

A letter to the Right Honourable Earl Fitzwilliam ... respecting the investigation which has lately taken place, into the abuses at the York Lunatic Asylum / by Godfrey Higgins. Together with various letters, reports, &c.; and the new code of regulations for its future management.

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A
LETTER

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
EARL FITZWILLIAM,

Lord Lieutenant of the West-Riding of the County of York, &c. &c.

RESPECTING THE
INVESTIGATION
WHICH HAS LATELY TAKEN PLACE,

INTO THE
ABUSES
AT THE
YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

BY
GODFREY HIGGINS, Esq.
Acting Magistrate for the West-Riding of the County of York.

TOGETHER WITH
VARIOUS LETTERS, REPORTS, &c.
AND THE
New Code of Regulations for its future Management.

DONCASTER:
PRINTED AND SOLD BY W. SHEARDOWN, HIGH-STREET.
SOLD ALSO BY F. C. AND J. RIVINGTON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD; LONGMAN,
HURST, REES, AND ORME, PATERNOSTER-ROW, LONDON; AND TODD, YORK.

1814.

A
LETTER

TO THE

HONOURABLE

MR. FITZWILLIAM

OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

RESPECTING THE

INVESTIGATION

OF THE LATELY TAKEN PRISON

IN THE

ABUSES

IN THE

MANAGEMENT OF THE

PRISON

BY

GEORGE NICHOLS, ESQ.

OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

IN A

REPORT

TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

AND THE

HOUSE OF LORDS

IN THE

MONTH OF JANUARY 1844

1844

UNIVERSITY
OF LEEDS
BROTHERTON

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ERRATA.

- In page 2, the quotation from Sir W. Jones ought to stand in italics.
"Where low-brow'd baseness wafts perfume to pride."
Page 6 line 10 from the bottom, for distinguished read distinguish.
Page 7 line 9 for the thong read those.
Page 9 line 16 from the bottom for in read a.
Page 10 line 22 for majory read majority.
Page 11 line 15 for scarce read scarcely.
Page 16 line 3 for was read were.

A

LETTER

TO THE

RIGHT HON. EARL FITZWILLIAM.

&c. &c. &c.



MY LORD,

AFTER as much consideration as the time will allow, I have come to the resolution of addressing your Lordship, upon the subject of the late investigations which have taken place in the Lunatic Asylum, at York. Were I to state to your Lordship all the reasons which have determined me in favour of such a measure, I should swell this letter to an unreasonable length; let it suffice, therefore, to submit, it as my firm conviction, that such a step is absolutely necessary to the cause of justice, and may be of essential service to the welfare of lunatics in every part of the kingdom. Should your Lordship, however, differ from me in opinion as to the expediency of this address, from the known candour and liberality of your Lordship's character, I doubt not you will excuse the liberty I have taken on the present occasion. By my readers in general I beg it may be considered, that, as the ink will scarcely be dry before I send these sheets to the press, in order that my letter may appear before the 7th October, I hope I may rely on every candid allowance for any inaccuracy of expression, or deficiency of style. If I know any thing

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of myself, servility I trust forms no part of my character. I have not, my Lord, lived in courts, where low browed baseness wafts perfume to pride.* The fear, however, of being accused of flattery, shall not prevent me from speaking the truth; nor shall any apprehension of being charged with improper motives, deter me from discharging a duty, which, in my opinion, I owe equally to the public and to myself.

The candid, open, and energetic conduct manifested by your Lordship, and your son, LORD MILTON, on Friday the 25th of August, has supported the high character you have always held, and entitled you to the approbation of every sincere friend to the cause of justice and humanity.

Although I may not consider myself strictly amenable to your Lordship, as a magistrate in this county, yet, as I received my authority from your appointment, as you deemed me a proper person to be selected for the bench, I must naturally feel an anxious wish to convince you and the public at large, that my conduct has not in any respect disgraced your choice. I am well aware that, circumstanced as I have been, in regard to the late investigations, in giving this letter to the public, ingenuity perhaps will not be wanting to expose the faults, and to misrepresent the object of this letter. I feel, however, confident in the goodness of my cause, and the integrity of my intentions.

When Mr. Hall Wharton told me at the meeting that I had incurred a heavy responsibility, I knew it well. I knew I had given to the public a great pledge, but I also knew that I could redeem it; and I am persuaded, that no man will now be found to deny that I have done so.

The language of Mr. Wharton addressed to me on that occasion, was I confess strong; but I regarded it as the language of an honest man, spoken with warmth, zeal, and sincerity; and I honour and esteem him for it.

Indeed, I as much admire the candid language of open and manly opposition, as I despise the little trifling quibbles with which I have been assailed.

I must say, I enjoyed with exquisite pleasure the amusing figure made by a certain Reverend Magistrate on the 26th of August, who came, intrenched up to the chin in quotations and authorities, to teach me the law, which I feel I satisfactorily shewed to the laughing court

* Sir William Jones's Imitation of Ode of Alcæus.

I had taught him, at the meeting on the 2d of December, although he did not appear to have much profited by my instruction.

When his Grace the Archbishop, in assigning his reasons for giving his vote on the third resolution passed on the 26th August, following the example of your Lordship, acknowledged, that the governors had not done their duty, and that an *extreme misapplication* of the public funds had taken place, high as his Grace's character stood before, I will venture to say that after such a declaration it stood still higher in the estimation of every one present; and I must add, that I felt considerable regret that I was obliged to differ with him in opinion as to the expediency of his vote, and that I could not number him in the minority on the resolution alluded to, along with your Lordship, Lord Milton, Mr. Thompson, of Hull, and many others. But as this resolution, together with the fifth, substantially got rid of my motion, I shall have more to say upon it hereafter.

But I fear, my Lord, I am over running my subject. In the summer of 1813, application was made to me for a warrant to apprehend a man of the name of Vickers, of Fishlake, by an old woman who alledged that he had assaulted her. When he was brought before me by the constable, I found that a quarrel had originated between them, about some gathered manure, and that the old woman had first irritated him by striking him with a basket. I presently discovered that he was insane. I therefore ordered the overseer to obtain proper certificates and a recommendation, and sent him to the Asylum. His wife, Sarah Vickers, objected to his removal to York, saying, that she feared he would be ill treated there. I paid no attention to her fears, and informed her that unless he went to York I would order no relief. Upon my insisting on his removal, she at length consented to let him go. I heard no more about the poor man until October, when she came to me to ask for relief, and complained that her husband had been ill used in the Asylum. I granted her a summons for the overseer, to the Town-Hall, at Doncaster, and ordered her to procure certificates from the surgeon who attended him, describing the state he was in at that time, and also the condition in which he left the Asylum.—The overseer accordingly attended on

the following Saturday, when I took down his depositions respecting him.

In the course of the week following, I conversed with several persons upon the subject of Vickers's case, and was told repeatedly that it was not unlikely the story might be true, as a general belief was prevalent in the country that great abuses did exist in the York Asylum.

For further satisfaction, I rode over to the house of a gentleman in my neighbourhood, who I thought could furnish requisite information. In the course of conversation with him, I asked him what he knew respecting the management of the Asylum, and he told me that he believed the charity from the beginning had been converted into a job; that the money which was subscribed for the use of the poor had been wasted on nonsensical architectural ornaments, whilst the comfort of the patients was neglected; that it had had the character of being very ill conducted for many years past; and that attempts had been made to reform it, by Mason, Burgh, Withers, and others, and that they had always failed, and, in his opinion, I should do the same if I attempted it. He further told me he did not know who was the physician of the institution, but he thought Dr. Belcombe. I perceived, for reasons which will present themselves to my readers, that I had better not know who was the physician; and I studiously avoided conversing with medical gentlemen, or any persons likely to give me certain information on the subject, in this early stage of the business. I thought it was very likely it might implicate the physician, and I felt much regret to do what might be disagreeable to the feelings of Dr. Belcombe, with whom I had the pleasure to be acquainted. I mention these circumstances, my Lord, because it will be seen, from the subjoined documents, that an insinuation was thrown out to the public, that I was the mere tool of a conspiracy at York, against the Asylum.

