery's opinion of any system is of more importance than the opinion of a thousand self-interested physicians, whose object is to keep the people in ignorance of the nature of disease, and consequently of the mode and manner of performing cures."

The following is the Letter referred to:—

GENTLEMEN,—I received your letter on the 10th ult. and, on the evening it came to hand, was severely attacked with the cholera morbus, which prevented a more early answer. You request my opinion on the Thomsonian practice of medicine, and inquire something concerning my medical studies, previous to my adopting the botanic practice. I will with pleasure endeavor to satisfy your inquiries, in as brief a manner as I am able. It will perhaps be the most satisfactory course to give a short history of my medical life, then my reasons for adopting the new practice may appear in a more convincing light. After I had finished my collegiate education, in the years 1794–95 and 96, I proceeded to the study of medicine in Columbia, South Carolina, under the tuition of Doctors Montgomery and Henricks, both students of the Rushean school. After this, I attended the medical lectures in Philadelphia, given by Doctors Shepper, Rush, Woodhouse and Barton. Having attended the regular course of lectures under these professors, they adjudged me entitled to a diploma, for my medical knowledge, yet it was contrary to the rules of the Institution to give me one, unless I went through another course; my finances would not admit of it at that time, and I never obtained a diploma. After my return from Philadelphia, I fell immediately into practice, but quickly found, that the *theory*, however beautiful it might appear, would by no means agree with the practice. I entered the practice with all the ardor that it is possible for any young physician to possess. Every leisure moment was employed in perfecting my knowledge of the science of medicine; and I flattered myself that I was as successful in my practice as my cotemporaries: my prospects were flattering, and my practice lucrative, for fourteen or fifteen years. I then became wearied of the practice, and during the latter part of my time, have given it over, unless constrained by the entreaties of a friend. I could do no better than to pity their distress. You would here inquire, what it was that could induce me to relinquish a gainful practice, and adopt a system of yesterday—to leave the old, beaten track, for one newly opened? I answer, because the marks to point the way to proceed, in the old practice, were falacious and not to be depended on when life was at stake. Here I would candidly ask the candid physician, if he has not often been deceived, in the symptoms of disease, when flattering himself with the prospect of the speedy recovery of his patient,

when he left him, perhaps at evening—the next visit, perhaps the next morning, found him breathing his last? You beheld him surrounded by weeping friends, because they viewed him departing to his long home. In such circumstances, humanity sickens and anxiously inquires, “Is there no relief from disease and premature death?” The answer is to be found in the botanic practice. But, is this practice infallible?—Does it never fail? Yes, it may fail, has failed, and will fail, in a number of cases. It has and will fail, of course, when the vital spark is nearly extinct, when the powers of life are destroyed by disease, or when the condition of the patient is such that there is not any thing remaining for the medicine to act upon. Medicine cannot act on a dead body, though it be ever so active. At such a crisis, this practice, as every other, will most assuredly fail: yet, in the midst of all these failures, the new practice will have a decided superiority over every other mode of cure yet known by man. I find, by experience in my family, and among my friends, who have used the medicine as directed, that in fevers, it generally relieves the patient in twenty-four hours, and often in less time. A number of cases in my own family, that have been as violent as any under the old practice, which required three or four weeks, before they were able to leave their bed, yet, by the Thomsonian practice, these have been relieved in the short time already stated. This practice, under my direction, has triumphed over an ascites, or dropsy of the abdomen, in which the old practice had labored in vain. The bite of a rattle-snake, on one of the family, accompanied with violent pain, was freed from all pain in less than ten minutes, and the swelling of the foot and leg was but trifling. In myself, a violent attack of rheumatism and cholera morbus, both yielded to the botanic applications. Another fact is worthy of notice: your patient does not suffer the great debility, by a course of the new practice, that commonly takes place in the old. The natural functions are soon restored to their former vigor. The patient forgets that he was sick. Do you wish me to account for this? It is easily done—there is not that prostration of strength by depleting remedies in the new, as in the old practice. Another reason why the same degree of debility is not induced, is that the medicine used is in harmony with the powers of life; hence it is, that, after the operation of the Thomsonian remedies, the patient feels invigorated and cheerful. One other fact, which gives the new a decided advantage over the old practice, is that the remedies are the same in all cases that can possibly occur. The object is uniform, viz: the restoration of the natural heat, as it is a primitive vital property. Hence the practising physician, acting with any tolerable degree of common discretion, cannot err materially in administering the remedies; he is not liable to do any irreparable injury to his patient. This is not the case with the old practice: How often have we witnessed, with grief, the baneful effects of medicine on the constitution of the patient? Where is the physician that will not acknowledge that his medicine has often operated in a different manner than he had expected, and that his patient was worse from the use thereof.

A Brown, a Rush, and others, have declared firmly their belief in the unity of disease, and the unity of cure: Doct. Thomson joins them in the belief, and practices precisely on that principle. Away, then, with your thousand diseases, and your thousand remedies, and adopt that system of practice that is both safe and salutary to man.

In conclusion, I would add another reason which makes the Thom-

sonian practice valuable, and that is its simplicity, or its plain, natural adaptation to the illiterate, untutored part of the human family. The poor and illiterate require the attention of the humane and benevolent in all countries, and such are the most numerous class in society: To such the Thomsonian practice holds out the helping hand, to snatch them from pain and death, and such he invites to a participation of its benefits.

These are some of the considerations which have determined my judgment to the botanic practice of medicine. I am fully confident, that whoever will give it a fair trial will rejoice at the success.

I am respectfully, yours, &c.

ROBERT D. MONTGOMERY.

[FROM THE BOTANIC ADVOCATE.]

The following letter, from a gentleman in Poughkeepsie, to Dr. Coffin, was handed us some days since, but its publication has been unavoidably delayed to the present time. We are rejoiced to find that Mr. Ranney, the editor of the Dutchess Republican, has the independence to advocate the Thomsonian cause—a cause which must prevail, notwithstanding the powerful opposition of the Medical Faculty is arrayed against it.

Poughkeepsie, July 28, 1832.

DEAR SIR,—It appears, from accounts from your city, that you have at last had the calumny and inveteracy of the *learned ignorant* faculty heaped upon your innocent head. And for what? Because you can relieve the distress of your fellow men where they cannot! But the result has been exactly as I expected; by your being not only proved innocent, but useful to your fellow citizens.

It is hard and unjust indeed, to be persecuted, when we are living and acting for the good of our fellow men: yea, when our efforts and exertions are spent day and night for the cause of truth—for bleeding and suffering humanity! But such is the prejudice of some, and the interest of others, that truth, *undeniable* truth, is spurned from the mind; and error, *gross* error, received instead thereof.—But man cannot be enslaved forever.

Mankind *are* examining the smooth sayings of *learned ignorance* and setting aside and *condemning* the dogmas of the *faculty*. They begin to think that they have taken *poison* long enough,—that they have already swallowed *too much* of the nostrums of the *learned ignorant faculty*. I term them *ignorant* because they know little about disease, and less about a remedy. What have all their writings amounted to for FOUR THOUSAND YEARS? To a *Cypher*! They have not improved mankind in the science of medicine a *whit*, since the days of Galen, and I might have said Esculapius.

When will the mind of man be free? The slumber of ages will ere long be broken,—the chains of prejudice will be burst asunder, and mankind will rejoice in the change. Hitherto, you know, the press has been closed against us by the influence of designing men; and the Brunonians, Rushites, and in fine, *all* the *calomel* swarm, could say and do as they pleased, without our having an opportunity of vindicating our just rights. And such *has* been the imbecility of man, that all the “*Doctors*” said was taken for granted to be truth. But, Heaven be

praised, it is now the reverse. The press is opened for the vindication of our heaven-born cause, and a complete revolution has been effected in the minds of many of our most eminent citizens.

The balance of justice is turning in favor of Dr. THOMSON and his disciples, and he begins to be remunerated for his toil. The people *do* see the *injustness*, the *impropriety* of *poisoning*, *blistering*, *bleeding*, *starving* and *freezing* a man, because he is so unfortunate as to be sick. I was as much prejudiced as any individual could be; and you may ask, Why was you biased against it? Because I knew nothing about the theory of Dr. Samuel Thomson. My education taught me to place implicit confidence in what came from "our Doctor." "He knows," was the end of the subject. And were I disposed to question the utility of such a course of treatment as was set down in the Books; why, the reply was, "The author was a great man." And, in a multitude of instances, the student's own rationality is thrown away, for the "*learned author's falacious reasoning*." It is enough to disgust *any man* of *common sense* to peruse the practice of different authors, when, almost on every page, and for every trivial disease, *Calomel*, *Opium*, and the *Lancet* are the remedial agents. I was disgusted in reading *learned quackery*, and determined, should I follow any practice, it should be that which was *simple*, *safe*, and *efficacious*; and my determination I have never regretted. I glory in the name of a "Botanic or Thomsonian Doctor," as I have the heartfelt satisfaction of relieving the sufferings of my fellow men, almost daily, with the products of Nature's garden.

I think I may safely assert, that every individual who is now prejudiced will acknowledge, that they know nothing about the theory of Dr. Thomson. You will have reason to rejoice at the persecution you have unjustly met with; for, it will be there, as it has been elsewhere—it will increase the friends of the cause. There (the doctor's) persecution will be like *Haman's gallows*: Then go on in the cause of humanity. Fear not the *faculty*,—not a hair of your head can they injure. They will recollect "*Fifty Thousand signatures*," which were obtained not long since. They know the friends of the botanic cause are too much for them. I would inform you that the Thomsonian cause is gaining friends rapidly in this country. The march is onward, and will continue to be, until minerals shall be erased from the pages of the *Materia Medica*. The *Dutchess Republican*, a paper of high repute, and extensive circulation, and edited by the able pen of Thomas S. Ranney, in this village, has opened its columns for the admission of our matter. Mr. Ranney is likewise printing one thousand copies of "*Tower's four Lectures*" upon the Thomsonian system of practice, and will be issued soon. This work is done by the "*Dutchess Botanic Medical Society*." Our society is increasing in interest and numbers,—we have about fifty members. It propagates *truth*, and not *quackery*.

