

## **[Controversy with Dr. John Eberle].**

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Webster (Jas.)

[Controversy with Dr. Eberle]

### A CARD.

During the last winter, Dr. John Eberle published a certain pamphlet, to which it became necessary for me to reply, which I did immediately on its appearance. From some cause, best known to the doctor and his "*coadjutors*," his pamphlet was suppressed, at least in this city, and I was informed by some of his friends, that it would not be circulated in the country; in consequence of which I declined extensively circulating my reply, whilst at the same time I resolved to watch the doctor and his *satellites* in their future movements, and if I found them taking any advantage of me, to follow them up closely.

It has been made known to me that Eberle's pamphlet is not only circulating through the country, but that certain *tools* of the company are busily employed in making false representations, &c. to injure me, and the circulation of the Medical Recorder; in some instances I have heard of publications having appeared in newspapers in the interior of the state, presuming, I suppose, that I should never hear of them, and thus be deprived of an opportunity of replying to them. One of these pitiful productions I understand was published in a paper at Lebanon, Pa. the author of which is no doubt an apt scholar of his *unprincipled employers*, and like them, disappointed in their late unsuccessful attempt to get the Journal under their own control, to make it a vehicle to *puff themselves*, to report *cases, successful operations*, &c. which never existed except in their own *corrupt brains*.

In consequence of the above, therefore, I am induced to send with this, my reply to Dr. Eberle. I pledge myself for the truth of every word therein stated; also for any statements published in the Medical Recorder. What has been stated was called for in the cause of science and humanity, by pointing out errors, false statements, and the impropriety of admitting unfit persons to take charge of the lives of our fellow beings.

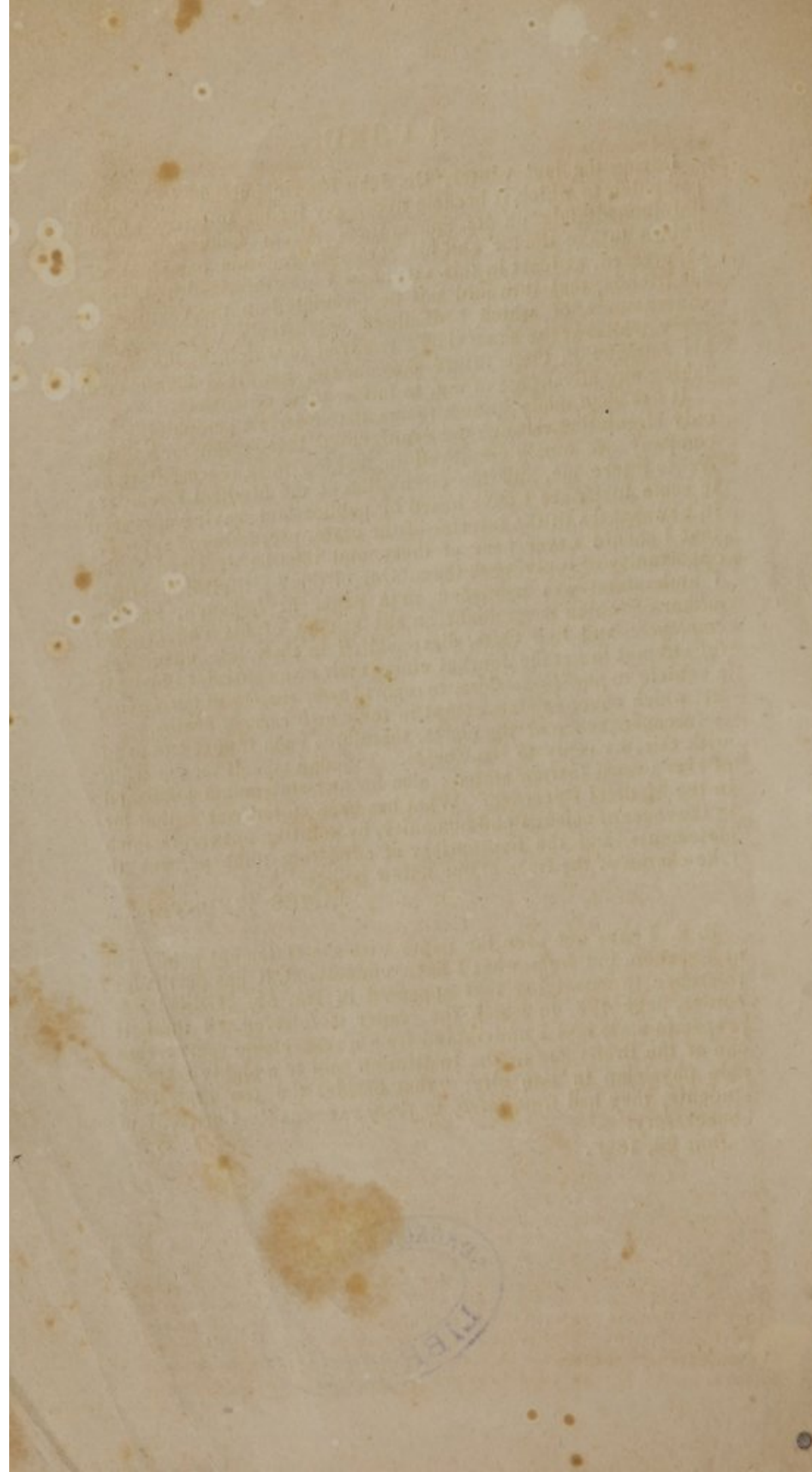
JAMES WEBSTER.