Before I determined what course to pursue, I considered that there were eight or nine witnesses, all of whom were perfectly disinterested, to prove the facts, and that they were all the disinterested witnesses which the nature of the case afforded, the servants and officers being all interested and inadmissible. And it was impossible not to perceive, that if the governors in the neighbourhood of York acknowledged that I had established such a case as this of

Vickers, they must confess themselves to have been deficient in attention to the place. It was plain, if I applied to them in private, I acknowledged and submitted my cause to an interested tribunal. After I was told that such men as Mason, Burgh, and Withers had failed in their applications to this tribunal, I did not think it very likely that I should succeed.

The conduct of the governors, on the 2d of December, and the success of my appeal to the public, have justified my fears, and have warranted the conclusion which I drew from them.

For those reasons, amongst others, I determined to publish the case of Vickers, and try whether I could not, by creating a strong sensation in the public mind, oblige the governors to lay aside their prejudices, and to institute a general inquiry and investigation into the actual state of the charity : which would, I thought, produce the very desirable effect, either of clearing the character of the institution, or of correcting its abuses. Accordingly, I wrote the account of the case alluded to, and sent it to Mr. Peacock, editor of the *Courant* ; this statement afterwards appeared in the *Herald* and the *Doncaster Gazette*. Mr. Peacock, instead of publishing it, as I expected, shewed it to Dr. Best, who immediately came over to me at Doncaster ; and, at his request and upon his agreeing to publish the advertisement in No. 1, I consented to postpone the publication, as I understood, till near the time of the quarterly court, that he might not be exposed to the shafts of anonymous calumnies for a month, without the power of repelling them. A misunderstanding here arose between us, the doctor supposing I was not to publish at all. I discovered this in time to give him the opportunity of not performing his part of the contract, viz. the advertisement, if he pleased, as I was determined not to fulfil what he thought, but which I did not think mine.

At the conference I had with the doctor, on this occasion, he produced to me a written defence ; and, at my request, gave me a copy of it, though I thought with reluctance, as he said it was not intended as a complete defence, and was hastily written.

In the doctor's letter of November 27, No. 2, it will be seen that I am accused of withholding this defence from the public, whereas the doctor, so far from desiring me to

publish it, laid me, in his letter of the 20th November, No. 2, under a condition to accompany it with an explanation, which I did not like to comply with ; but after I had transmitted my letter and case to Mr. Hargrove, editor of the Herald, I wrote to Dr. Best, to inform him of the step I had taken, in time to allow him the privilege of inserting his own defence, if he had pleased, in the same paper.— In fact, the doctor did insert the letter to me of November 20, which was much longer than this defence alluded to.

With respect to this defence, your Lordship will not fail to admire the singular humanity of the keepers, who, it is stated, lent their own cloaths to the unhappy, filthy, itchy Vickers, who, it seems, was in the habit of tearing those of his own to pieces as fast as they were given to him.

This splendid act of kindness was performed, I suppose, lest those modest gentlemen should press too hard upon the opulent parish of Fishlake, which was both able and willing to supply him with every necessary : and I will take this opportunity of saying, that the kind behaviour of the overseers and people of Fishlake to this poor man, deserves great praise. Had a committee been appointed to have examined into this case of Vickers, it would have been proved beyond the possibility of doubt, upon the evidence of eight or nine disinterested witnesses, who, I believe, are still living, that he went to the Asylum in a strong and able state of health, and perfectly clean ; that he returned in a state, weak and emaciated ; that he could with difficulty support himself, having mortification in one of his legs, being filthy, having the itch very bad, and his body covered with bruises, and marks, which could be attributed to nothing but the lash of a whip. I have to observe upon the itch, that although sometimes it may be difficult to distinguish it from other cutaneous eruptions, yet every army surgeon knows that it often has nothing equivocal about it ; and in this present case no one who saw it doubted for a moment. Mr. Maples, in fact, cured it immediately with the usual itch application.

I shall here take the liberty, my Lord, of making a few observations on the nature and credibility of the evidence of a lunatic.

The opinion that the evidence of a lunatic is not credible ought to be admitted with considerable limitation. I

apprehend that the evidence of such an individual stands nearly on the same footing, as to credibility, with that of an accomplice, or hired spy : it ought not, I allow, to be taken alone, but I think it *must* be believed, whether admitted as evidence or not, whenever it is confirmed by a sufficient number of corroborating circumstances. Wm. Vickers, for instance, repeatedly declared to the people who visited him, that he was flogged, and they observed marks like the thong of the lash upon his back. A female patient, on one occasion, brought to them from another part of the house, who could not have had any previous correspondence with Vickers, declared that she had been flogged also. Upon such testimony it seems to me to be perfectly credible, notwithstanding the fact has been denied, that flogging constituted a part of the treatment of the unfortunate sufferers confined in that house.

Permit me to state another case.—If nine out of ten of all those of both sexes who leave the Quakers' Retreat declare that they have been kindly treated, will any one doubt that a system of kind treatment generally prevails there ?

If nine out of ten, on the other hand, who leave the Asylum, declare they have been cruelly used, can any one doubt that means of cruelty have certainly been resorted to ?

I must further, my Lord, enter my protest against another doctrine, which has been established of late years, principally, I am persuaded, by the physicians and keepers of mad-houses, viz. that lunatics always hate their keepers. It ought not to be forgotten, that such physicians are interested witnesses, that they have a powerful inducement to support this doctrine, in order to screen themselves from the effects of mere accident, to which mad-houses are so liable, even though the superintendants themselves may be conscious that they are not guilty of any criminal neglect.

It seems to me to be highly expedient, that, before any recovered lunatic should be discharged from confinement, he ought to be questioned, as to his treatment, by a committee of persons properly authorised, who should decide upon each case according to its own peculiar merits and circumstances. If, for instance, complaints were more frequently made against one keeper than another, the individuals, authorised to investigate the matter, would then be

particularly vigilant to discover, whether such complaints were well grounded.

Let it be granted that a lunatic may often state an untruth, yet will any one believe, that, if every lunatic, who has been discharged cured, had been properly examined by a committee authorised for that purpose, the many flagrant abuses, which have been so justly complained of, would have ever existed in the York Asylum? I believe not. Mr. Haslam, apothecary to Bethlehem, states, that “all patients have not the same degree of memory of what “has passed during the time they were disordered; and “have frequently remarked, when they were unable to give “any account of the peculiar opinions which they had indulged, during a raving paroxysm of long continuance, “that they well remembered any coercion which had been “used, or any kindness which had been shewn them.”— (Haslam’s Observations, page 79, 80.)

I must say, I wish that Mr. Tuke would add one more obligation to the many he has already conferred upon the unhappy class of our fellow creatures under consideration, by endeavouring to ascertain, by actual experiment at the Retreat, (that monument of goodness which he has reared to himself *ære perennius*) what may be the probable value of the evidence of a lunatic, i. e. how far a lunatic may be believed, as to any assertion he may make, either respecting himself or any other person who may have attended him during his illness.

Another principle has lately been established, against the *abuse* of which I must also protest in strong terms: it is maintained, that the sight of a relation or friend often irritates and retards the cure of a patient. This argument appears to be futile and childish as to every case in the class of incurables. In other more favourable cases, it is my opinion, that, after the keeper has told the friend of a particular patient, that he is in a state not proper to be seen, the friend ought alone to be the judge, whether he will, after such information, see him or not: the patient is the property of his friends, and not of the doctors, and consequently they ought to be admitted to him immediately, if they demand it.