I have with pleasure received the first number of the "*Thomsonian Advocate*." It surely contains interesting facts. I trust it will meet with a great circulation. It devolves upon friends of the botanic cause to do all they can for its extension. I sincerely hope they will do it.

Our practice increases in this village fast. We have had an unusual number (for this season of the year) of common cholera or cholera morbus cases, within a few days past, some of which were very severe; but in *all* and *every* instance, we were successful in giving relief—almost immediately.

The most cheering intelligence reaches us from all quarters, from time to time, of the prevalence of *Thomsonism*. What shall be done, unless we turn in and assist the "Regulars"? I believe "quackery" will spread, and ameliorate the condition of man. It is spreading rapidly in Connecticut. A number of good practitioners are diffusing there the knowledge of the truth. There is at present a great call for practitioners upon the Thomsonian system. We do not lose a tenth part as many patients as the "Regulars." Why is this? Can you tell? The cause of Thomsonism must prevail, for it has facts for its basis, and reason for its guide. I will close, with a determination to do all that within me lies, for the amelioration of mankind, and at the same time subscribe myself, yours respectfully,

B. W. S.

Copy of a Letter from DR. BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE, formerly Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Physic, in Cambridge University, to the late DR. SAMUEL L. MITCHELL, of New York.

CAMBRIDGE, DECEMBER 19, 1825.

MY DEAR SIR,—Mr. alias Doct. Samuel Thomson, who has the honor of introducing the valuable *Lobelia* to use, and fully proved its efficacy and safety, will deliver you this. He has cured and relieved many of disorders, which others could not, without being a regular diplommatized physician, and dared to be a republican in a hot bed of federalism: for which he has been shamefully ill-treated, even to persecution.

I have aided and assisted Thomson, from a firm belief that his novel practice has been beneficial to numbers, and that it may be placed among improvements. If he be a quack, he is a quack *suigeneris*, for he proclaims his mode and means. Had John Hunter, whom I well knew, been born and bred where Samuel Thomson was, he would have been just such another man; and had Samuel Thomson been thrown into the same society and associations as John Hunter, he would, in my opinion, been his equal, with probably a wider range of thought; but both men of talents, and originality of thought.

I am, indeed, so disgusted with learned quackery, that I take some interest in honest, humane, and strong-minded empiricism; for it has done more for our art, in all ages and in all countries, than all the Universities since the time of Charlemagne. Where, for goodness sake, did Hippocrates study? Air, earth and water—man, and his kindred vegetable—disease and death, and all casualties and concomitants of humanity, were the pages he studied—every thing that surrounds and nourishes us, were the objects of his attention and study. In a word, he read diligently and sagaciously the *Great Book of Nature*, as Thomson has, instead of the little books of man.

How came your Legislature to pass so unconstitutional an act as that called the *anti-quack* law?—such as the Parliament of England would hardly have ventured on?—for *who will define quackery*? Were I sufficiently acquainted with your excellent Governor Clinton, I would write to him on the subject. You, New Yorkers, are half a century behind us in *theological science*, but your quack bill looks as if you halted also in physic.

By what I have seen and learnt of Mr. Thomson, I wish him success, and the notice of the eminent and the liberal in the profession; and with this view I give him this rapidly-written letter to Dr. Mitchell, and am, with a high degree of esteem and respect, his steady friend,

BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE.

LINES ON THE THOMSONIAN SYSTEM,

WRITTEN BY A PATIENT AT THE INFIRMARY.

DEEP in the dark and sombre shades of night,
 Veiled from the searching rays of truth and light,
 Wrapped up in books, immured in learned schools,
 Affording ample scope to rogues and fools,
 Medicine, once pure as heaven's untainted breath,
 Seems clothed in robes of misery and death.
 But soon this scene of darkness shall be o'er,
 And men be duped by "learned quacks" no more.
 E'en now we hail the dawn of that eventful day,
 When these thick clouds, that darken truth's pure ray,
 Shall melt away before the living light,
 Or sink in regions of eternal night.
 The spark is struck that shall illumine the world,
 The sacred banner of the Truth unfurled.
 Thomson appears—upreared by Nature's hand,
 A second Luther—sent by God's command;
 Poor and unlearned, untutored from the farm,
 To pluck from trampled herbs a healing balm.
 Though all the "powers of darkness" storm and rage,
 A ruthless war against the "system" wage,
 'Tis vain—the day is past—Truth's sacred light
 Shall banish error to the shades of night.

F. B. B.

The following statement is a matter of fact, and can be proved by respectable witnesses.

A gentleman, a Thomsonian practitioner, from Ballston, (N. Y.) who visited Philadelphia last year, to cure the cholera, wishing to purchase some Gum Myrrh, called with one of his friends, at one of the first apothecary's stores in the city to obtain some. Having seen the *fatal* effects of arsenic on Mr. Solomon D. Hollister, who was killed by taking *arsenic* instead of *bismuth*, he asked the druggist to show him the two articles in their crude and prepared states, which he did very willingly. The gentlemen then observed, "How is it possible for you to pulverise arsenic? for Thatcher says, in his Dispensatory, that 'in mines it causes the destruction of numbers who explore them.'" "Oh," said he, "we have a mill, a short distance from here, where we grind it. We employ a negro as overseer, who goes out and hires some worthless blacks, gives them plenty of drink, and sets them to grinding in the mill. It poisons them so that in a few days they swell up and die, but never know what

kills them." "But," said the gentleman, "why does not this *Boss* Negro tell them to tie up their mouth and nose with a handkerchief?" He said, "If he did so, he could get none to work; for they are as afraid of arsenic as they are of *Death*." The gentleman then said, "I see no difference, Sir, between it and Death; for, according to Thatcher's account, it kills those who *dig it*! according to yours, it kills those who *grind it*!! and, according to Mr. Hollister's case, it kills those to whom the Doctors *give it*!!!"

A CHOLERA CHAPTER:

WRITTEN BY DR. SAMUEL THOMSON, IN 1832.

1. It is truly an imperious duty, incumbent upon all men, as members of civil society, to apprise men of danger, present or approaching, and warn them to escape impending evil, by every lawful and honorable method within their power.

2. The cholera cloud has for a long time hung round our country, and multitudes have died along our sea-coast towns and cities, and in the back and western countries.

3. By our last advices from Orleans, the mortality was prevailing to a terrible extent—from 150 to 200 dying in a day.

4. Our friends acquaint us that while the multitudes are dying around them, faster than they can find graves to hold them, yet they feel secure, and fear no particular danger, and can only feel sorry for those of their fellow creatures that are swallowing their deadly doses, while the steam doctors have not the privilege to save life, when it could easily be done.

5. To them, and all others in similar circumstances, is this word of compassion and good will most kindly dedicated.

6. If you would keep clear of the cholera, avoid the doctor, who comes to you with his calomel, opium and lancet.

7. Let those cholera preventives alone that are puffed and blown in the newspapers, just to get your money, regardless of consequences.

8. Always make it a rule not to take any medicine, unless you know what you take it for, and never take any thing that will make a well man sick; but try always, when you use any medicine at all, to use such as will make a sick man well.

9. Drive off all fright or fearfulness about cholera, for that will lead you off after cholera preventives, and lead you after the cholera nostrum doctors.

10. The learned quacks will draw off your blood, the very fountain of your life; they perhaps will do as they certainly have done, syringe in a large quantity of saline fluid, or white lie, into your veins, and purge, and blister, and salivate besides.

11. This is doing a great business. In addition to all this they may, as they certainly have, prescribe a gill of brandy and *two hundred* drops of laudanum, to be taken in the course of two or three hours.

12. Ten to one if the college doctor does not put down 50 or 60 grains of calomel; if very popular, perhaps twice that quantity.

13. In this way the game is played—'the blind are leading the blind—they are all falling into the ditch together,' until the grave is running over full.

14. This has been the case in many places, but especially at Orleans, where the plague rages, and will rage until there is a change in the medical practice.

15. Falsehood and deception there prevail, and death goes on taking a wide swathe, and we may well exclaim, in the fulness of our sympathy, Oh! foolish inhabitants of a country boasting of light and liberty! How long will you sacrifice yourselves and your children at the shrine of the moloch of mineral poisons, and the learned ignorance of the doctors who give you poisons according to law.

16. Some do and will inquire, why mortal disease is more prevalent at some seasons than another. To answer this interrogation, we will refer you to the year of 1806. Then was the total eclipse of the sun. Such was the chilly state of the atmosphere that season, that little corn was raised—the crops all failed to an alarming degree—the yellow fever and dysentery prevailed.

17. The doctors had bad success. The same preventives, viz: calomel, opium, blistering and bleeding, and a train of nostrums were used as preventives; and the same remedies to cure were used, as have been since used, and are now using to cure cholera; about nine tenths of those who sickened died.

18. In 1805 and '6, I lost not a patient. In 1807 I attended at Jericho, Vermont, where 20 persons had died under the care of the regular doctors. Two lived who had utterly refused to take a particle of mineral medicine: they took none of any kind.

19. Every one who had taken medicine from the regular doctors died, whether they called it yellow fever, dysentery, or black vomit. The color of the complaint did not make any odds. Out of 30 I relieved 29, at the risk of life and fortune: such were the circumstances in which I was placed.

20. In 1810 the disease changed color and got spotted, and was then called the spotted fever. The doctors went the same old round of medicine—round and round, like a horse in a cider-mill. They did not appear to have made any improvement, except those who added to the old list the sulphate of antimony. The remedy was about as fatal as the butcher's knife, skilfully applied to the throat of a beast.