P. S. I have not seen the paper with the statement published at Lebanon, but from what I have understood, it has particular reference to something that appeared in No. 38, Medical Recorder, page 495, to which the reader is referred. I think it proper to state that I understand from a respectable source, that one of the Professors in the Institution said to a highly respectable physician in this city, "that besides the ten gratuitous students, they had from *thirty to forty* PAUPERS." Comment is unnecessary.

J. W.

June 22, 1827.







## A REPLY TO DR. EBERLE.

FROM the dishonorable and ungentlemanly conduct pursued by DR. EBERLE, towards myself and family, I had almost made up my mind not to notice any thing that might emanate from this "Prodigious" Professor!!! But from the manner in which he has brought me forward, in an abortive little Pamphlet, setting forth to be a "Reply" to a statement made by DR. BEATTIE; also for the dishonorable and false representations he is making, and the manner in which they are retailed by his *Satellites*, I have condescended to notice him; in doing which, I will confine myself strictly to Truth, which I flatter myself will be satisfactory to every candid mind; to others it is of no importance, they will be treated with contempt, as I shall not consider myself bound to notice every Goose that may choose to hiss.

In going through my narrative it will be necessary to bring into view a number of persons: where I can avoid mentioning names, I will; but there are several I must make use of, at full length, to do justice to my subject; amongst them will appear in a conspicuous light the "Coadjutor" of DR. EBERLE,—DR. M'CLELLAN. References will be made to MR. HANNA: I have not seen MR. H. on the subject of this Publication; some of the circumstances referred to I have in MR. HANNA's own hand writing, and others I have no doubt he will recollect well. I disclaim all pretensions to style &c. in writing, therefore, I trust I shall be excused for all the blunders I may fall into on that score; my aim is to write in as condensed a manner as possible so as to be understood.

Not having the least disposition to misrepresent DR. EBERLE, I give his own words: (vide his pamphlet page 8:) "As he has falsely asserted both in BEATTIE's pamphlet and elsewhere, that I was removed from the Editorship of the Recorder, I will merely observe, that I have his own letters, as well as copies of mine to show, that I withdrew from the Work in utter disgust at MR. W." By the above it will be seen that I am misrepresented; I say in my letter to DR. BEATTIE which is published in his statement, that the conduct of DR. EBERLE in relation to DR. D. laid the foundation for his own final removal from the Editorship of the Medical Recorder. I have held the same language with sundry persons, and that I said the truth, will appear, notwithstanding the Doctor says, "he left the Recorder in disgust at my conduct." After the affair with DR. D.—I made up my mind and said to my family, that if I ever caught DR. EBERLE acting in a similar dishonorable manner again, he should leave the Journal; but that I would endeavour to do it in such a way, as not to have an open quarrel with him if possible. I have been asked, why I did not at once remove DR. EBERLE for his base conduct to DR. D.—to this I answer, I had a contract with him to publish a Book, and wishing to let the Doctor see that I was an "Honest Fellow" and disposed to make good my engagements, I retained him. While on the subject of the Book I think it proper to make a few remarks: certainly I do not wish to take from the Doctor any credit that he may deserve as the Author of that work, but I do think I am entitled to the credit of its being written at all, quite as much as him;—it was I that suggested it, and made an offer before a line was written. The Doctor not having books, as he frankly confessed, to compile the work from, he undertook it solely at my request, on condition that I would furnish him the necessary books &c.; which I did. I have DR. E's. letter to prove this.