The friends of Vickers could never obtain sight of him, till near an hour after their arrival; and several other persons have made the same complaint to me, respecting their friends confined in the same house. In the case of Vickers,

a very whimsical circumstance occurred. Mr. Hunt, a respectable yeoman of Fishlake, called to see him by desire of his friends, and was refused permission to do so, because he was stated to be *insensible in an apoplexy*. No doubt it must have disturbed him very much to be looked at in a state of insensibility! What was the fact respecting Mrs. Wilson, of St. Saviour-gate, who paid two guineas a week for her husband, of which the Asylum received fourteen shillings, and the physician one pound eight shillings, in whose case the committee decided that there was no sufficient ground of censure?

Mrs. Wilson stated to me, that she had been unhappy on account of her husband's linen having been several times sent home streaked with blood. On her calling one day, she was told by Atkinson, that he was in a state so violent it was not proper she should see him: however, she declared she would not leave the house till she had seen him, and at last she prevailed, and was conducted to him, and found a man bathing his wounds; he was sitting perfectly quiet on a chair: she was then told he had been fighting with another lunatic. She took him away in a few days, as soon as she could procure a person to take the charge of him; and when I saw her, she assured me, he had never since required the strait waistcoat.

Here, my Lord, is a direct proof of the abuse, to which the practice of secluding patients from the sight of their friends may lead; and I beg leave, with profound respect, to ask the committee, whether Atkinson's lie was not in sufficient ground of censure?

Thirkell was a young man in low circumstances, but of most excellent character, and very much attached to his family: he was sent to the Asylum, I believe, by one of the family of the Places. The two Miss Places called to inquire after him, and were informed, he had gone away well: the fact was, he had disappeared, and has never since been heard of. The committee found him entered in the books as "removed:" again I beg leave to ask, whether there was nothing reprehensible in all this, and whether I did not, in these two cases, establish what I undertook, viz. that there was a sufficient ground for investigation and inquiry?

The Thirkell, who had his brains dashed out, and who is entered both in the apothecary and steward's books,

"died," I named merely to distinguish him from the other Thirkell, whose christian name I did not know. Arundell was a man brought away from the Asylum along with Kidd, and, in consequence, circumstances relating to him appeared in the depositions sent to me by the Mayor of Pontefract; but I never meant to attach blame in his case. It seems to me to be brought forwards in order to persuade the public, that I had failed in my proofs. However, the committee were obliged to acknowledge that blame did attach in the cases of Kidd and Skorey.

When Martha Kidd was sent to York, she was sound in body, and had no scars or wounds upon her : when she came home, marks of wounds were observed upon her head, and her hip was dislocated. She is still living in Pontefract workhouse. Your Lordship will remember part of the evidence you heard on this case, by which it appeared, that the poor woman, when she came from the Asylum was found to be in a most miserable state of neglect, dirty and in rags, and swarming with vermin; and that his Grace the Archbishop declared to your Lordship, and to the other governors, that, for his own part, he was perfectly convinced of the truth of the evidence respecting her. What I stated in the presence of the Archbishop, Mr. Nicol, and the committee, respecting the witnesses in this case of Kidd, will be in your recollection, and you will also recollect that they assented to it; and it is material to observe, that it was on the evidence of those persons, all or some of them, that the case of Vickers was decided.

The evidence of the witnesses from Pontefract, on this case, had been taken in writing on oath; the evidence of the people of the house was also taken in writing, and they were informed, at the same time, that they would be required to swear to it, when it was finished. But before the committee, when they were on the point of being sworn, the Archbishop declared he would retire, that he could not consent to be present at such a transaction, as he was satisfied they were all about to forswear themselves. Mr. Nicol said he also should withdraw with his Grace, as he was perfectly satisfied of the illegality of the proceedings, as well as of the falsity of their oaths. These are the servants who were not dismissed up to the 26th of August.

Your Lordship heard enough of the evidence in the case of the Rev. Mr. Skorey; but I beg leave briefly to state

the substance of it, in order to preserve it on record, and to add a few observations.

The Rev. Mr. Skorey was a clergyman reduced to indigence, (I believe in consequence of his mental complaint;) he had at times, and for considerable periods, intervals of reason: in those intervals, when he was perfectly capable of understanding every thing that was done to him, *repeatedly*, in presence of his wife, he was exposed to personal indignity; and on one occasion, without any provocation on his part, he was inhumanly kicked down stairs—his person swarmed with vermin—and, to complete the story of this poor man's misery, the brutal keepers insulted his wife with indecent ribaldry, in order to deter her from visiting him in his unfortunate situation.

My Lord, I scarce remember a case more truly pitiable than that of this respectable clergyman—a man of irreproachable character, whose liberal education may be supposed to have rendered him more susceptible of mental feeling than the mere labourer—shut up in this den of misery—all his domestic comforts and future prospects gone and ruined—his person covered with vermin, and smarting with blows—and his wife, his only hope in the world, when she brought him such little comforts as she could procure by the labour of her hands, (for she worked to support him,) subjected to the brutal, indecent insults of these unfeeling keepers. This is what the committee has only designated very reprehensible behaviour!!!

Again, with respect to this case of Vickers, the governors have thought proper to state, that they regret the publication of it: I am sorry to differ in opinion from such a respectable body of gentlemen, and hope they will pardon me when I declare, that I have no regret at all on the subject.

Blame has been imputed to the governors respecting the abuses which have been proved to have existed in the Asylum. The care of almost two hundred lunatics is a very great charge: perhaps, in strictness, the governors ought not to have confided it to any one person. If they, however, did commit such a trust to the care, direction, and management of any individual—surely they conferred upon him a very high honour, at the same time that they placed him under a great responsibility; and assuredly it was incumbent on the person, in whom this confidence was placed, on whom this honour was conferred, so to conduct himself

as effectually to guarantee them from any imputation of negligence in the performance of their duty ; and, I have no doubt, your surprise, my Lord, must have been very great, when you discovered that your confidence had been so grossly abused by Dr. Hunter, who appears no sooner to have obtained the power into his hands, than he abused it by overthrowing all orders and regulations, and appropriating large sums to his own private use, unknown to your Lordship, to one shilling of which he could have no claim or pretension.

I have now, my Lord, no more to add respecting the proceedings on the 2d of December. The case of Vickers was decided by the court, as appears in the advertisement, and the further consideration of the other cases was adjourned to the 10th of December. On the day of meeting, a great number of gentlemen subscribed the sum of twenty pounds each, (the first fruits of my appeal to the public,) and, by so doing, constituted themselves governors. After a warm debate, two committees were formed to investigate the cases of Skorey, Kidd, Wilson, and Thirkell : the one named by Mr. Nicol—the other by Mr. Alderman Wilson. Mr. Nicol's committee was carried by a majority of one vote, his Grace the Archbishop of York, the chairman, being in the minority. After this auspicious decision respecting the committee, his Grace, highly to his honour, declared that, in his opinion, a general investigation ought to take place, let the result of the inquiry of the committee be what it would. Indeed, it now became evident, that a general investigation must take place—it could be deferred no longer.

On the 26th of December, the new part of the building of the Asylum was burnt down. A special court was of course immediately summoned, and a committee of inquiry, consisting of five governors, was appointed. On the 7th of January, the committee made their report, stating, that the fire had been occasioned by accident, and that four persons only had perished in the flames. The committee and the jury called together on the occasion, might be satisfied that the fire had originated in accident, although one gentleman of the jury informed me, that he was not quite convinced as to the nature of the accident, and that others entertained a similar opinion. I must confess I have my doubts on the subject. The

gentleman alluded to told me, that the cause which had been assigned to them, was, that sparks had fallen down a certain chimney from an adjoining one, and set fire to some flocks laid there to dry in a room locked up. He said that, on examining the chimney down which the fire was supposed to have fallen, he discovered that it was built in a direction so far from the perpendicular as to render it difficult to conceive how the fire could have happened in the manner above stated. I confess, when I examined the chimney, I could not but incline to the same opinion.