21. A learned doctor lost sometimes 3, sometimes 4 or 5, or 6, and once at least 7, out of a family. I could not get an opportunity to practise at all in that vicinity. I was most wantonly abused when I cured all who applied; and there the inhabitants flocked to the kill-all doctors, like people crowding a mill in a dry time, when each one strives to have his turn first.

22. In 1816, many unusual spots were seen on the sun, as many will remember. Astronomers noticed those phenomena.


23. A cold, chilly state of the atmosphere, prevailed through the season. The disease received a new name. The school doctors called it the cold plague. This was the best or truest name they had ever given it.

24. The same medicines were crowded down the people's throats as before—the same that has since been given for cholera. Almost every one died who took the mineral medicines. Scarce one escaped to tell the effect the medicine had upon them. We were compelled to judge in these cases by the stark naked facts.

25. In one neighborhood (Eastham), I distinctly recollect that more than 40 had died. Doctors from three counties had been attending.

Their success was as bad as ever. The same weapons of death were employed as formerly, and the lancet more liberally used.

26. In the space of two weeks, by an attentive and faithful use of my medicine, 33 out of 34 recovered, to the surprise and astonishment of many. I had no reformers to go before me in those days. The regular doctors were my leading opposers.

27. At the same time, at the same place, among those who were attended by the regular doctors, eleven out of twelve died: thus plainly proving that  it was the medicine and not the disease, the remedies and not the disorder, that killed the people: they were led like sheep to the slaughter. These transactions occurred at Eastham (Cape Cod), Mass. as referred to, and confirmed by responsible testimony, in my Narrative.

28. Let the friends of truth, for whose dear sake I now employ my pen, just pause a moment and consider, what difference does it make what name we give the disease, or whether we give it any name, or whether there be any disease to name or not? Death, you see, has been the result, where the medicine of the regular shops has been used. The facts speak for themselves, in a language that has been heard and felt by thousands.

29. The name of cholera, spasmodic cholera, and Asiatic cholera are modern names for our epidemic disease. It began to get into use pretty extensively in this country in 1830.

30. At that period disease was worked up into a multitude of names the names of medicine underwent a great revolution. Students had to learn new names to make wise men of themselves, even lawful doctors with privilege to kill without being questioned.

31. Thus the credulity of the people is imposed upon. The cholera cry rung from the pulpit and the press—from the priest and from the doctor. The echo rang far and wide.

32. The country was unusually healthy, and continued so for many months, before all the machinery of the inquisition could be got up into complete operation.

33. The Boards of Health, as they have been called, were established in our cities. These consisted of regular doctors, or those under their immediate control.

34. Fifty thousand dollars were raised in the city of Boston, and placed at their disposal, to enable them to cleanse the city, and give the cholera a decent reception.

35. While the busy note of preparation was humming in our ears the cholera preventives were spreading.

36. Every dupe of these speculations was provided with some cholera nostrums or charm. Men, women and children, were provided with a bag hung round their necks, containing the wonder-working amulet. The price rose from 75 cents to \$16 per lb. or \$1 per ounce.

37. Next in order, in this age of wonders, discoveries and improvements, comes Dr. Warren's prescription: one gill of brandy and 200 drops of laudanum, to be swallowed within a short given time, as a preventive, or as a remedy in case of attack, until a doctor could be obtained.

38. With such a dose down the neck of a patient, and a good dose of calomel, or even without it, I should expect that Dr. Death could quick dispatch his business, without any medical advice.

39. In this way those arch impostors, whom the law protecteth,

have invented and vended their preventives and remedies, dealing out the most deadly poisons, and filled their pockets well with the precious metal, gleaning from every one weak enough to become a dupe to their impositions.

40. By the spirit of this speculation, thousands have been frightened, until they imagined they were seized with some symptom resembling the deadly cholera; down went the preventives, and out goes the body of the cholera victim of cholera preventives.

41. No doubt remains on my mind, that more than one hundred thousand dollars have been paid by the people, to purchase a dagger to plunge into their own bosoms.

42. Who, that honestly views the record of facts here faithfully and fearlessly stated, can refrain from denouncing these political contrivances and medical speculations, as deeds of enormity and wickedness, deserving to be publicly censured and condemned by every honest man?

43. Who would not sooner risk himself with thunder, big guns, mad dogs, and earthquakes, than swallow a gill of brandy, 200 drops of laudanum, and 60 grains of calomel?

44. If to all this you add bleeding, syringing your veins with saline composition, and a blister ten inches square across your breast, who could doubt whether the remedy or the disease killed him.

45. May not this statement suffice to satisfy the mind of any man who has ever examined into the nature of things, and has any just conception of the cause of life and motion, or the cause of inaction and death?

46. The learned ignorance that has brought the world into this condition, is undoubtedly one of the greatest plagues that ever infested the earth.

47. Let us come to the point, for truth will never flinch: Suppose, then, that every adult in Columbus, or any town or city on earth, should, at bed-time this night, take a gill of brandy and two hundred drops of laudanum, would not a large proportion of them be dead before morning, especially if they should all be attended by college doctors, repeating the dose?

48. In such a case we should, at this season of alarm, excitement and speculation, hear the Board of Health reporting that half or two thirds of the town or city had died of the cholera in one night.

49. If my memory be correct, I read an account, from one of the eastern cities, of three thousand who died in one night, and of thirty thousand more who were taken sick.

50. Can it be thought an extravagant calculation, that, in a city of such immense population, three thousand should have taken some popular cholera preventive and died?

51. Is it not natural to suppose that ten times as many, at such a season of terror and distress, should take the same remedy, if they only had a forlorn hope that swallowing the medicine would prevent their death? At such perilous seasons, such hopes may often be excited; down goes the deadly drug, for drowning men will catch at straws.

52. Could this idea be faithfully proclaimed in the streets of Orleans—could those facts, and the reasonings thereon, be thundered in the ears of the devoted inhabitants of that ill-fated city, until they should know and understand the truth in relation to their condition, I am confident they would refuse the schoolmen's preventives, and the learned doctors' remedies. The desolating angel would sheath his sword, and the work of death make a solemn pause!!!

53. Would disease, reader, have ever appeared in such a mortal form in this country, had not the deadly name of cholera been introduced, and the preventives and the name and the remedies all travelled together?

54. Have not thousands suffered death by doctoring the name instead of the malady? The same remedies have followed up the name from Asia, though Europe to America, with equally destructive ravages; and should the same articles or medicines be used for the name hunger, it would produce similar effects, without regard to name, sex, or situation.

55. Thus have I given my reader some general outlines of the cause, or, to say the least, of one of the causes; and I honestly think I may safely say, one of the principal causes of the greatest plagues that ever visited mankind.

56. The honest reader will perhaps inquire, among the many forms of disease that have appeared in our country, are there none of these disordered states of men's bodies, that are not produced or occasioned by such remedies or poison medicine?

57. I answer yes. There is the same disease, though in a different form, that formerly appeared in our country,—the scarlet fever, spotted fever, yellow fever, and cold plague, are limbs and members of the same body, if you will allow me to personify disease.

58. The doctrine of transmigration will apply much better to the various forms of disease in human bodies—much more philosophically, than the Pythagorean doctrine of the transmigration of souls.

59. The yellow fever and dysentery of 1806, transmigrated into the spotted fever in 1810,—into cold plague in 1816; and the terrifying ghost now walks a cholera spectre through the country.

60. The same disease, whatever livery it wears—the same demon, in whatever shape he appears, and the same poisons, have been given for the relief and cure of the afflicted.

61. The unity of the disease is evident; that some remedies that excite and support the powers of life, remove disease and restore health in the one case, has uniformly succeeded in all other cases when used in time and faithfully attended—as certain as the mineral poisons have made quick work, dispatched the patient, and sent him to his grave.

62. The preceding summer, spring and fall, like the same seasons in the years 1806, '15 and '16, has been remarkable for the chilly state of the atmosphere and the deficiency of the summer crops, particularly Indian corn.

63. The peculiar mortality of some seasons seems to be augmented, by sudden and excessive transitions or fluctuations from heat to cold, and from cold to heat.

64. It will be readily recollected that the preceding winter commenced early in the fall of 1831. The air was cold and chilly until late in the season, the last summer. The cold and chilly weather was protracted beyond the usual period—all nature appeared to feel the impression.

65. The heat of animal bodies were subject to the peculiar influences these circumstances were calculated to produce; the natural or vital heat was diminished some degrees below the healthy point, considering the time of the year, when the wintry, cold and chilly blasts were intruding on the warmth of summer.

66. The heat of summer came on suddenly, and the weather became rapidly and intensely hot. The inward heat of men's bodies could

not rise in proportion to the external heat; they had not time to take in, take up and absorb, the caloric or heating principle from the atmospheric air they used for respiration. The stream was too low; it fell nearly to a level with the degree of external heat. The prevalence of disease was the consequence. Equalization inwardly and outwardly would have in any case produced dissolution. This was the state of all who died—this was death!!!—It is, and will be death, wherever it occurs. It resembles a stream rising too fast for the fountain. It makes back water as it were on the wheels of animal life and motion, and they wallow and labor hard, when the stream rises almost to a level with the fountains: this must always be the case.

67. Somewhat similar to this is the physical condition of the animal body of man, when the inward heat is diminished below the zero of that scale by which health is graduated, and the heat of the day or atmospheric air about equal to that of the body; then the body suffers the inconvenience of cold, in proportion to the loss of inward heat, and when these become equal the body dies.

68. A patient approaching this condition, and nears it by the power of medicine or force of disease, will commonly turn yellow on the skin, and his complaint will get the name of yellow fever. The liver loses power to perform its functions, and the powers of life run down, outward heat having risen too high for the inward.