In the winter of 1822 and 1823 commenced the Campaign for a new Medical School. The promoters of it no doubt thought if they could get the control of the Medical Recorder it would be of vast advantage to them: EBERLE and M'CLELLAN being well aware of the difficulty of bringing me into their views, commenced a plan of manœuvring, by which they were finally caught in their own net. The plan resorted to was this: DR. EBERLE, in conversation with MR. HANNA, hinted, that unless I agreed, or made certain arrangements respecting the work, he intended to leave it; DR. M'CLELLAN also in conversation with MR. HANNA, talked in a similar manner as EBERLE, and added, "in case DR. EBERLE left the work, it would be worth nothing." (Since DR. EBERLE's removal the subscription has increased nearly one third; so much for DR. M'CLELLAN's opinion). All this no doubt was intended to be communicated to me, and held out as a threat to induce me to comply with any demand they might make. (But



Dr. M'CLELLAN's conduct in regard to Doctors G. and M. were too fresh in my memory to have any thing to do with him.) From the conversations had with Mr. HANNA, and what I had heard hinted at by themselves, determined me now to send them both adrift.\*

Just at this stage of the business a circumstance occurred, that gave me an opportunity of bringing the business to a close. It was this circumstance which I am about to mention, that gave Dr. EBERLE much displeasure and "disgust" at my conduct. O Doctor! for shame to use such an expression for such a cause! I will venture to say there is not a charitable person in existence but will approve of the course I pursued.

A respectable physician in the country, sent to me a poor man, labouring under a disease of the eye, with a request, that I would get him into some charitable Institution, under the direction of a skilful surgeon, for the purpose of undergoing an operation. I got him into the Alms-House, where I knew he would not only be well taken care of, but that he would be under the management of skilful surgeons. For doing this, I incurred the displeasure of Dr. EBERLE, because, as he said to Mr. HANNA, "I ought to have given the patient to Dr. M'CLELLAN; and in not doing so, I had shown much ill will, opposition &c." The fact is, had I known that Dr. M'CLELLAN had a suitable place to take this poor man to, where he would have been taken care of, free of expence, (which he had not,) I was too well aware of the necessity of putting him under the care of some more *cautious* surgeon. Learning that Dr. EBERLE talked much about this affair, and blamed me much, I determined to write him a note in such a manner as would bring a reply that, in all probability, would cause his final removal from the Medical Recorder: that this was the case, will be seen from the following extracts of letters:

*J. W. to Dr. E. 21st April, 1823.*

"From some circumstances and conversations which have of late taken place, I am induced to think you may have in some measure changed your views in regard to the Medical Recorder.

In all my transactions with you I am confident of always having acted with honesty and candour."

J. W.

*Dr. E to J. W. 22nd April, 1823.*

"I am fully persuaded that you have always acted with honesty and candour towards me. I accuse you of no dereliction of duty towards me.

With regard to the Medical Recorder, I have made up my mind to discontinue editing it after the present year. I have several just reasons for this determination. I see very plainly that my permanent interest lies in the cultivation of my practical professional duties.†

I shall endeavour to make the two succeeding numbers as good as it

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\* I understood that the Professors in the University were to be attacked, and shown, if not all, most of them were incompetent, &c. See certain papers published in the Columbian Observer, a Newspaper of the day, abusing all the Professors of the University, even him who deservedly stands as the Hunter of America, is shamefully attacked. I by no means say that these papers were written by Messrs. EBERLE and M'CLELLAN, but I feel confident that they were intended to have been published in the Medical Recorder.

† By this it would appear, that the Doctor pretended the work interfered with his practice. Not so: this was done, thinking it would bring a proposition from me, and that he would have an opportunity of making his own terms, and bring in his friend Dr. M'CLELLAN. This will appear more forcible, by their having commenced another Journal, after they had been defeated in their plans to get the Recorder. Perhaps it may not be out of place, to say a few words on the subject of the Journal they commenced in opposition, (which is now dead,) agreeable to what its late Publisher says he was induced to undertake its publication, from statements and representations made by Drs. EBERLE and M'CLELLAN, which he afterwards found not to be true; and that he had sunk a large sum of money. It is said, suits will be brought for the losses sustained.



is in my power; nor do I intend to withdraw from it, my occasional assistance subsequently."