On the 7th of January, at a very full court, the committee of inquiry made its report upon the cases already mentioned; and its number being increased by some additional names, with enlarged powers, they were instructed to proceed to a general investigation into the rules and management of the institution. Not many days after, I published the letter in the appendix of January 15, for the reasons which are therein assigned.

The matter rested here till the assize week, when I went to York to attend on the grand jury. I availed myself of this opportunity to inspect the several wards, &c. of the Asylum, being by no means satisfied with what had already been done. In my letter of the 15th of January, I ventured to assure the public, that the house would in future be conducted upon a system of improved treatment. However, to my great disappointment, I discovered, as will appear in the sequel, that, in fact, very little improvement had taken place, and I could not but entertain great suspicions that very gross abuses still prevailed.

I observed, with astonishment, that no attempts had been made to ventilate the house, and that the committee of five had ordered water-closets to be built, and other arrangements, in which I was persuaded they were exceeding their authority, whilst they were not doing any thing which might contribute to the present comfort and convenience of the patients. I therefore procured a special meeting to be immediately called, for Thursday the 24th, at ten o'clock. At eight in the morning of the day of meeting, I went to the Asylum, determined to examine very carefully every part of it. After having seen, as I was told by Atkinson, all the rooms for the reception of patients, I went with him to the kitchen apartments. I there caused several doors to be opened; and being at last struck with the retired appearance of one door, which was almost concealed from

observation by another opening upon it, I ordered one of the keepers to unlock it. I thought I perceived fear and hesitation. I repeated my order in somewhat stronger language: the man-servant's key was tried, but would not open it, as it was the door of cells for female patients. The key not being readily forthcoming, I grew warm, and declared I would soon find a key that would unlock it, at the kitchen fire side: it was then opened: I went in and discovered a row of cells, four in number, with a door out of the farthest into the yard. On entering the first cell, I found it in a state dreadful beyond description: some miserable bedding was lying on straw, which was daubed and wet with excrement and urine; the boarded floor perfectly saturated with filth; the walls also besmeared with excrement; the round air hole, about eight inches in diameter, partly filled with it—this cell was about eight feet and a half square, perfectly dark when the door was shut, and the stench almost intolerable. I found a pewter pot loose and lying on its side. I was told those cells were occupied at night by thirteen women, who were then upstairs. I ordered one of the men to conduct me to them. I found thirteen of these wretched inmates in a room twelve feet long by seven feet ten inches wide, with a window which, not opening, would not admit of ventilation. After looking at these miserable objects, I returned to examine the cells more minutely: except in the first, there was no other bedding than straw, which appeared to have been in use a long time, as it was absolutely saturated with wet: amongst the straw I observed a chain and hand-cuff. It was about half-past eight o'clock in the morning when I discovered these cells: a little before ten, Colonel Cooke, of Owston, and John Cooke, Esq. of Campsmount, came to attend the special meeting, and I took them to witness these noisome rooms. During this interval, clean straw had been substituted, and they had made them look as cleanly as they could in so short a time; but those two gentlemen can state, what they themselves witnessed, and also whether they think I have exaggerated. I also pointed out to their notice, the chain and hand-cuff. When I first saw this chain, it was lying on the top of the litter; but when I returned with the two Mr. Cookes, it was buried out of sight under the clean straw which had been brought in; on the removal of which, a new board plainly shewed

itself. I did not attend to the rusty state of the handcuff: indeed, I never took it into my hand to examine it. I never should have considered the existence of a chain in the house as any thing wrong, if it had not been denied to be there. On the 2d of December, it was declared, both by some of the officers and servants, that there was not to their knowledge a chain in the house, and I sincerely believe it was unknown to Dr. Best. However, my Lord, after I had observed that it was fixed to a board, evidently from its colour, recently laid down, I cannot be much blamed, I think, for going away with a conviction, that it was put there for the purpose of being used.

Mr. Atkinson was with me when I first saw these cells; and I required of him, in the presence of the special meeting, at eleven o'clock, to deny any part of the statement I had made if he could: he did not, however, attempt it.

The next morning, I again visited the Asylum early, to ascertain the state of the straw after I knew it could only have been in use during one night; and from this examination I can state positively, that the straw, which I first found there, must have been in use a considerable time.

The Archbishop of York, and the committee of fifteen, had, previously to my detecting these cells, desired they might be shewn over the whole of the wards and apartments occupied by patients; but the cells in question were not shewn to them. The committee of five went over the house in the performance of their duty, to examine the state of the apartments, to see what improvements could be made, and the same circumstance occurred. A very respectable professional gentleman, whose name I do not chuse to mention without necessity, when inquiring what those places were, was told that they were cellars and other little offices. Atkinson also told me before I found these cells that I had seen the whole. The day following that of the meeting, I again went to the Asylum, and ascertained, by experiment, that the young men servants, by means of their keys, could at all times admit themselves into the lodging-rooms of the upper class of female patients.

In consequence of these circumstances, I published my letter dated, by mistake, the 24th of March, which produced the reply dated April 2.

On the 14th of April, a quarterly court was held, and certain resolutions were adopted, which your Lordship will

find in their proper place. In the appendix, also, will be found a paragraph extracted from the paper in which the resolutions were published, in which was added the names of the minority on the vote of thanks to me moved by Mr. Nicol. It was once my intention to have given the whole as it stood, but as those of the gentlemen, with whom I happen to be acquainted, are most honourable and respectable men, and it might be disagreeable to them, I have desisted. If they wish their names to be made more public, they have my most hearty consent to publish it themselves.

Nothing more occurred worthy of observation till Pontefract sessions, when I attended in my place, and tendered to the magistrates, about twenty in number, a written statement of facts connected with the Asylum, to the truth of which I offered to swear.

My object in this statement was to prove that their paupers were neglected, and that therefore it behoved them to avail themselves of the power which they possessed of building a place for their own poor. Upon the propriety of this measure there was no difference of opinion, and therefore I did not find it necessary either to read or swear to the statement, but I laid it on the table that any gentleman might read it if he thought proper.

The oath I have inserted in the appendix, but the statement would only be a repetition of what your Lordship has already been acquainted with.

A few days previous to the quarterly court, in July, I received information from York, (which was, as to the material point, incorrect) that a petition had been presented to the House of Lords, praying, amongst other things, that the Asylum might be exempted from the jurisdiction of visitors. I immediately thought it my duty to present a counter petition, the prayer of which your Lordship will find in the appendix.

Upon the prayer of this petition I shall take the liberty of making a few observations. I beg your Lordship to consider the situation in which a lunatic may be placed: it is the interest of the physician to keep him as long as he can, it is often the interest of his friends to do the same; in scarcely any other case does the same coincidence of interest occur. Suppose a patient has really recovered, and is set at liberty, after having been for some time wrongfully detained, what redress can he obtain; but suppose he

has not only been wrongfully detained, but also ill used, since the period of his recovery : he can have no redress, either against the physician or against his relations, who may probably have been spending his estate during his confinement. His evidence is not admitted or believed. Surely, my Lord, under such circumstances the appointment of visitors cannot be too carefully regulated ; no physician, I conceive, ought ever to be appointed a visitor of a house for lunatics, who himself has the least interest in any similar institution. I have been informed, that where there have been two physicians, each having a mad-house under his superintendence, they have been appointed to visit each other's house. Surely, such a practice is open to terrible abuse.

In any house for the reception of lunatics, every acting physician ought, in my opinion, to be restricted from all profit or emolument, except as far as regards taking his proper fees.

With respect to the appointment of visitors to such institutions, in small cities or towns, the justices are seldom in that independent situation in life necessary to the proper and impartial performance of the duties of so important a trust. I respectfully beg your Lordship's serious attention to these observations before the next session of parliament, when the subject of the jurisprudence of hospitals for lunatics will probably receive a full discussion.