69. We will try and be explicit. When the heat of the body is diminished inside, and the heat of the air about equal to that of the body, the person suffers the consequence of cold, in proportion to the loss of inward heat; and when they are equal, or come to a level, they die. At this balance of *heat* outward and inward, spots will often appear on the skin; the standard or scale of life is correct in itself, but the balance of the powers of life, which are graduated by it, suffer derangement from their natural and regular order.

70. This form of disease, this state of the balance of power between outward and inward cold, is called spotted fever, cold plague, &c. And, Sirs, cholera is the same thing, whether it be occasioned by a balance of heat inside, reduced or reducing to an equilibrium, or equal degree outwardly, or of the outside; or whether it be a balance of outward cold, balanced with the inward.

71. Whenever heat and cold equilibrate, or cold and heat come to a level inwardly and outwardly, or outwardly and inwardly, cessation of all animal warmth and motion ensues: these are proper evidences and attributes of life; yea, the essential properties of life itself. These constitute that in which animal life eminently consists, and without which man's body does not, cannot live, or be alive; when motion ceaseth and heat is extinct, this state is death.

72. It is immaterial, in relation to the certain result, whether the balance or equilibrations of power takes place by raising the stream to a level with the fountain, or by lowering the fountain to a level with the stream.

73. Take the ebbing and flowing of the tide waters of the sea for illustration: no matter whether it be high water slack, or low water slack; when it is slack, it is slack—it is quiet, it does not flow one way nor another. This is an emblem of the state of death.

74. There is in the living, human animal body, a certain degree, circumstance or condition of heat, accompanied with motion, which con-

stitutes and distinguishes the living state. Without caloric, in a moving state or capacity of mobility, there is no animalization or powers of animal life.

75. A state of inaction, and extinction or depression of that degree and condition of the caloric, or principle of heat in the living system, constitutes a state of death. This is a correct definition of death itself.

76. In the living state of warmth and action, when the animal machine is in operation, muscular motions and the whole vascular system are excited, dilated, expanded, and the blood and all the circulating juices propelled along their respective channels. The air, blood, and watery fluids, are rarefied and expanded, and so dilate and stimulate their containing vessels, and maintain the power of life, or support and keep up the living state, or animalized condition of man's body.

77. A state of collapse, in yellow fever, cold plague, or cholera, is like the slack water condition of the ocean tide we just hinted at. In whatever form disease appears, or whatever shape it wears, or whatever name the doctor may give it, it is all in reality the same thing—the same state or condition of the animal body.

78. The state of collapse is resembled in or by the condition of a drowning person, reduced to that state or degree of vital coolness and depression, that the fire or heat of life begins to be extinguished, or is going out, and action and all capacity of action beginning to cease.

79. In a drowning man, as the heat begins to become partially extinct, there is so little of it remaining in the drowning body, the lungs collapse—they expand with difficulty. With such a depression of weight and cold upon them, they can no longer expand—no longer execute their regular functions.

80. In many cases of yellow fever, cold plague and cholera collapse, it is not in the power of medicine, or all the means of art, to kindle and rouse the principle, or principles of heat and motion, sufficient to expand the lungs, and play the fountain pump of life with sufficient force to continue the state of animalization.

81. In such cases the walls of the lungs, the sides of the vessels through the vascular system collapse, or begin to close and fall together, like the sides of an exhausted wind bellows, or a bag emptied of its contents; action ceases and the patient dies, or rather more correctly we say, he is dead!

82. In all these cases of plague, fever, or drowning, the state or condition of collapse is essentially the same; the fire, or heat, or power of life—heat and motion, outward and inward becoming equal, or approaching a state of equilibrium, in either and every case, the patient should be shielded from the weight and depression of a cold atmosphere, with which he may be surrounded.

83. This may best be effected by the vapour bath, vulgarly called steaming, by placing the patient in a convenient box, or wrapping him in blankets, and applying the steam, as we, steam doctors, frequently and most commonly do.

84. Cases of extreme weakness and cases of collapse are of this class. The patient may be placed in bed, and hot stones or bricks, dipped in hot water or vinegar, all hot and steaming, may be applied to the feet, hands, back, and stomach or bowels, at discretion.

85. In my Introduction to the New Guide to Health, I have remarked, and here request, that, "in all cases where the heat of the body

is so far exhausted as not to be rekindled by using the medicine, and being shielded by a blanket from the surrounding air, or by being in bed, and chills or stupor attend the patient, then, *heat* applied by steaming becomes indispensably necessary." The heat by steam should always be raised *gradually, not suddenly*. "If the outward heat be raised too suddenly, so as to balance the inward," you will be disappointed, even when a prospect of success flatters your expectations. What I have written on the subject should be minutely and faithfully attended to.

86. This course should be persisted in until you can, by warming, stimulating medicines, rouse, blow up, or kindle the latent spark of lingering life, arrest its departure, or kindle up heat enough to expand the lungs and keep up the motions of animalization.

87. These may be administered as prescribed in my New Guide, both inwardly by the mouth, or by injections well applied, which are almost always useful, often indispensable, and never injurious, if prudently administered.

88. In this way I have been successful—my course has been easy, safe, and comfortable to the sick. No means have ever done as well within the present knowledge of man. So long as my system can sustain this character, in defiance of all opposition, whatever other discoveries I may make, I can find no reason for setting aside, reforming or improving, my former discoveries. This would be to abandon a certainty for an uncertainty. This would be to abandon a good harbor when we are safely anchored, and venturing on that wide, dark, and stormy ocean, without pilot, helm or compass, where the bewildering philosophy of four thousand years has driven millions, on the tumultuous billows of learned ignorance, down to the land of silence, in the shades of death.

89. Situated as I am, should I raise or join the cry of reformation, the wise and prudent patrons of the cause would certainly conclude I must be a mad man or a fool!!

90. Those worthy and respectable gentlemen among the regular Faculty, who love the truth for truth's sake, will readily excuse the seeming severity of my remarks, which are intended only for those ignorant, stupid collegian members of the profession, who take all their knowledge upon trust, and condemn, unheard and unexamined, whatever may contradict the prejudices of an erroneous education.

91. To the candid, honest, worthy inquirer after genuine knowledge, who will heartily receive the truth, the author tenders the sincere homage and respectful consideration, ever due to judicious, impartial and upright citizens, of every name and condition, wherever these presents may come greeting.

CURE OF CHOLERA AT PHILADELPHIA.

The following letter was written by Mr. MARCUS T. C. GOULD, the celebrated Stenographer, to Elder FREDERICK PLUMMER, dated September 7th, 1832.

DEAR SIR,—Permit me to call your attention a moment, to a recent triumph of the Thomsonian practice, in a case of a most alarming attack of cholera. A highly respectable member of the FRIEND'S SOCIETY, near seventy years of age, between the hours of one and two at night,

was violently seized ; the family and all present were much alarmed. Having done every thing that sympathy and the emergency of the case could suggest, apparently to no good effect, they were querying in their minds whether to send, a number of miles, for their family physician, or to submit their case to a supposed quack, viz : our worthy friend, Elder Jesse Thompson.

The good old patriarch was wreathing and tossing in the greatest agony, unable to sit, lie, or stand, with any composure, or even to draw a long breath unaccompanied by hiccough or distressful groans, which threatened each time to be his last, in consequence of the violent spasmodic cramp in the stomach, and other attendant symptoms, usually accounted fatal in this terrible disease.

His stomach and bowels had been considerably deranged for a number of days, or we may say, even weeks. The day preceding the attack, he had been much fatigued in the heat of the sun. He was fully apprehensive of his danger ; but, confiding in the protection of his heavenly Father, he coolly resigned himself to the directions and prescriptions of our Thomsonian friend, remarking at the time, that he hoped that through the "instrumentality of this stranger, a miracle might be wrought, for the good of the people." To the great joy of all present, he soon found relief from every alarming symptom. The next day he was seated at the head of his table, surrounded by his grateful family and friends. He and all his household are now firm believers in the efficacy and superiority of his system ; nor will their light be hid under a bushel, but rather be elevated to shine forth as a beacon on a hill, to enlighten multitudes around them, many of whom are already inquiring, "What shall we do to be cured?" To them, this answer is given : "Buy a *Right*, get medicine from your own fields, and doctor yourselves."

The above letter was read by Elder Plummer, a few miles from Philadelphia, to an assemblage of near two thousand persons. At the close of it, Virgil Echess, the worthy patriarch himself, took the stand and said, "I am the man here intended, and what has been stated is substantially true."

[FROM THE THOMSONIAN RECORDER.]

CHOLERA AT MAYSVILLE.

LET the sons and daughters of humanity rejoice.—Let a greedy, avaricious, conceited, vanity-stricken FACULTY stand aghast and wonder ! Ye fled ingloriously ! The destroying Angel passed through your once joyous city, spreading devastation, death and mourning, as he flew ; but the graduated M. D.'s escaped for their lives. Are these the men to censure and condemn the steam doctor, and his remedies, by which such multitudes have been Thomsonized back from the verge of the grave ? Will ye malignantly tear from the brow of the meritorious and triumphant conqueror of pestilence, the laurels that ye are not entitled to wear ? Kind Heaven ! deliver us from wicked and unreasonable men ! The Thomsonian practice has every where succeeded to admiration, and distanced all opposition, wherever opportunity has offered faithfully to test its value. The faculty feel themselves degraded, and they hate the name of Thomson. To mention in their hearing the marvellous cures

effected by Thomsonian remedies, provokes a sneer, and often a kind of monkey grin, in which there is nothing worthy of attention but the consummate insolence and impudence intended to be expressed.