Dr. E.

The Doctor must have been very much *disgusted* at my conduct, when he wrote this.

In this letter Dr. EBERLE also mentions the subject of my taking the patient to the Alms-House, instead of taking him to Dr. M'CLELLAN.

I answered this letter on the 23rd, and stated my surprise that he should have taken up a subject concerning another person. I also wrote in the same letter as follows:

"Yours of yesterday is before me, and note its contents, as it regards the Medical Recorder, I assure you I have never wished you to remain its Editor longer than you might find it to be to your advantage, neither do I wish your withdrawing, to weaken in the least the friendship subsisting between us."

J. W.

On the same evening I received an answer from which the following is an extract: "As to your deeds of opposition, (meaning to M'CLELLAN,) I refer you to the Eye patient, whom you took to the Alms House." Considering that Dr. EBERLE had done me injustice, I wrote him of date 25th and said, "I was willing to lay the affair about the Eye patient before any impartial person, and if it appeared that I had acted incorrectly I would give satisfaction." Dr. EBERLE knowing this course would not answer, declined answering me. I wrote to him again on the 28th requesting an immediate reply, and received a note from the Doctor the same day, wherein he said, "he would have nothing more to do with the subject." This no doubt he thought prudent and was willing to let the affair drop: Not so with me. I then addressed another note to the Doctor, which left him no alternative in relation to the Journal but the one he pursued, as will be seen from the following extract of my letter: "It would appear from your letter of the 22nd, that your Editing the American Medical Recorder is a disadvantage to you, and that you intend to discontinue it after the present year. In reply I said, I never wished you to remain longer than you might find it to your advantage. I now repeat it with this addition, that although the understanding between us is, that you edit for this year, yet rather than it should be the least injury to you, I will exonerate you from any obligation you may consider yourself under on that score. You are therefore at perfect liberty to discontinue now, if you please; and in fact I think it would be as well to be so."

Every one that reads this extract must say, that it was a genteel way of saying, *you may retire, or you will be dismissed*: and that the Doctor viewed it in this light is evident from the following extract:

*Dr. E. to J. W. 30th April, 1823.*

"I did intend to edit the Recorder, according to our agreement, to the end of this year; as you are good enough, however, to exonerate me from completing this volume, I do relinquish it."

It will be recollected that I have said, I had no wish to quarrel with the Doctor, and as a proof of this, I was unwell and called him in as my Physician and paid him a Medical Bill. After this affair we frequently met as friends, he called on me, and I called on him: at one of our interviews, the subject of the Recorder was mentioned, and from the manner in which the Doctor spoke, I observed, perhaps he might have the work again with another Editor, and mentioned Dr. C.—here the subject dropped. In a day or two after, the Doctor wrote me, from which the following is an extract:

*Dr. E. to J. W. 15th May, 1823.*

"I have made up my mind, that if you will connect with me Dr. M'CLELLAN, and divide between us \$300 in money and \$200 in books, I will go on."

To which I replied, "that I would have nothing whatever to do with Dr. M'CLELLAN, therefore the affair must end." And to this I received the following reply.

*Dr. E. to J. W. 15th May, 1823.*

"The proposition I made this morning was not of a selfish character, I



am not in the least concerned therefore at its rejection.—There is no other man than Dr. M'CLELLAN with whom I will associate."

The Public have now before them the facts in this business, from which they will of course draw their own conclusions; but I would beg leave to observe, is it likely that Dr. EBERLE would have offered to come back, if as he says he was in such "Utter Disgust?" Comment is unnecessary.

The notes of Dr. EBERLE to which I have referred and made extracts from, I have in my possession, and will show them to any person who may wish to see them, also copies of my notes to him.

Were I disposed to dwell on the various circumstances in relation to Dr. EBERLE, within my own knowledge, they would indeed "present a most melancholy picture of depraved human nature." I will only point out a few of the most prominent.