I attended the next quarterly court, and, upon Mr. Alderman Wilson tendering the report of the committee of inquiry, and moving it should be read, I proposed, as an amendment, that it should be printed and dispersed to the governors, but not read. I am sorry to say, that, to some parts of this report, I cannot give my approbation ; and I did not wish it to go out to the public with the implied stamp of the approbation of the court, after merely being once read, from which, surely, no correct judgment could be formed. I hope the committee will pardon me for thus expressing a difference in opinion from them. I can assure them, there is no one more sensible than I am of the great obligation the public is under to them, for their unwearied attention to the arduous duties, which they have upon the whole fulfilled, with so much honour to themselves, and benefit to the institution.

In consequence of several mistakes, this report was not sent so generally round to the governors as it ought to have been; which I have to regret, as the neglect operated disadvantageously towards me at the general meeting on the 26th of Aug. After much reflection on all that had passed, and after having maturely considered the complexion of this report, I must confess I felt extremely dissatisfied; because I imagined I could perceive from it a strong disposition in a very powerful party, to retain in office all those persons who had so grossly abused the trust confided to them, and thereby again to convert the charity into a mere private job.

Besides, I was apprehensive that my friends, judging from the proceedings of the 14th of April, and supposing that I should now have little difficulty to encounter, had become rather remiss. I received, moreover, pretty certain information, that I should meet again all those whom I had the honour to meet on the 2d of December, and every friend whom the officers of the institution could muster.

For these reasons, I determined to publish another letter, which, by stating some of the strongest facts, might again rouse the public and my friends to renewed exertion.

This letter, I am inclined to believe, had the good effect of bringing to the court some of my friends, who perhaps might not have attended, and my opponents, I knew, would come without it. But yet, I think, upon reflection, if I had this letter to write again, it should not be exactly in the same form: I should certainly state all the facts, because they are correctly true, yet I would try to put them in a more soft and courtier-like garb, in order that I might please, if I could, the worthy, respectable, and reverend magistrate, alluded to in the 2d page, who seemed to be much discomposed by it. In reply to him, I will here observe, that, I *think*, wherever the lunatic paupers of the West-Riding are sent, the magistrates will be found to have both a right and a duty to protect them, if necessary.

I proceed, however, to observe, that, in addition to the call made upon me at the annual court, to redeem the pledge I had given in my letter of Aug. 20, an anonymous letter was published in the York papers, and in the Doncaster paper of the 2d September, *after* the annual meeting. As this letter is nearly the same with the call of the govern-

ors, and as I agree with the author in all his sentiments, I shall, contrary to my usual custom, notice its contents, to observe, that, if the author of that letter choose to act candidly, he will now give his name to the public, and shew that his conduct has been consistent with his declarations. I consider my answer to be to the governors, and not to the author of that letter.

In my further observations, my Lord, respecting the report, and in justification of my letter of August 20th, I will endeavour to be as concise as shall be in my power.

In the 7th page of the report, it will be seen that a classification of the patients took place in the year 1785, and it is therein also admitted, that this order was never repealed. From this it appears, that certain weekly payments were directed; and in page 29, my Lord, you will find it stated, that "when any patients of a better condition offer themselves to the Asylum, they be admitted upon a rate of payment which may be deemed adequate to their circumstances; and that Dr. Hunter, to whom the governors think themselves obliged for his liberal, disinterested, and charitable attendance upon the necessitous objects of the charity, may be requested to do justice to his own interest, by receiving from the friends of such patients, the reasonable emoluments of his profession;" and that, in the same page it is also stated, what the weekly payments of the patients should be, and what items these should discharge, viz. "the weekly payments discharge board and lodging, coal, candle, tea, washing, and medicines."

Now, my Lord, I beg leave to remind you, that when you declared you had regularly attended the annual meetings for many years, and that it was your firm conviction, that it never was the intention, or within the knowledge of the governors, that the physician should appropriate to himself any part of this weekly payment, not a single individual was found to come forward and declare, that he was acquainted with this appropriation, or that he considered the weekly payment in any other sense than that, in which it was understood by your Lordship.

You will also remember, that his Grace the Archbishop, greatly to his honour, declared himself satisfied that an *extreme misapplication* of the public funds had taken place. I took down the words "extreme misapplication," the moment his Grace uttered them.

I believe not a word will be found in the books to justify the physician in appropriating to his own use any part of these weekly payments. If I knew where it was to be found, I should have much pleasure in inserting it. The physician will not deny that he took fees for extra attendance: he was right in so doing; he was properly and legally entitled to them. It was otherwise with the apothecary: he, I apprehend, was entitled to no fees in any case; but I *think* he will not deny to *me*, that he also took them.

I hope, my Lord, I have satisfactorily proved that a misapplication of the public money did take place. There are other parts of the report which would strengthen my proofs, if necessary.—(Rep. p. 30 and 33.)

I will now endeavour to shew, that the sums misapplied were *large*.

I beg leave to observe, that, with respect to the *exact* amount, it cannot be expected, from the nature of the case, that I should be able to state it. I shall redeem my pledge if I prove, in any way satisfactorily, that *large* sums have been misapplied. It is known, by the inquiry of the committee, that three guineas a week have been paid; but whether the committee ascertained that this sum was the maximum, is unknown to me. However, I think, if I state the highest payment at 3*l.* 3*s.* I cannot be charged with fixing the average too high, if I adopt the sum taken from Msr. Wilson's payment of two guineas, viz. one pound eight shillings. This calculation cannot be reduced to certainty. I am informed, that it is no unusual thing for opulent patients to pay, in private houses, five or six guineas a week. It is also known, by the inquiry of the committee, that, at the commencement of the quarter ending December, 1813, there were twenty-two opulent patients in the house. I think, therefore, I shall not be accused of taking my average too high, if I fix it at the *lowest* number stated, viz. 16. (See Rep. p. 48.) Here, my Lord, it is necessary to digress a little, and draw your attention to the third paragraph, beginning—"That patients"—(p. 30 of the Rep.) A round blot of ink from a pen, appears to have fallen upon one unfortunate word.

I request your Lordship's serious consideration of this whole paragraph.

I now beg your Lordship to turn to page 48, and you will find—

	£.	s.	d.
Fourteen patients, at 4s. each per week . .	145	12	0
Twelve ditto, at 2s. each per week	62	8	0
Seventeen ditto, at 1s. each per week	44	4	0
	<hr/>		
	252	4	0
	<hr/>		

Now, take the first class of patients at 16, and the part taken by the physician at 1l. 8s. there will remain for him	1164	16	0
To which must be added	252	4	0
	<hr/>		
	1417	0	0
	<hr/>		

This sum, multiplied by 5, the number of years Dr. Best has held the situation at the Asylum, gives 7085 0 0

Multiplied by 23, the time Dr. Hunter may have taken these sums, viz. since the year 1785, gives 32591 0 0

Exclusive of interest 39676 0 0

For the sake of argument, I will allow for errors, which I have not been able to discover, 20,000l. I must still think, my Lord, that I have redeemed my pledge, and proved that *large* sums have been misapplied.

Here, my Lord, I think justice and candour require me to say a few words respecting Dr. Best. He certainly appears to stand in a different situation from that, in which Dr. Hunter stood. He states that he only permitted the system to continue, which he found established by Dr. Hunter; that he had no reason to suppose it was not authorised; and that he raised the payments to the house, as stated in page 49 of the Report, without solicitation from any one.

I must, however, take the liberty of saying, that the third resolution, on the 26th August, does not appear to stand fair, with respect to me; and I think it absolutely calls upon me for the statement above, in my own justification.

I am, at the same time, perfectly satisfied, that it was not drawn with any unfair intention towards me. Readers in general, not much acquainted with the subject, will, I think, naturally suppose, that no misapplication of the money had taken place. I forbear to give any opinion upon it further than to say, that, in justice to me, it ought to have been worded in terms similar to the following :—
 “ Resolved, that, with respect to the great misapplication
 “ of the public money, which has taken place, it does not
 “ appear to this meeting,” &c. &c.