"What! shall we, learned doctors, with our DIPLOMAS from under the hands of learned professors, be compelled to take to our heels and fly before the cholera, like criminals attempting to elude the pursuit of the civil officer? And shall these patented Thomsonians be allowed, with their steam, their lobelia, their cayenne, their No. 6, their nerve powder and their cholera syrup, to huddle and drive us from town and city; and, with plebeian skill, filch from our mouths our daily bread? What! strip us of our honor? Rouse! Esculapians, rouse! Come on, brothers of the lancet, calomel and tartar! You had better die, [says the mercurial veteran] than live thus ingloriously and ignominiously disgraced." These are the ravings of DR. HYDRANGIRUS, a learned professor of *Materia Medica*, clinical practice, chemistry, mathematics, and kitchen economy.

How long will the people be blinded? Who is so obstinate that he will not be convinced by the joint testimony of thousands? The regular college doctors, adhering to their mineral remedies, are every where unfortunate. Instead of facing the enemy, like men having confidence in their learned skill, they have turned their backs upon the destroyer. From the "Louisville Price Current," we here copy an extract of a letter, which the editor of said paper asserts was written by a highly respectable PHYSICIAN of Maysville, dated,—

MAYSVILLE, (SUNDAY) JUNE 2, 1833.

"Maysville has been visited with a most awful scourge. Cholera never prevailed so bad in any place that I have had any account of. All that have been taken have died! Almost every body has left the city. No store or house of business has been open for several days.

"ALL THE DOCTORS ARE GONE! We [Doctors] have no inducement to stay!" "We cannot control the disease!" "This disease," adds the doctor, "is also prevailing to some extent in Harrison, Scott, and Bourbon Counties." We will now present our readers with an extract of a letter from our venerable, intelligent, wealthy, and very respectable friend, Dr. Nathan Hixson. True, he has on a former occasion declined the title of Doctor; but we move, that, as a token of respect due to his character and standing as a physician in the treatment of cholera in his vicinity, a grateful community confer on him the diplomatic title of THOMSONIAN DOCTOR. The communication alluded to is dated,—

Maysville, June 23, 1833.

TO MESSRS. JARVIS PIKE, & Co.

GENTLEMEN,—I presume, before this, you have heard of the severe visitation of our city by the cholera. I presume you may also possibly have heard something of the good success of the Thomsonian system, or method of treatment. Such things are frequently misrepresented. For the most part, facts will be overrated by friends, and greatly undervalued by opponents.

I take the liberty of forwarding to you a few copies of a communication I had published in the MONITOR of this week.

This story of mine has been told in great haste. I have not had time and leisure to draw up a very minute and accurate report. If I

had both time and leisure, I have not the tact nor talent in medical matters that might be expected from a Doctor. I think a report made out by me, as skilfully and cautiously as my best abilities would enable me to do it, would, after all my attention, bear some resemblance to a "*cat in a strange garret*."

Put me in a flour mill, a paper mill, or a steam engine, and I can match half a dozen of the best doctors (so called) in this city. It is also said, that if I be placed at the bed side of a cholera patient, I cast them back quite into the shade. But, gentlemen, when medical reports are wanted, I make no pretension to any skill in pathology, or in the cobweb theories of disease, that so much divide and distract the learned world. I cheerfully surrender the palm to my competitors on this ground: not that I know any thing less of the cholera, as a disease, but I have paid less attention to their fanciful doctrines and their peculiar, whimsical technicalities of medical science, as taught in the schools.

It is probable that you are aware that I have never before attempted any thing like holding myself up as a medical practitioner. When the disease first broke out in this city, I had a few medicines on hand, provided for family use; I tried them first on my friends. The printed communication which I have forwarded to you will give you more extensive information in relation to the result, than I can now find leisure to communicate. You will understand that we had eight or ten regular physicians in the city. They have treated me, through the whole scene, as the faculty have every where treated successful Thomsonians. With the exception of being a Thomsonian, I sustained a reputation as a man of business, and as a professor of Christianity, which was as well established as the medical standing of either of them was.

To this ungentlemanly kind of conduct there were some exceptions, but a majority of them treated me as one whom they accounted an intruder and usurper of some *exclusive* rights and privileges of theirs. I frequently stepped in to see their patients, as I was visiting my own, and passing by. I had a desire to see and know for myself what their success was. You may be sure I was received with great marks of coldness. But enough of all this; the fact is, they treated me just as the regular faculty are accustomed to treat us quacks; yes, just as they should treat us in order to put themselves down, and to fully establish our system.

I am informed that the faculty intend to contest every fact that I have stated in my publication. I sincerely dislike the feelings that are generally excited in such an unpleasant controversy, but as for the result, I anticipate, with the firmest expectation, a most glorious triumph.

At the commencement I had not any thoughts of practising, as I afterwards had to do, for I saw no way that I could avoid it. For the three last weeks I think I have had nearly three fourths of all the medical practice, in cholera, scarlet fever, &c. that has prevailed in the city. If the regular doctors will only contrive how to put themselves down a little lower, I shall be compelled to open a shop and obtain an assistant.

N. HIXSON.

We have read, with deep attention, DR. HIXSON'S communication, and also the subjoined publication. It appears that such is the humanity and benevolent feelings of the faculty, that they prefer to see the world dying around them in multitudes, *secundum artem*, rather than to see

them rationally cured on a *plan* congenial to that good, common sense, which but few of our learned professors have courage to pursue.

As for the truth of Dr. Hixson's statement, we should be astonished at the mere whimper of contradiction. Friends and foes have long venerated his veracity. The faculty are touched in a tender spot. Their indignation is merciless.

It serves to show how deeply their pride is wounded, and to expose the malevolence of retarded ambition. The people must be measurably acquainted with the great leading facts. They will arbitrate the cause. Still the multitude are not leaders, but they are the led. They will look up to those whom they esteem learned, with a kind of superstitious homage and veneration. But we contend: 1. That the regular faculty were remarkably unsuccessful in the treatment of the cholera, and nearly half of their cholera patients died.

2. We contend that all, or nearly all of the regular doctors in the city abandoned the sick, and, despairing of success, they escaped for their lives.

3. We contend that their wisdom was confounded, their skill baffled, and all their medical, surgical, and anatomical knowledge was of no avail. It gave neither moral, intellectual, nor physical courage; and furnished no security against the ravages of the overflowing, desolating scourge. Mark the testimony of one of the most reputable of the faculty in that devoted city: "All the doctors are gone!" "We have no inducement to stay!" "We cannot control the disease!" Have medical colleges and universities agreed to take the responsibility of such a dishonorable and inglorious retreat upon themselves? If not, how shall these deserters pacify the public mind—hush the spirit of inquiry—and raise the wind to blow away the reproach that gathers around them?

On the other hand, behold Dr. Hixson, with his Thomsonian medicine, like the poor wise man, who saved a city before him, shall be forgotten. Will the faculty continue to recommend their deadly drugs, their mercury, opium, and long list of poisonous medicines, that have been so extensively fatal; and will the people continue stupidly to follow them?

Could some one of the Regular Faculty have been as fortunate as Dr. Hixson; that is, had he cured as many, as easily, and as promptly, would he not have been venerated even by his envious brethren? Would he not have been a candidate for some new college honors? Might he not have anticipated advancement from M. D. to L. L. D., and to have become an honorary member of all the most popular, literary, and benevolent institutions, that distinguish the present age of the world?

Amidst the follies, delusions, prejudices, and blind superstitions of our day, we have this consolation, that the Thomsonian System is advancing with firm and steady step. We anticipate the period when the knowledge of the principles that govern his practice shall fill the habitable world, as completely and entirely as the mighty waters cover the wide bosom of the great deep!

NATHAN HIXSON'S TREATMENT OF CHOLERA, IN MAYSVILLE, AS PUBLISHED IN THE MONITOR, JUNE 20, 1833.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I have been solicited, by many of my friends, to draw up and publish a minute report of all cholera cases for which I have prescribed, and those which I have attended since the disease visited our city in the last week of May.

They have urged that I am bound to do this, not so much to boast of my unexampled success in curing this truly appalling disease, where it appeared to resist all other remedies; but that I am bound to do it for the benefit and relief of some of our friends and fellow citizens who have fled to the country, and who, through fear of certain death, should they be attacked, are still flying from farm to farm, or from village to village, as the disease appears to pursue them. They further urge that others are endangering their lives by relying on remedies less efficient—remedies which have not saved one in ten, when fairly tried in the hands of the most skilful; while my remedies, of which they appear ignorant, have not failed on one in ten, when applied strictly according to my directions. It is not the cause of our friends and fellow citizens only, but the cause of suffering humanity at large, which is urged in favor of such a publication. They say, look at Flemingsburg! Look at Lexington!!

As further inducement to make this publication, if inducement could be wanting, I have been informed that there are some quite respectable and influential individuals, not only engaged in telling many strange and ridiculous stories about my practice—my *steaming* and my *burning folks up*, but they have also boldly asserted that I have not cured a case of cholera in Maysville, and this, too, only a few miles distant from the scores of *living* witnesses now in the city, ready to testify to the two important facts at issue—that they have had the cholera, and that Nathan Hixson or his prescriptions have cured them.

We might suppose, that, at a time like this, men who, through fear of death, could lend a deaf ear to all the cries of charity and suffering humanity—nor once think of feeding the hungry, nursing the sick, or burying the dead, until they arrived at some cool shade or healthy country seat, would feel more like preparing to “*give an account for the deeds done in the body*,” or more like reflecting what shall be the portion of “*him who loveth and maketh a lie*,” than like fabricating and circulating reports to injure an individual engaged as I have been for the last three weeks; or, worse still, in trying to prejudice the minds of the people against, and prevent them from resorting to, such cholera remedies as are calculated to save their lives. Had nine out of every ten in Flemingsburg been saved—how different, how limited, would have been the scenes of mourning. Had nine out of every ten I have been called to attend fallen—how different, how mournful, would have been the circle in which I have practised; and how many mournful countenances would I meet where now are smiling faces.