1. Ingratitude for favours rendered to himself and Family.
2. Of offering an insult in his own house, to one of my family, when asked to answer a question on a subject, respecting which, he alone had it in his power to tell the truth; but in doing which, he was well aware that it would no doubt, have involved his Friend Dr. G. M'CLELLAN.
3. Of his bringing a claim against me, long after I had paid, and taken his receipt in full of all demands. This claim was brought on a summons before Mr. BADGER; to this account Dr. EBERLE swore as not having received any part of it, when it was clearly proved to the satisfaction of Mr. BADGER the same had been paid, and he accordingly gave judgment in my favour: in this affair, Dr. M'CLELLAN appeared as evidence in support of the claim. The fact is that the Doctor had received from me nearly double the amount of what he claimed.
4. Of his having said that although I had paid him, it was in some and many instances, in money that was 18 per cent. below par. This is untrue; in some instances I gave him my notes, but I paid them every cent in good money, some of the notes went into the hands of his friend Mr. EVANS, and for what I know, might have been shaved, but in that case they were none of my concern.

I now take up the subject of the letters, and Dr. EBERLE's miserable attempt to clear himself of this dishonorable and deceitful transaction. I am at a loss to account for his blindness, in not seeing the gulf he has prepared for himself. It will be recollected by every one who has read Dr. EBERLE's pamphlet, page 4, that he acknowledges having written the following to Dr. D.—"I regret that REVERE and PATTISON have withdrawn from the Recorder. I am not afraid, however, but that you and I will be able fully to carry on the work with quite as much ability as it has hitherto been done. *There is no one with whom I would sooner conduct a journal than yourself; and I am perfectly satisfied that we, and we alone, should edit the Recorder.*" It will also be recollected that he says he wrote the same, in answer to Dr. D's. letter of the 28th July 1821. He also says at this time that "Dr. D's. conduct towards him was always gentlemanly and friendly." Now compare this with the following extract:

*Dr. E. to J. W. 31st. July 1821.*

"I would rather have the sole Editorship, provided I have a few names associated with mine as contributors. D. is, I find, wanting in judgment. He has made some lamentable faux-pas lately. However I do not know how you can well get rid of him."

It will be seen by the above that the Doctor must, agreeable to his own statement, have written to me and Dr. D. if not on the same day, within one or two days of each other. I think every one will be ready to exclaim with me, O Doctor! "thine own mouth condemneth thee and not I." But I will show that Dr. EBERLE must have been engaged in a plan to remove Dr. D. in May 1821. In this month P. of Baltimore was in Philadelphia and from a conversation between him and EBERLE, overheard on board the steam boat, I have no doubt it was then fixed that Dr. D. should be removed. P. observed, "say nothing until you hear from me." Mr. HANNA will no doubt recollect this circumstance. Soon after P. returned to Baltimore he wrote a letter to Dr. EBERLE, which letter no doubt was



intended to be handed to me, thinking it would be the means of doing the business to their satisfaction. It was handed to me. I annex a copy of it, and let it speak for itself.\*

Baltimore, June 5, 1821.

My Dear Friend,

I have for a considerable time past intended to address you on the subject of the *Recorder*, and you will believe me when I inform you, that no person can feel a more lively interest in the success of that Publication than myself. I feel interested on account of Mr. WEBSTER, and because it is, and has ever since you were engaged in its management, been a liberal, scientific, and independent Journal. Having said this much, I trust what I shall add will be understood in its true spirit. If Dr. REVERE and yourself continue in the editorial department, there can be no doubt but that the reputation of the work will increase every number. It will become the standard Periodical Medical Publication of this country; and will be alike valuable, as it will tend to increase the emoluments of its Publisher, and the literary and scientific character of all those who are its acknowledged supporters. I am however of opinion, that if either Dr. REVERE or yourself should retire from the work, that its character will immediately sink; and that so far from its being honorable to be connected with it, that it will be quite the reverse.† I am myself so completely occupied with the duties of my profession, and the interests of the University, that I find it will be impossible for me to devote that time and attention to the Journal which would be required to support its reputation, provided either REVERE or yourself were deserting it. But at the same time, I have so much confidence in the abilities of you both, that if it were considered that my name remaining as an editor would be of advantage to the work, I would have no objection to remain nominally an editor. I am fully acquainted with Dr. REVERE's sentiments; he is determined to retire from the Journal after the publication of the July No. provided he is not fairly remunerated for his services. If Mr. WEBSTER pays him a regular salary, he will not only continue, but, it being made an object, he will devote a much larger proportion of his time and attention to the work than he has heretofore done; in fact, I am confident, that by his and your increased exertions, the work will be soon second to none in the world. My idea is, that Mr. WEBSTER can, and ought to appropriate one thousand dollars per annum, as a salary for the two active editors. I say *two active editors*, for I consider two who devote their attention to the work quite sufficient, that REVERE and yourself have \$500 per annum, each. I shall give you my name and what services I can spare with pleasure *gratis*, provided this arrangement is made. If not, I shall most certainly be under the necessity of withdrawing my name after the publication of the next number. In a letter it is impossible to explain my sentiments as fully as I could desire, but I should hope that you will see from what I have written, that what I wish accomplished is for Mr. WEBSTER's interest. He cannot expect that I should continue my name to a publication, unless I had the most unlimited confidence in the talents of its active editors. There are not any two men in this country, REVERE and yourself excepted, with whom I would trust my reputation.