On the expediency of this third resolution, I beg leave to observe, that it, and the fifth, were, in fact, substituted for my motion for a re-election of *all* the officers of the house, in which I was very happy to find myself supported by your Lordship, and which, I flatter myself, will not be thought by the public of a violent nature, when the report of the committee, and all the circumstances, are taken into consideration. If, my Lord, we merely consider the officers of the house as trustees or representatives of the governors, delegated to perform for them the duties which they cannot perform for themselves, I must say, I think I never knew a case in which the resignation of the trust into the hands of the constituent was more forcibly called for, and I think this is putting the case in as moderate a point of view as possible. However, I shall make no more observations upon the subject: the proceedings of the 26th of August, are before your Lordship and the public, and I am under no apprehension that an incorrect judgment will be formed upon them.

My next assertion was, that the lunatic poor, sent to the Asylum by the magistrates, have been neglected and abused.

In proof of this, it is only necessary for me to refer you to the case of Martha Kidd, sent by the Mayor of Pontefract. My letter next asserts, that the names of persons, whose deaths have been occasioned by violent means, have been entered in such terms, as disguise the facts from the governors.

The books every where prove this assertion; and it will be recollected, that, at the general court, on Aug. 27, in the presence of about eighty governors, I demanded of Mr. Atkinson, the apothecary, and Mr. Surr, the steward, if they did not each keep an account-book of the deaths in

the Asylum, and if they had not both entered the Thirkell, whose head, (as I was informed, and as I believe to be the fact,) was beaten on the pavement until the brains came out, as having "*died*;" and the other Thirkell, who disappeared, and has never since been heard of, as having been "*removed*." To these questions they both answered in the affirmative, acknowledging, moreover, that the same had been done in other cases.

Here, then, my Lord, we have direct proof of a regular system.

My next pledge will require me to prove the mistatement in the account of the number of deaths. I request your Lordship to turn to page 13 of the Report, where you will find it acknowledged, that the Annual Report of 1813, states the number of deaths to be 221: whereas the real number was 365—thus exhibiting a deficiency of 144.

As I did not take upon me to say in my letter, whether the concealment of those deaths was the effect of mistake or not, I think I have proved my assertion and redeemed my pledge; unless your Lordship should require me to add something more to prove it an Augean stable.

However, my Lord, I am prepared to proceed one step further, and to prove that the concealment of the deaths was not the effect of mistake, but of preconcerted design and regular system. Your Lordship will please to observe, that the account of deaths is a debtor and creditor account, and that it necessarily follows, that if any of the items of the account be false, the sums total cannot agree. But if the sums total do agree, and the items be any of them false, they must be falsified in more than one place, or the account cannot be made to balance. I conceive, if any one item be false, and the two sides of the account balance, this cannot be the effect of accident.

I will now, my Lord, subjoin the reports of two years, extracted from the York Herald, given to the public at different times, twelve months after each other, and signed, Charles Atkinson, apothecary.

In the latter report will be found one venial error and two wilful, and, on that account, unpardonable mistatements. In the item of deaths, the case is clear: it follows, as a matter of course, that there must be a corresponding mistatement, but it does not appear where it is.

Extract from the York Herald, August, 1812.

Admitted, from the first establishment in the year 1777, to June 30, 1811,.....	2346
Present year,.....	99

 2445

Discharged cured,.....	1112
Ditto relieved,.....	616
Ditto incurable,.....	312
Died,.....	210
Remain,.....	195

 2445

York Herald, August, 1813.

Admitted, to 1st July, 1812,.....	2445
Ditto, from 1st July, 1812, to 1st July, 1813,	111

 2556

Cured,.....	1132
Relieved,.....	655
Incurable and removed by friends,...	348
Died,.....	221
Remain, Men,.....	122
Ditto, Women,.....	77

} 199

 2556

(Signed)

CHARLES ATKINSON.

In the last account, the deaths within the year ending June, 1813, appear to be eleven, but I found, upon examining the register of the parish church of St. Olaves, that either eighteen or nineteen had been buried in that churchyard alone, in that year; and the committee have ascertained that twenty-four had really died. It appears, therefore, that thirteen were taken from the deaths and added to some other item, to make the sums agree. This would have the effect of disguising the mortality, and also of supporting the credit of the house in a two-fold manner, if added to the cures.* And here, my Lord, I must state a circumstance which took place on the 2d of December, which some of the governors may have forgot, but of which I am certain, having noted it down in my book at the time.

In reply to a question from the Archbishop, one of the servants, in the presence of the physician, who did not

* For additional proof, see Report of 1811.

contradict him, stated, that with the exception of a slight appearance of typhus, no fever had manifested itself in the house.

A fever may take place in any house without blame attaching to any one; but if there was no fever in this house, and there should appear a greater mortality than in other houses of this description, *cæteris paribus*, some other cause must be found for it.

I take the liberty of stating that it appears to me that a much greater mortality has taken place in the Asylum, than in the Quaker's Retreat, *cæteris paribus*. I shall only observe, that the calculation ought always to be made on the average number of patients in the house, and not upon the number admitted in a year. I believe the numbers will stand nearly as follow:—

Deaths in the Asylum, in 36 years	365
Average number of patients in the Asylum about . .	98
Deaths in the Retreat, in 16 years	26
Average number of patients in the Retreat	46

I will also add an extract from a recent publication, now lying before me, as it seems curious, but for the truth of which I will not vouch:—

“Out of 82 old or incurable cases, admitted into the “Retreat, 16 were discharged cured.”

“At St. Luke's, only 18 out of 323 incurables were reported cured.”

“From Bethlehem Hospital, but *one* out of 78 incurables “was discharged cured, and that one was returned to the “Hospital.”

But it has been said, that my letter of Aug. 20, contained a censure on the governors. I shall be sorry if the explanation, which I have been obliged to make in my own defence, should give offence to any one; but, really, when I considered, that not one of the servants of the house, whose behaviour, in the cases of Kidd, Skorey, &c. had been so reprehensible, had been dismissed—that no vote of censure had been passed at any of the quarterly courts—and that no notice had been given of any intention to rectify these matters at the general annual court;—when I considered also the general tendency of the report, in which, if I mistake not, no disapprobation of any person whatever is conveyed;—when I considered, further, the

new code of laws without the amendments, and called to mind the many difficulties I had had to encounter in every stage of the investigation ;—it was impossible for me not to suppose, that a disinclination to carry the inquiry forward to its proper result, might still exist in the breast of some of the governors. To counteract this feeling, by the production of strong and undeniable facts, was the object of my letter of Aug. 20, and that I was justified in entertaining that supposition, cannot now be questionable, when it is known that a very considerable number of the governors actually held up their hands in favour of the officers, who were displaced, and, I fear, will be found even to endeavour to restore them.

It has been my anxious wish to avoid, as much as possible, giving offence to any one. My uniform object was to establish and prove the gross abuses, which I knew prevailed. After I had done this, it was the duty of the governors to punish, with strict impartiality, all those who had abused their confidence, or betrayed their trust. If they feel conscious, that they have done this, they have done well—if they do not, an impartial public will judge *them*.

I now, my Lord, come to the proceedings of the 26th of August, upon which I shall not detain you long. The new code of laws was submitted to the meeting, and, with several amendments, was adopted. To render this letter more complete, it is inserted in the appendix.

It is my opinion, that there ought to be two physicians, and that they ought not to be permitted to have private houses of their own for the reception of lunatics: they ought not to have an interest in opposition to the interest of the house.