Why did not these gentlemen lay hold of my remedies, and fly to Flemingsburg, and do for suffering humanity there, what has been done here? I withheld my medicines and prescriptions from no man, and they wanted neither the hand nor the head of a doctor to give them efficacy. They owe many obligations to their fellows, to their country and their God, which it would be quite as honorable for them to engage in, as the work of detraction and slander.

But enough—we plead not these apologies nor any others for the publication we now offer through your paper. We regret that we have not time to write out such a report as is requested; but we will endeavor to give such facts as will satisfy the most sceptical that our remedies are not only simple and safe, but efficient.

Our Medicines are all simple and innocent—they can be used with

safety on all ages and sexes. There is not a mineral nor a poison among them. They all belong to the Thomsonian System—that System of Medicine, which, by its astonishing cures, is bearing down the prejudices, and gaining the confidence of the people, from Maine to Georgia, and from Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico.

In confirmation of the preceding statement, the following private letter is here subjoined, completely refuting all the silly speeches made by the physicians of this city, and others, who sneeringly ask, “Why do not the Thomsonians cure the Cholera at the West?” Other accounts from the West all concur in declaring the Thomsonian remedies to excel all others in the cure of Cholera.

From a Correspondent, to the Editors of the Thomsonian Recorder.

The following is an *extract* of a letter from Mrs. D. Arms, of the city of Maysville, (Ky.) of recent date, addressed to her twin sister, Mrs. N. Wiles, of Lebanon, Ohio. She gives an account of the ravages of the Cholera in that city, and of the remarkable success of the Thomsonian remedies, in preventing and curing that destructive malady. By the indulgence of this friendly sister, I have made the following extract from this very interesting letter, and promptly forward it to you.

MAYSVILLE, JUNE 8, 1833.

“MY DEAR SISTER:—Believing that you must feel great concern for us at this time of general distress, I feel it to be a duty incumbent on me (as the Lord has spared my life), to drop you a few lines and let you know our situation for the last four or five days. You must have learned some sad accounts before this time. The times have been awful indeed. However, since my return, there has not been more than five deaths.

“Those who have died are colored persons, except one, who was a boy of seven years old. We have more or less cases occurring every day.

“Brother Hixson, [a brother in the Church, who also is a brother of the Friendly Botanic Fraternity,] is doing wonders with the steam medicines. He has not lost more than three who were his patients. Two of them appear to have been lost for want of good nursing; the other was in a collapsed state before the family discovered there was any thing particularly the matter with him. When the family found out his situation, it was too late. He lived only three hours and a quarter after the family knew that he was sick. I think I may say, safely, that brother Hixson has administered means to at least one hundred people, besides what he has done with prescriptions and medicine, for miles and miles round the country, for twenty or thirty miles at least. He makes what is called his cholera preventive—six or seven gallons at a time, sometimes twice in the course of one day. This, when taken in due time, the patient *getting warm into bed*, with warm, dry bricks to his feet and placed around him, has relieved a great many. There are also many who have been relieved, in this way, after they have been seized with the spasms. I have not heard of one of the faculty being called upon since my return. In fact, there are none of them in the city, except it be Dr. Nelson. He brought his family back a day or two since. It is said that Dr. C. will not return to reside here any longer; that he intends purchasing a farm, and living in the country the rest of his days. For one, I think it would be a very

good thing if they would all come to the same conclusion. I think they will never be of much more account in this city. The citizens have lost all confidence in them."

The reader will please to notice that the above letter was written on Saturday. The writer was attacked with Cholera before she had time to finish it. On the Monday following, her mother, Mrs. Sarah Corwine, closed the letter as follows:—

"You see Deborah began this letter on Saturday; it is now Monday. On Saturday, in the afternoon, she had an attack of the Cholera—she is now mending, and able to be up part of the time. We have still some cases every day in this place."

I have obtained permission of the lady, Mrs. Wiles, to whom the above letter was written, to forward the preceding *extract* for the Recorder. From my own knowledge of the reputation of the writer, its contents may be confided in. She is a lady of the first respectability.

Now, gentlemen, allow me to express my full conviction, that, if it would save the world from sinking, and all the learned doctors from begging their bread, they can never present evidence of such a complete triumph over Cholera, at any place. All their high-toned pretensions cannot avail in this matter. In the preceding account there is nothing of the boastful puffing of some enthusiastical steam doctor. No, Sirs, it is the candid, unvarnished story, the honest breathings of Mrs. Arms, when surrounded with a pestilential cloud of Cholera, to her twin sister, without even the most distant idea that her narration would ever be spread before the public.

Yours, respectfully, &c.

WILSON THOMSON.

CURE OF THE CHOLERA IN BOSTON.

From the Investigator, of October, 1832.

MR. EDITOR,—I wish you to insert the following statements in your paper; in doing which you will oblige one, and inform the public.

Mrs. Hutchinson, my wife's sister-in-law, was taken with the Cholera, in Elliot Street, recently, and notwithstanding she had the best medical attendance, died in a few hours. Miss Debell, a member of my family, attended upon her during her sickness, and was afterwards taken with the Cholera, at my house, in Jefferson Street. She lay sick 33 hours, and had, I should think, near forty physicians visit her during that time. But all was of no avail, they could do nothing to help her, and she died. By the advice of a friend, I sent on Saturday morning to Thompson's Infirmary, corner of Mount Vernon and Charles Streets, and obtained a bottle of Cholera Medicine. I showed the medicine to my family physician, and, in the presence of many witnesses, he directed me and my family to use this medicine in case I was attacked, observing that the physicians knew of no remedy for the Cholera, and could not stay its progress one moment. On Sunday I obtained another bottle. On Monday one of my family was taken with the Cholera, full as bad as any one that had died. About 8 o'clock, P. M. I sent him to the Infirmary, where he was relieved by 10 o'clock, had a good night's rest, went through a course of medicine on Tuesday, and went to work as usual

the next day. On Tuesday evening another of my family was taken in the same manner; upon which I sent to Dr. Thompson, who, being engaged, sent some of his medicine and directions, which relieved him almost immediately. W.

This is a plain statement of facts, and I leave the public to judge which is the best method of treatment—that of the regular physicians, during which five died in one day, in Elliot Street; or the Thomsonian System, by which numbers, taken in the same manner, have been relieved in the same short time. Names will be given by inquiring at Thompson's Infirmary. S.

[The above is the copy, or rather the original draft, of an article which was sent to the 'New England Christian Herald,' with an assurance that it should go in; and, on the strength of that assurance, Dr. B. Thompson subscribed and paid for the paper for one year; but, after putting him off from time to time, under one pretence and another, it was utterly refused, in consequence, as we are informed, of that *notorious* ABNER KNEELAND being connected with the Thomsonian System. So much for curing people of the Cholera.] EDITOR.

☞ We would call the attention of the public to Dr. Benjamin Thompson's Report of the Cholera, which was laid before the Board of Health soon after it was made out; but of which they have taken no notice, as we can learn. We understand that they report nothing but deaths. Why do they not report their cures?—Or, is it because that *their* remedy, like the disease, is *certain death*? How long will it be ere the public will become alive and *awake* to these questions? *Ibid.*

To the Board of Health of the City of Boston :

GENTLEMEN,—Having observed, in one of the city papers of Saturday evening, that it was the desire of your Board that all cases of *Cholera* occurring in the city should be reported to you by the physicians, to enable you to make out correct reports for the public, I have thought proper to give you the following cases, none of which have been reported :

Aug. 7. Mr. Greenleaf, Pinckney Street, *cured*.

Aug. 10. Lydia N. Brewer, Allen Street (about 70 years of age), *cured*.

Aug. 22. Mary Ann Nurse, Allen Street, *cured*.

Sept. 18. Mr. Baker, India Wharf, *cured*.

Sept. 19. Reuben Ridley, Jefferson Street, *cured*.

Oct. 11. Simon Hastings, La Fayette Hotel, Washington Street, *cured*.

Oct. 13. Robert Griggs, Pleasant Street, *cured*.

The above cases are all that I have attended personally; they were all cured at my Infirmary, corner of Mount Vernon and Charles Streets, by being carried each through one course of medicine, under the *Thomsonian System* of practice. There are several other cases *cured*, where I have sent medicine, which will be given if required.

BENJAMIN THOMPSON.

N. B. I have carried *five hundred* patients through a course of medicine, in less than five months, without the loss of a single patient. B. T.

PROSPECTUS.

—o—

THE following has been offered as a PROSPECTUS, to be laid before the United States Thomsonian Convention ; and, through that body, should the plan be adopted, to be presented to all the Legislatures in the United States, or of each State respectively ; by which, so much as shall be thought expedient, may be framed into laws for the benefit of the people throughout the Union.

It is time that physicians should be paid, and only paid, for keeping the people in health, rather than for doctoring them when they are sick, as it is no advantage to be sick, and no man would be sick if he knew how to avoid it. Let a man pay then for his health, and not for his sickness, and this would throw some responsibility on the physician.—Now, there is none at all. But when his pay begins to grow doubtful, all he has to do is to let the patient die, and then the doctor's claim is sure to be allowed first, let other creditors fare as they will.

To obviate this, it is proposed to allow people to contract with their physician, such an one as they choose, to keep their family in health, for so much a head, for one year, and make all such contracts good and valid in law ; say, for one dollar, five dollars, or ten dollars a head, just as the parties can agree, but on the following conditions, viz :

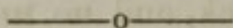
1. For every day's sickness in the family, the doctor shall forfeit twenty-five cents, to be charged to him on his contract.

2. For every death in the family, the doctor shall forfeit all that he was to receive for keeping that one in health ; or, *one* in health if there be no discrimination made ; because the doctor, in that case, does not fulfil that part of his contract.