Your sincere Friend,

TO DR. EBERLE.

GRANVILLE SHARP PATTISON.

Not one word is said about Dr. D. No, had they gained their ends Dr. D. was to be turned adrift, even without any notice. At this time my eyes which had been blinded by these men became open, so as to see clearly the object they had in view, in consequence of which I immediately dismissed both P. and REVERE from the Journal. Dr. EBERLE now

\* I have been informed from respectable authority, that Dr. E. says I have no right to make use of this letter. The fact is I have Dr. E's. own hand writing giving me permission to make use of it.

† The subscription has increased more than double since the above was written.



like a cunning fox doubled, and to screen himself, laid all the blame on P. and REVERE. At the time I believed him, or he would have shared the same fate as P. and R. However, I soon found from a conversation with P. and the friends of DR. R. that EBERLE was quite as deep in the 'mud' as they were in the 'mire.' I then wrote DR. EBERLE, informing him of what I had heard, and received a reply. The following is an extract from it:

"I am quite astonished to hear that DRs. REVERE and PATTISON are likely to saddle me with the blame of their late foolish withdrawal from (the Doctor ought to have said their dismissal, for that was the fact,) the Recorder; if they have any letters to that effect I desire that they produce them." The Doctor knew it was not written in the bond and signed by himself, therefore he prudently thought it would be his interest to deny it. But the fact is, the arrangement was made in May as above-mentioned, preceding the letter from P. After this affair had settled down, I considered if more talent were united with the work it would be to its advantage, and proposed to endeavour to unite the interest of two of the most respectable Medical gentlemen in our country, viz. DR. H. and DR. M. but was opposed by DR. EBERLE on the ground of their not being competent, &c. MR. HANNA will recollect what was said about Dr. M., and DR. EBERLE's letter to me, from which the following is an extract, will show DR. E's. opinion of DR. H.: "I have not spoken to DR. H. because I really do not think him a person well calculated to add either to the reputation, or usefulness of a work. He hardly ever writes and when he does write he is not very interesting." What are we to think of a man who will thus speak of one of the most distinguished physicians in our country! By DR. EBERLE's remarks, page 4 and 5 of his pamphlet, it would appear that he was afraid of "injuring his reputation as an Editor," by publishing severe reviews. This leads me to inquire what was the policy adopted by himself in the discharge of his Editorial functions. It will be found that his own writings, to say nothing of his *particular* friends, were almost invariably characterized by their malignity, and by the display of the darker passions which prompted them. For the truth of this permit me to call the attention of the reader to the Medical Recorder, vol. 4, page 172. See him again in company with DR. M'CLELLAN in the same work Vol. 5, page 339, 585. See him again in the *first number*, page 127, *Medical Review*, a work which received its birth and death from Drs. Eberle and M'Clellan. Many more instances, might be pointed out, to show the "impetuous temper, harsh censures, and intemperate violence" of DR. EBERLE, such that never did, and I trust, never will find a place in the breast of DR. D. Viewing all the circumstances connected with DR. EBERLE's conducting the Recorder, brings to my mind a remark made by a highly respectable Medical gentleman, he observed speaking of DR. EBERLE and the Recorder, that "*he sat like an amusing little incubus on its pages, an evil omen to the city, a tragedy to himself, and a comedy to the Medical World.*"