I beg your Lordship's attention to the clause, directing the officers of the house to be appointed by ballot. It is evident, that, if the common mode be adopted, and there be three candidates, an officer may be elected by a minority. Let us suppose, that three persons, A. B. and C. offer themselves, and that the number of electors be thirty-one: A. and B. may each have ten votes, and C. eleven. C. in this case, might be elected contrary to the wish of a great majority.

I, therefore, submit to your Lordship the following, as a more eligible mode of conducting the ballot. Let there be provided as many boxes as there are candidates; then let

each elector put his ball into the box, bearing the name of the person for whom he votes, and let the ballot be taken as often as may be necessary, leaving out the candidate each time after the first, who has the least number of balls. By this means, your officers would be elected by a *majority* of the governors; and I must say, I think this of great consequence.

The institution is now placed on the very best footing, as to management: the buildings are greatly improved by large airy rooms, and spacious courts; and I sincerely hope, the opulent part of the public will consider, that, by sending their unfortunate relatives to the Asylum, they will not only place them, where they will have good medical advice, care, and attendance, but, at the same time, will contribute to the comforts of the more indigent patients, who are in the same unfortunate situation with their own friends.

It has been my happy lot, never to have had a relative, or even a friend, in any house of this kind, either public or private; but, my Lord, if such a misfortune should happen, this is now the first place to which I would send him.

And now, my Lord, I hasten to conclude what I am affraid you will consider a tedious address. I indulge the pleasing hope, that I shall be found to have laid before your Lordship and the public, a candid and impartial statement of the proceedings which have lately taken place respecting the York Asylum.

I will not affirm, my Lord, that if I had this task again to perform, with my present experience, I would do in every respect what I have done. I believe, my Lord, no man will be found who can review any considerable action in his life, without feeling conscious that something might have been better done. However, I look back with much pleasure on what has passed. I confess I feel a conscious pride, when I reflect on the situation in which I stood on the 26th and 27th of August, supported in my humble exertions by such men as your Lordship, Lord Milton, Sir G. Cayley, Messrs. C. Duncombe, B. Cooke, Thompson, Brooksbank, Tuke, and many others, whose names I regret that it is not in my power to give,—men of all parties and religious denominations, eminent for their rank, wealth, talents, and integrity.

The business has been attended with much trouble and

anxiety to myself, but I feel conscious that I have done my duty, as a magistrate, in bringing forward the case of the unhappy Vickers; and as a christian, in advocating the cause of the unfortunate and friendless lunatic: and in this consciousness I have my reward.

And now, my Lord, I beg leave to assure your Lordship that I remain, with the highest respect and esteem,

Your Lordship's

Very obedient and humble Servant,

GODFREY HIGGINS.

SKELLOW GRANGE,
near Doncaster, Sept. 16, 1814.

P. S. Upon a revision of the preceding pages, I think it right, in justice to some of the gentlemen, whose names appear in the list of governors, on the 2d of December, to state, that the resolutions were not adopted unanimously, as published in the papers, some gentlemen having left the room before the decision was made.

In page 14, it is stated, that thirteen women were in one room. I was so sick, I could not measure the room myself; but the keeper measured it, and gave me the dimensions.

The reduction of the size of the buildings by the fire, will be no apology for the above crowded state, as the governors, only a short time previous to this, had refused the offer of the Quakers and the gentlemen of the Nottingham Asylum, to receive part of their patients, on the representation of the officers that there was no want of accommodation. More patients were admitted into the house daily. It was to put an end to this last practice, principally, that I caused this special meeting to be called.

What I have stated, respecting the cases of Thirkell and Wilson, I wrote down from the mouths of the witnesses. I do not know what passed before the committee. When these cases were finished, Mr. Nicol proposed to proceed

with others; but the committee resolved, that there was no occasion, as no one any longer objected to a general investigation.

In page 10, it is stated, that the case of Vickers was decided on the testimony of the same persons who gave evidence in that of Kidd. In this I may be mistaken. It occurs to me, that, in one case, the keepers must have been men, and, in the other, women.

Upon reflexion, I cannot persuade myself that I have done my duty, if, before I conclude, I do not draw your Lordship's attention to the permission granted to the physician, to have private houses of his own for the reception of lunatics. From this permission, I sincerely believe, I can shew that all the abuses have arisen, which, for many years past, have converted this house, that ought to have been a blessing to the unfortunate, into a curse. But, as it now stands, if your finances be not in a state of ruin at the end of the very first year, you will have the physician to thank for his forbearance. On reflexion, I believe, it was not in proof to the committee whether provocation was given or not, as stated in page 11, line 9.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX.

To GODFREY HIGGINS, Esq.

York, Nov. 7, 1813.

Sir,

I transmit you a Copy of the Printed Regulations of the York Lunatic Asylum, and also a Copy of the Advertisement which will appear in the Paper of Thursday. I have made some verbal alterations in the latter, but have not in any respect deviated from the spirit of that which I wrote at Doncaster. I take this opportunity of expressing my obligations to you for your candid and ready acquiescence in my proposal of changing the mode of bringing forward the charges against the Lunatic Asylum.

and am, Sir,

Your obedient and humble Servant,

CHARLES BEST.

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

In consequence of the Reports which have been circulated, and the accusations which have been made against the York Lunatic Asylum, I think it right to apprise the Public, that the next Quarterly Court, or Meeting of the Governors, will be held at the Asylum on Thursday the 2d of December, at 12 o'clock, and if any persons whatsoever have any thing to alledge against the management or treatment of the Patients, they are requested to take that opportunity of bringing forward their charges.

CHARLES BEST,

(Physician to the Asylum.)

York, Nov. 10, 1813.

To Dr. BEST, YORK.

Sir,

I this day received your Letter, and I write by return of post, least you should in mistake perform what you conceive one part of a supposed contract, when I consider myself not bound to fulfil the other, not considering it to be of the nature understood by you. I consented to postpone the publication of the case for the present, in order that you might not be exposed to the malignity of anonymous enemies for a month without the power of repelling them, but I did not understand that I was not to publish my statement at all. I shall publish all that has come before me publicly as a Magistrate, and all I know upon the subject; I propose to attend on the 2d of December, to give my statement to the Governors, and to afford them any information or explanation in my power if they require it, and then leave them to inquire into the matter; but I shall not consider myself an accuser, bound to prefer a specific charge against you or any one else, the Governors being the judges. If you do not approve the above understanding of the contract betwixt us, do not execute your part of it, viz. do not publish the advertisement. At all events I will so contrive my publication as to expose you as little as possible to the shafts of anonymous calumny. Why should I wish to expose you of whom I never heard but with respect in my life, and against whom I can have no enmity. But the public must be the tribunal before whom this must come. I shall consider myself at liberty to publish the paper you gave me if I think proper.

I remain, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

G. HIGGINS.

Nov. 11, 1813.

P. S. If you do not publish the advertisement as agreed on, I shall not on that account hasten the publication of my statement a minute.

To Dr. Best, York.

To the EDITOR of the DONCASTER GAZETTE.

York. Nov. 27, 1813.

Sir,

In the York Herald of to-day is a letter from Mr. Higgins, of Skellow, near Doncaster, prefixed to a statement relative to the supposed ill usage of a patient in the Lunatic Asylum. A different letter by the same writer, with a portion of the same statement, was published yesterday in the Doncaster Advertiser; copies of which paper, for reasons with which I am unacquainted, have been transmitted to different *Medical Practitioners* resident in York.

As these letters appear to convey a very inaccurate notion of my conference with Mr. Higgins, I beg leave to state, that I did not proceed to Doncaster for the unwise purpose of inducing him *to delay his publication*, as intimated in the letters, but *expressly and solely* to request him to *submit his charges to the proper tribunal*.

In regard to the charges themselves, conceiving that any explanation or defence on my part would be altogether premature and incorrect, before the matter has been fully investigated by the Governors of the Asylum, I shall for the present content myself with requesting the public to suspend their judgment, and desiring you to insert the subjoined letter.