3. To prevent any imposition on the part of the family, by feigning sickness when they are not sick, the doctor in every case shall be notified, and no deduction should be charged except when the patient is sick enough to take a course of medicine (which no one would be willing to do for twenty-five cents, unless there is need of it) ; but in case the doctor advises to a regular course of medicine, or, if an adult, the patient chooses to take it, then the doctor shall not only give it for nothing, but shall pay besides twenty-five cents, or what is the same, it shall be charged to him, and deducted from his yearly contract ; and so twenty-five cents for each day the patient is sick. This would throw some responsibility on the physician, and make it for his interest to keep the family in health if he can ; while still it would be for the interest of the family to be kept in health, if possible, notwithstanding the sum they have agreed to pay for it. Let the people make laws to have all such contracts binding on the parties, and we shall very soon have none other but Thomsonian, or Botanic Physicians, as such contracts would be perfectly safe for them, but not very acceptable to others.

Many persons, upon taking up a work of this kind, expect to read a number of certificates, and look with avidity for cases similar to their own. But, during my whole practice, I have made it a rule never to ask any persons I have cured for their certificates, as much delicacy is

felt by many on this subject; indeed the few cases which here appear, were drawn up at the patients' own desire. I have (as stated in my advertisement) had more than one thousand patients, and the greater part relieved and cured. Now any one can perceive, it would be worse than useless to publish a tenth part of these cases if I had the certificates. Besides, the whole book may be considered as one mass of certificates. Great and learned men—physicians and others, have given their testimony and recommendation to the value and efficacy of this system in relieving and curing all complaints. And when a person takes up the work, and expects to find a certificate of a cure similar to his own, he must recollect that this System is not for a few diseases, but for every disease incident to human nature, within the reach of medicine.



NEW CERTIFICATES,

CONCERNING THE TREATMENT AND CURE OF DISEASE, AT THOMPSON'S INFIRMARY, CORNER OF MOUNT VERNON AND CHARLES STREETS.

With pleasure I improve this opportunity of communicating to the public the following information—the more readily, and with the greater pleasure, because I hope that others afflicted in a similar manner may, by application to the right source, find the same relief. In the winter of 1820, my wife took a very violent cold, and the advice of a medical gentleman was obtained, who said she was afflicted with scrofulous humor, and administered accordingly; but at the expiration of three weeks he became convinced of his mistake, and concluded that her disease was the rheumatic fever, and consequently shaped his mode of treatment differently. With this disease she was afflicted two years; during which time she took a large quantity of medicine, and not a small quantity of that king of all medicine—that sovereign antidote for all diseases—*Calomel*; and suffered, in the mean time, an immense quantity of pain. So stubborn was her disease, and so severe and excruciating was her pain, that she became greatly deformed, her joints being displaced, her feet being turned and twisted in such a manner that she could only hobble about on her ankle bones with the help of staves, and her fingers drawn and turned in such a manner as to resemble birds' claws more than the hands of a human being. From all this, however, she mostly recovered in a little more than two years. She has been subject to this complaint ever since—has had three regular and very severe attacks, from neither of which did she recover in less than four months. Last April she was attacked in the same manner, in which she had usually been, and with so much violence, that, in two hours she was reduced to a state of entire helplessness; and, having very little confidence in the medical faculty, and having recently learned a little respecting the Thomsonian System of Practice, I was induced to send for Dr. Thompson, of Boston, who carried her through three courses of medicine, with immediate and entire success—so much so, that in five days she was as free from disease as she ever was in her life, and still continues to be so. And certainly I must be destitute of all the tender feelings of human nature not to recommend to others a system of medicine which abridges so much suffering, and saves so much money, and so many lives. I have obtained a

"Family Right," and it is with no small degree of pleasure I am able to administer to my own family and friends, in sickness, without consulting my good friends, the *Doctors*, and without giving them a chance to fill their purse, and enlarge the great congregation of the——dead.

BENJAMIN PARKER.

CATHARINE PARKER.

Malden, August 8th, 1833.

DR. THOMPSON, SIR,—The following statement which I send you, I desire you to make public, that others, suffering as I have done, may know where to find relief. Twenty years ago, having imprudently exposed myself to heats and colds, I experienced a severe attack of asthma, which continually grew worse and worse. I consulted several regular physicians, in hopes of being cured, but they all said I never could be cured, and they could only give me temporary relief, which, however, they often failed to do. I tried patent medicines, without number, but all in vain; I grew no better. Last summer, for the first time in my life, I heard about the Thomsonian System; and, when I heard it, I gave no credit to the foolish stories, as I called them, of the cures performed by the medicine, and thought it was all deception—all done to get money, and gave myself no trouble to learn to the contrary. But, a short time after, hearing of Mr. Jonathan Warren, of Leicester, who had been cured by the use of the Thomsonian medicine, I thought I would go and see him and converse with him. I went and talked with him; also with Deacon Harrington, of Brookfield, who was cured, when given over by the physicians as incurable, by the use of Thomsonian medicine. I was satisfied that there was no quackery here, and I determined to try it myself. I came to your Infirmary on the 25th December, and staid eight days; during that time I took two courses of medicine, and was immediately relieved and cured. I purchased a "Family Right," and returned home, and from that time to this I have not had a single attack of my disease. Such being the case, Sir, it is with feelings of joy and gratitude that I desire you to make this case known, that others may see and read for themselves. To those who are suffering under the same disease it would be useless for me to attempt to describe my feelings, and those who know not by experience cannot imagine a tenth part of the sufferings I endured. But this I know, and this I would wish to make known to all to whom this statement may go, *that I am well*, and that I owe my restoration, under Divine Providence, solely to the use of Thomsonian medicine; and I hereby give my signature, cheerfully hoping that it may be the means of rescuing some of my fellow beings from pain, disease, and death.

JOEL WRIGHT.

Spencer, (Mass.) August 21, 1833.

Conceiving it to be the duty of every person to do all in his power to relieve the distresses of suffering humanity, I send you the following statement of my case—one of the most distressing complaints, or rather complication of complaints, that any human being ever endured.

At the age of 4 years I was taken sick with the measles, from which time to the age of 17, I never knew a day that I was free from pain or sickness of some kind. At 17 years of age the severe headache, with which I had for years been afflicted, suddenly left me, and a violent humor broke out and I became covered with blotches, which the phy-

sicians termed Scrofula. I was then afflicted with costiveness and bleeding, which, with the medicine I had taken, brought on a severe attack of the Piles. At this time I resided in Malden, where I had the attendance and advice of the first physicians, both there and in the city, all of which afforded me no relief.

The physicians stated I had a stricture in my bowels, and the passage of the body was growing up, and that it was impossible I should ever get well. And if I had followed their advice and prescriptions, I am confident I never should; for the more medicine I took the more pain I felt, and for over two years I had to use injections constantly when I wished any passage through my bowels, and, the humor settling in my eyes, I was for sometime nearly blind. Indeed I was in the most miserable situation that can be imagined, and cannot be described. I was afflicted with Dyspepsia to such a degree, that every morsel of food I swallowed caused the most violent distress, and a continued pain in my side, called by the physicians, Liver Complaint. I received no relief, having had the best physicians, and by them pronounced incurable. At this time, by the persuasion of my friends, and one of my neighbors who had been cured of a distressing complaint by the Thomsonian System of Medicine, I was induced last February to go to the Infirmary in this city, at the corner of Mount Vernon and Charles Streets, where, staying but one week and taking three courses of medicine, my pains all left me. I regained my health, strength, and spirits, and since then have been to New York and Philadelphia, and now enjoy such health as I never in my life before enjoyed. My bowels are now in regular order, which I have not known before for nine years.

For myself, I have always been opposed to every species of quackery, and when I heard of the Thomsonian Medicine, and the dreadful stories about Lobelia and Steam, I considered it quackery of the worst kind, and became strongly prejudiced against it. It was with the utmost difficulty that I could be persuaded to try it. I never can be sufficiently thankful for the relief I have obtained, and it is my earnest wish that every one who reads this statement and is suffering under disease, would give a fair trial to the Thomsonian Medicine; for I feel confident that any medicine which would relieve me, would relieve any disease whatever. If any person would wish to learn the particulars of the case, I should be happy to give it them, by calling at the Infirmary as stated above.

S. SPRAGUE.

Boston, June 21, 1833.

For the last eight years I have worked at Mr. John Doggett's, one of the first looking-glass manufactories in the city, and during five years I was in a constant state of salivation, spitting, relaxation of the joints, and general weakness, owing to the fumes of the mercury which I inhaled while employed in my business. In the spring of 1832 I had a violent attack of *inflammation of the bowels*. After being under the care of Dr. Shattuck five weeks, and not finding my disorder removed by his treatment, as soon as I could muster resolution and strength, I crawled as it were over to Dr. Thompson's; and, after receiving his advice, took one course of medicine that day, returned home the same night, and was enabled to go to my work the next Monday, and work for two weeks, with better health and spirits than I had for five years before. At the end of a fortnight I took another course, which gave me entire relief,

and I have enjoyed better health than I have for eight years previous. I feel full confidence in the Thomsonian System ; I would prefer it in all cases to the old mercurializing system, and would recommend it to every person suffering under disease and who wishes immediate relief.

SAMUEL EDGERLY.

Boston, August 20, 1833.