The last Item I will refer to, to show that DR. EBERLE will write and talk either way, as his interest or inclination may lead him, is, that DRs. EBERLE and M'CLELLAN, in 1822, said, "they had become so disgusted with PATTISON, that if he came to Philadelphia they would both leave the City, or in other words get out of the way, so as not to see him, &c." MR. HANNA will recollect this. In a letter I received from DR. EBERLE, is the following extract:

*Dr. E. to J. W. 31st January, 1822.*

"Surely PATTISON is a most selfish and vain man, he will go down as sure as he exists; his friends (of course meaning M'CLELLAN) here think so; I think so, and I am sincerely sorry that I am obliged to do so." Now compare the above with letters said to be written by EBERLE and M'CLELLAN, giving the most exalted character of PATTISON, published in GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, to answer some purpose.

A remark I heard made by an eminent Gentleman of the Bar, a few days ago, struck me as being very applicable to DRs. EBERLE and M'CLELLAN. In speaking of two persons acting as one and the same; he observed, "They are like a well with two buckets, when one is up the other is



down." Previous to writing this reply, I called on several of Dr EBERLE's friends, (among them on Dr. B.) and requested them to inform Dr. EBERLE, that if he would furnish me with his Pamphlet, I would have it stitched up with my reply, (so as to give his precious production every advantage,) I understand from Dr. B. that Dr. E. wisely declines this offer. Several persons have been very active in distributing Dr. EBERLE's Pamphlet; such as do not wish to be ranked among the satellites of Dr. EBERLE & Co. will please to give this reply in the same manner; they will be furnished by applying at the Office of the Medical Recorder.

Phila. Dec. 1826.

JAMES WEBSTER.

P. S. I have received the following letter from Dr. D. and publish it without remark.

Norfolk Va. November 28th 1826.

DEAR SIR,

I have this moment received your letter of 24th inst. accompanying a copy of Dr. Eberle's answer to that part of Dr. Beattie's Pamphlet, in which my concerns with the Editorial department of the Recorder in 1821, are introduced. It gives me great pain, that I have thus reluctantly, and unadvisedly, and *without my consent or knowledge*, been dragged before the public in this unpleasant business. As you are about to make a statement of the matter, in reply to Dr. Eberle's Pamphlet, and ask "my sentiments of the manner in which I would have you notice the remarks Dr. Eberle makes on me," I must beg you as a favour, to publish this letter *exactly as it is*. It does not comport with the sacred office I sustain, and, I assure you, it is no less revolting to my feelings, and contrary to my determination, to be engaged in any thing like disputes of any description, with any person. But I think it absolutely necessary to offer a few remarks in the present case, sincerely disclaiming any unkind feelings, or any controversial designs, in what I am about to write. Dr. Eberle apologizes in the conclusion of his Pamphlet, (p. 8.) for thus exhibiting extracts from my private correspondence with him, upon the ground, that I have "suffered my name to be used, and furnished his enemies with extracts from his letters, and, as he believes, with a knowledge of the purposes to which they were to be applied." As this declaration is really calculated to present me in no favourable light to his readers, I very much regret that it should have been made, and made upon *mere suspicion and conjecture*; and that I am thereby reduced to the necessity of assuming the attitude of contradiction, and of positively declaring, that I never "*suffered* my name to be used" in relation to this affair;—that I never furnished a living soul, friend or enemy to Dr. E. with any extract from his letters; (except in my letter to you of the 29 Nov. 1821;) and that, so far from assisting, by furnishing any materials whatever, in the publication of Dr Beattie's statement, *I had no knowledge that such a publication was even designed*. My consent that my name or the documents referred to, might be published, was never asked, and *never given*! If you will turn to Dr. Beattie's Pamphlet (p. 25,) you will find, that in my letter to him, dated 22d of July last, in answer to a previous one of his, requesting from me, a full and circumstantial account of Dr John Eberle's conduct, (and my own views of it,) towards myself, in relation to the editorship of the Medical Recorder, I informed him that "I would not refuse to *confide* to him the facts," but that "not having the documents and letters at hand from which alone I could procure the information he wished," and being unwilling "to trust to memory" in such a matter, I could give him no statement on the subject; nor have I ever done so at any time since. The extracts of Dr. Eberle's letters, were all, except one, extracts of letters to *yourself*; and were avowedly furnished to Dr. Beattie by *you*, as it appears from your letter to him of 5th of August last. (see p. 26 of Dr. B's. statement.) The only extract from any of Dr. Eberle's letters to *me*, is the one which is contained in my letter to you of 29, Nov. 1821 (*five years ago*!) and which I enclosed to you, with friendly and conciliatory views, and at a time when certainly no controversy of this kind could have been anticipated. It appears too, from your letter above referred to, that this extract also was furnished to Dr. Beattie, not by *me*, but by *yourself*. How could Dr. E. fail to observe this when he read the pamphlet? I have thus I think, clearly vindicated myself from the charge, so inadvertently made, of having