About three years ago I had an attack of pleurisy fever ; since which time I have never enjoyed good health. Last summer I again had a slight attack of fever, and imprudently using violent exercise too soon after, I grew worse. I lost my appetite, every thing I eat or drank turning sour on my stomach and causing great distress, and deprived of my sleep very often by distressing turns of night-mare. At this time I resided in Newfane, Niagara Co. (N. Y.) where I lingered through the winter, using medicine of several kinds, and occasionally the *blue pill*. But I found that the more medicine I took the worse I felt, and in the spring I determined to go to the sea coast, and go on the salt water for my health. I made one or two trips from New York to Gloucester, which seemed to do me no good. I began to get entirely discouraged of ever again obtaining my health. A gentleman in Gloucester, who had been relieved by the Thomsonian medicines, advised me to try them ; but others, in so many words, told me it was certain death to attempt it. However, I came to Boston, and at last concluded to call and see Dr. Thompson, who gave me encouragement of recovery. I have been with him nearly four weeks. When I first came, I could scarcely walk up stairs without assisting myself with my hands, owing to excessive weakness, having lived chiefly on dyspepsia bread for weeks before. My health is now better than when I was first taken, and I feel confident of perfect recovery. I have a good appetite, and my food nourishes and strengthens me, and I have gained flesh and strength, so much so that this morning, before breakfast, I walked from the Infirmary to the State House, up to the top of the dome, down again and back to the Infirmary, without feeling the least inconvenience from weakness or fatigue, which is considered hard exercise for a man in perfect health. I shall return to Gloucester to day in good health and spirits, attributing my restoration to the Thomsonian System. In proof of my confidence in the medicine, I have purchased a *Family Right*, and shall be enabled in future to doctor myself, and save my money.

NEWTON ALLBRIGHT.

August 2, 1833.

The following statement I wish to make public, for the benefit of those who may be suffering under the same disease of which I have been cured. Last May I was seized with a distressing attack of the pleurisy fever, and having been out of health several years previous, and confined to my room nine weeks with one fever, I had become disgusted with the prescriptions of the Regular Faculty, and having taken some of Thomson's medicines before, which had relieved me, I determined to go to Dr. Thompson's, after I had suffered one week at home. I rode over to the Infirmary the 25th May, and stayed there one week, during which time I took four courses of medicine. After taking the third course my pain was more excruciating than before, but I persevered and took another course, which entirely broke up my disease and perfectly relieved me, and I was enabled in a few days to attend to my work as

usual, and have enjoyed good health ever since: All which I attribute, under the blessing of Providence, solely to the prescriptions and attention of Dr. Thompson, and a faithful use of his medicines.

L. MERRILL.

Concert Hall, Boston, Aug. 21, 1833.

This is to certify, that, for the last eleven years, my health has been very poor; during which time I have had several attacks of fever, one of which lasted me a year. In June, 1832, I was taken sick with the bilious fever, from which I had not recovered when I had a violent attack of Cholera, on the 24th of September following. I immediately sent for a physician, who ordered me an emetic. It operated very hard, causing violent pain and distress, throwing off nothing but a little thin, watery liquid. Immediately after I vomited blood, and continued to do so through the afternoon and evening until my friends, as well as myself, began to be very much alarmed. Continuing to get worse, the next morning my friends in Boston advised me to go to Dr. Thompson's without delay. I hesitated at first, telling them that I could never live through the operation of another emetic, but feeling confident I could live but a short time without relief, I at last consented. I was so weak as to be obliged to be lifted in and out of the carriage. I went in the morning to the Infirmary, took *one course* of medicine, which relieved me of all my distress, and I was enabled to get into the carriage without assistance, and ride home the same evening. In a short time I entirely recovered my health and strength, and have continued well to this date. Last winter, with the exception of two half days, I was enabled to walk every Sunday to Church, a distance of two miles, which I have not done a winter before for eleven years.

ELIZABETH CARYL.

Roxbury, August 20, 1833.

I have been for many years an inhabitant of this city and town, and am now upwards of 75 years of age. Last fall I was taken sick, and having heard of the Thomsonian System of Medicine, I had a wish to give it a trial, but was over-persuaded by my friends and the enemies of the System, to the contrary. Since that time my health has been miserable. I have been afflicted with dyspepsia, loss of appetite, rheumatism, and various other distressing complaints—and this month (March) was confined to my chamber, and could get no rest nor sleep, day or night—when, by the persuasion of a friend that had been cured by the medicine, I was determined to try the Thomsonian medicine at all events. I went to the Infirmary and took one regular course of medicine, occupying five or six hours, when I was immediately relieved, and went to my usual work the second day after; and have never for many years enjoyed that firm health I do at present. I wish to make these facts known, that the public may know where they can be relieved of their complaints as soon as I was. Several of my friends witnessed the operation of the medicine, and are as well satisfied as myself, that the Thomsonian System of Medicine is the only sure and effectual remedy for diseases ever discovered.

If any of the regular physicians of this city or State, wish any information upon this case, I shall be happy to give it to them, if they will call at my place of business, No. 22 Federal Street.

S. ADAMS.

Boston, May 30, 1833.

DR. BENJ. THOMPSON, SIR,—Having been informed that you were about to publish a pamphlet and insert a few, and but a few certificates, I wish to be one of that few, as I am and have always been on the side of reform, and more especially in this case, as it has a direct influence on the happiness and life of every one who has candor and courage sufficient to investigate and put to the test, those powerful yet congenial medicines discovered by Dr. Samuel Thomson, and which have been used with such unparalleled success, both by him and his agents, as to constrain several eminent physicians, by a sense of moral goodness, to espouse the cause, and give up the use of poisons and that rotten and decayed system which they had studied for years.

My case could not be styled one of the first magnitude, although my health was quite impaired, and I was not able to work constantly for some years, having what is fashionably termed Dyspepsia. I came to the Infirmary, staid eight days, took one course of medicine, was completely relieved, bought a Family Right, and with the use of the medicine have enjoyed much better health than formerly. I have an agency, and have set up the business in the town of Leicester and have had very good success, having had fifty patients and not lost one; and this success is the greater, as many of them were given over as incurable. If you think the above worth a place in your pamphlet, you are at liberty to publish it with my name. Yours, &c. ASA MCCOLLUM.

Leicester, August 27, 1833.

This may certify, that I, Jonathan Warren, of the town of Leicester, Mass. of the age of 61 years, having been for a number of years in a declining state of health, and in the constant habit of applying to the regular physicians for help, and finding none—some of them called my complaint consumption, others said dyspepsia, and others, liver complaint—my friends advised me to go to Boston, and take the advice of Dr. Jackson; 'for,' said they, 'he knows more than all our doctors here.' In the month of April, 1832, I started from home. After a hard journey I arrived at Boston, being in a weak state both in body and mind, having lived chiefly on dyspepsia bread for some months previous. I called at the toll house and made some inquiry for the greatest Doctor in Boston. The good man told me that Doctors Warren, and Jackson, were great Doctors, 'but,' said he, 'Doctor Samuel Thomson is greater than any other, for he is Nature's Doctor.' I took up with his advice, and went to the Infirmary, and have never repented of my decision. I staid at the Infirmary eleven days, took two courses of medicine, and returned home. My health since the above date has been good, generally speaking, so that I am capable of carrying on my business as formerly. I bought a Family Right, and have had no other medicine in my family but Thomsonian since the above date; and my faith in this mode of practice grows stronger and stronger every day; and I should be happy in waiting on any person, and giving information respecting the Thomsonian mode of practice, that has suffered as much as I have.

JONATHAN WARREN.

Leicester, August 27, 1833.

We the undersigned, boarders and patients at Dr. Thompson's Infirmary, certify that on the 13th of August, a lady was brought by her friends, in a most distressing and deplorable state of mental derange-

ment, having had no rest or sleep for several days and nights previous. On the 14th she took a course of medicine, which greatly relieved her. On the 16th she took another course, retired the same night to rest, and slept comfortably all night without any watchers, which she had been obliged to have every night before. On the morning of the 17th she awoke with her reason entirely restored, so that she was enabled to receive and converse with her friends as well as any other person. The next week she took two courses more, which restored her to her appetite, and she gained flesh and strength, and remains perfectly well at this time.

CYRUS WINKLEY.

LYDIA FELTON, 652 *Washington Street*.

LUCY SMITH, *Haverhill, (Mass.)*

ANN HOWATH, *Andover, (Mass.)*

CHARLES GARDNER, *Fall River, (R. I.)*

Boston, August 29, 1833.

* * * The name of the above mentioned lady is not given, from motives of delicacy; but should any person have a friend in the same situation, and should wish to have any further information, they can have direct reference by applying at the Infirmary, or at Mrs. Ruth Caryl's, No. 107 Pleasant Street.

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT TO DR. SAMUEL THOMSON.

THOMSON, great master of the healing art,
'Tis thine to turn aside Death's pointed dart;
'Tis thine to keep the victim from the tomb,
And bid health's roses on the cheek to bloom.
From various weeds thou can'st extract a charm
To arrest a fever and its rage disarm,
While every tree, shrub, plant or flower,
Becomes an antidote of sovereign power,
Which bids life's ebbing tide anew to flow,
Suffused with health's reanimating glow.
'Tis thine to light life's sinking fire again,
And from fell sickness free the human frame.
'Tis thine to smoothe the rugged brow of care,
And charm to hope the ravings of despair.
Yet base Ingratitude would pierce thy heart,
And haggard ENVY points her venom'd dart,
While Courts and Lodges, Churches, all combine,
To slander thee with falsehood most malign.
But though Injustice, Malice, Spite and Pride,
To injure thee their various powers have tried,
Yet thou shalt triumph—rise superior still,
While future ages shall proclaim thy skill.
To thee, dear friend, more gratitude I owe,
Than feeble language has the power to show;
But yet accept this tribute from the heart,
More than my pen or words can e'er impart.
In vain I strive, in these unpolished lays,
To speak thy worth, thy matchless skill to praise;
For thou, a guardian angel, came to save
A struggling victim from the silent grave;
For sickness, pale, her sable gloom had spread,
And with her dusky mantle wrapped my head.
Thy skill I'll praise e'en with my latest breath,
Nor cease till silenced by the hand of Death.
May thou through life that sweet contentment find—
The sterling pleasure of a virtuous mind;
Calmly behold thy gathering years increase,
And life's last sun drop gently down in peace.
Still to thy labors may success be given,
With joy on earth, and endless bliss in heaven.
That through thy life thou mayest prosperous be,
Sincerely prays thy ardent friend, B. T.