consented to the appearance of my name in Dr. Beattie's pamphlet, and of having furnished to him extracts of Dr. Eberle's letters to me. I repeat it, the suspicion is entirely unfounded; and the accusation, calculated as it is to wound my feelings, and to injure me in my present professional relations, appears to me somewhat unkind from Dr. E. towards one whose "conduct," he himself honourably acknowledges, "was always gentlemanly and friendly" towards him. (See p. 4, of Dr. Eberle's "Reply, &c.")

Pressed as I am, at this moment, for time, and suffering as I am under an afflictive family bereavement, I can permit myself to say very little more. I feel myself constrained to say, however, in answer to your urgent inquiry, that Dr. Eberle's letter to me, referred to in mine to you of Nov. 29th. 1821, in which he says, "there is *no one* with whom I would sooner conduct a journal than yourself, and I am *perfectly* satisfied that we, and we *alone*, should edit the Recorder," was written and received, but a *very short time*, (I think confidently, only a few days,) before the date of mine to you; and not as the Dr. seems to believe, some months before, in answer to my letter to him of July 28th. 1821. I am perfectly *certain*, that it was dated *after* the little editorial disagreement which took place in August of that year, and *after* my letter to him dated Oct. 2, 1821. (See Dr. E's pamphlet p. 7, line 4.) As the letter in question is not at hand, but is among some of my papers in New York, I cannot, at present, verify its date, and thus correct the mistake which Dr. E. has made; but if necessary, it can very readily be done hereafter. It was evidently written after the misunderstanding between us had been laid aside, and in the moment of returning kindly feeling on the part of Dr. Eberle. How it is possible, that so friendly and flattering a letter could have been written in answer to mine of 28th of July 1821, when on the very day of its receipt, (see p. 1. line 21 of Dr. E's. "Reply.") his letter to you of July 31st. 1821, was of so different a character? Surely, it could not have been at the same time, or so nearly together, that these opposite letters were written. But I have said enough on this point; and much more than I could wish. The date of the letter, which I shall endeavour as soon as possible, to ascertain, will show us immediately where the error lies. There is one more topic upon which I beg you to indulge me in a very few remarks. As to the occasional harshness of my editorial censures, to which Dr. E. refers, I have no hesitation in acknowledging, that, in a few of my contributions, (I trust it was the case with only a *few*, perhaps two or three,) there was a severity of denunciation, and a personality of remark, which I now very much regret; and which even the high excitement of controversy, and the provocations which I then thought I had received, do not *now* justify to my mind. It is a source of painful retrospection;—and I am glad that the opportunity now offers of acknowledging my error, and of thus making some slight reparation to those upon whom this editorial severity was inflicted. I can say in extenuation of my offence, however, if it admit of any, that the *example* of editorial moderation had not been set me by my elder colleagues, although some of them were certainly kind enough to favour me with their *advice* on the subject.

I must again disavow all unkind feelings towards any one, in the remarks which I have made; and all inclination to engage in controversy. I cannot, and I will not, enter into any disputes. I therefore, hope, that in the reply which you may make, (pardon me, for thus freely obtruding unsolicited advice,) while your remarks may be of such a nature as may tend to the speedy removal of existing strifes, you will be as reserved as possible in the introduction of my name or my affairs. I sincerely hope that nothing may be published respecting me, but *this letter only*. I entertain no sense of injury in relation to any thing that has occurred; and I beg you distinctly to understand, and fairly to assert this. You will do me the justice to say, I think, that I have never complained, as though I felt myself injured by any one connected with the Recorder; or spoken as though I harboured feelings of resentment in my bosom. As it regards yourself, I take occasion again to declare, that I never received from you any treatment that was not honourable, and generous and friendly.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours, respectfully,

TO JAS. WEBSTER.

H. W. D.