It will be observed that Mr. Higgins, in publishing his statement, has suppressed the *counter-statement* I put into his hands on the 6th inst. of which circumstance I am unable to suggest any satisfactory explanation. I am, Sir, &c.

C. BEST.

To the EDITOR of the YORK HERALD.

Sir,

I am informed by a letter from Mr. Higgins, of Skellow, near Doncaster, dated Nov. 23, that his statement, relative to the sup-

posed mal-treatment of a patient in the Lunatic Asylum, will be published this week. I am not informed whether the counter-statement, which I put into his hands three weeks ago, will appear at the same time, but conceiving that any explanation or defence on my part would be altogether premature and incorrect, before the matter has been fully investigated by the Governors of the Asylum, I shall, for the present, content myself with requesting the public to suspend their judgment, and desiring you to insert the following letter.

I am, Sir, &c.

C. BEST.

York, Nov. 26, 1813.

(*Copy of a Letter, sent to Mr. HIGGINS, on the 21st Instant.*)

York, Nov. 20, 1813.

Sir,

The pressure of indispensable occupations during the last and the present week, has prevented me from sending an earlier reply to your letter. When I had the honour of conversing with you on the 6th of the present month, I certainly considered you as most *clearly* and *unequivocally* acquiescing in the proposal I made to you, that you should refer your charges to the consideration of a meeting of the Governors of the Asylum, instead of prejudicing the minds of the public by an *ex-parte* statement against the Institution. I stated to you, at the same time, that it was my decided wish and desire, that the matter should undergo a *full and complete* investigation, as in the event of the existence of any abuses or improper practices at the Asylum, no person could have so much interest in their correction as myself.

After this conversation, and supposed arrangement, I was in no small degree surprised to receive your letter, which informed me of your intention to publish every thing you knew, or that had come before you on the subject, and, disregarding the jurisdiction of the Governors of the Asylum, to refer the matter to the tribunal of the public.

Before you come to a definitive decision upon this point, I trust you will consider well, how far such a step is compatible with the common principles of equity and justice. I apprehend, that in all other cases of supposed injury, application is first made to the tribunal, whose express business it is to hear the complaint and redress the wrong, and that only in case of the neglect of that tribunal to perform its duty, is it considered as justifiable to appeal to another court.—Should you, however, persist in your intention of publishing your statement, your candour, will, I hope, induce you to make a public avowal of your reasons for questioning the competency or the integrity of the tribunal to which you are referred for redress, and to advance sufficient grounds for your implied belief, that the Governors of the Asylum are either unable or unwilling to acquit themselves of their duty with impartiality and justice.

I also hope you will duly consider whether you are not lending your name as a Magistrate to a purpose most foreign to your official situation, and giving force and effect, however unintentionally on your part, to a malicious conspiracy against myself and the Asylum. This suggestion, as you will perceive, is strongly supported both by the internal evidence of some of your documents, and by the *time* selected for bringing them forward.

I have further to request that the deposition of the Apothecary at Thorne be taken on oath, before it is brought forward as an authentic document. The publication of this paper in its present form, before the matter has been fully investigated, will hardly, I think, be considered as a fair proceeding, by any candid or unprejudiced person. So far from tending to promote the ends of justice and truth, which are the only legitimate objects in every similar inquiry, it is evidently calculated to counteract and defeat them. It is intended to produce an impression on the minds of its readers, that the situation in which Wm. Vicars was removed from York, was the result of neglect and improper treatment at the Asylum, and not, as I apprehend will be fully proved by evidence, the unavoidable consequence of the lamentable and dangerous illness under which he had recently laboured; and from which he was but then in an early stage of convalescence. It is

also calculated to disseminate a belief, that the Asylum at large and its inmates, are kept in a state of uncleanness and neglect, and that due attention is not paid either to the health or the comfort of the patients, the contrary of which notion, as I venture to affirm with the utmost confidence, will be established by the most ample and satisfactory evidence.

As I express so much confidence of being able to rebut these charges, and to bring forward a satisfactory explanation of the circumstances mentioned in your statement, you will probably ask, why I should so strongly object to the publication of your documents? My answer is briefly this—that they are not fitted to further the ends of *justice*, but to raise a most *unjust* outcry against the Lunatic Asylum—that popular clamour though easily raised is with difficulty repressed—that numerous individuals who read your charges, will not be at the trouble to attend to their refutation—and lastly, that when the public mind has been poisoned and prejudiced on any particular subject, no subsequent explanation, however satisfactory in itself, can efface the impression which has once been produced.

Should you, after all, decide upon publishing your statement, from which a sense of justice and candour will, I trust, still dissuade you, you are at liberty to make what use you think proper of the paper I put into your hands, explaining, of course, in case of its publication, that it is to be considered merely as a partial and imperfect explanation of the circumstances, taken down hastily on the spur of the occasion, and as by no means comprising the whole of the evidence to be brought forward on the subject.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

CHARLES BEST.

YORK ASYLUM.

MR. EDITOR,

The following statement would have appeared in the *Courant* of November 8, if the Editor had not shown it, before it was published, without my knowledge, to Dr. Best, who came over to me at Doncaster, on November 6. I was induced to suspend its publication till this time on the Doctor's request, and on his promising to publish the Advertisement, which appeared in the Papers, calling a Meeting of the Governors on December 2. When I first wrote the statement for the press, I had never seen the letters which have lately been published in the York Papers respecting the Asylum; nor did I know the name of any one of the Governors or Persons connected with the institution; but I did not think it proper to conceal the facts publicly sworn to before me; more particularly as Vicars was ordered by me to be sent to the Asylum against his friends' consent, who were afraid that he should receive ill usage there. I examined Wm. Vicars, in company with a friend, on the 5th of November, and in consequence of a statement given to me by Dr. Best, I examined his body very carefully again on the 8th: he appeared at that time to have a great many yellowish black marks upon him, which had it not been for the statement of the Doctor, I should not have had the least doubt were the effects of bruises. Whenever I have seen him he has been perfectly quiet, except in the case of the assault on the old woman, who had given him very great provocation.

I have inquired of Mr. Branson, Surgeon, of Doncaster, who first attended him, of Francis Moat, who took him and brought him from the Asylum, of his wife and her two sisters, who saw him twice during his confinement, and of his nearest neighbours, and they all agree in stating that they never saw or heard of the least violence, except in the case of the old woman alluded to above; they all agree that he had the black marks on his return from York, a great part of which had disappeared on the 5th and 8th instant when I viewed him.

I propose to attend at the Asylum on the 2d of December, to afford the Governors any explanation they may wish for, and also to communicate several other particulars, too long for insertion in your paper.

I remain, Sir, your humble Servant,

GODFREY HIGGINS,

Acting Magistrate for the West-Riding of the County of York.

SKELLOW GRANGE,

Near Ferrybridge, Nov. 20th, 1813.

STATEMENT.

A few days previous to the 17th of April, 1813, complaint was made to me by an old woman, that William Vicars, of Fishlake, had assaulted her, &c. in consequence of which I granted a warrant to apprehend him, and upon his being brought up, I found he was insane. He being a Pauper, I ordered the Overseer of the Poor, Thomas Leach, to take proper measures for conveying him to the Asylum at York, to which place he was taken on the 17th of last April; and from which he was brought away on the 13th of last October. When I saw Vicars before he went, he appeared in good bodily health, no ways weak or emaciated.

About a fortnight ago, application was made to me, by Sarah, the wife of William Vicars, for an order for more relief from the Overseer of the Poor. I summoned him to the Town's Hall, in Doncaster, and upon inquiring into Vicars's situation, the following documents marked A B C D E, were sworn to be true by Sarah Vicars, and the Overseer, Thomas Leach, in the presence of W. Wrightson, Esq. and myself:—

A. Inventory of what clothes Wm. Vicars took into the Asylum, and also of what he brought back with him.

He took with him a good and nearly new blue coat, a new scarlet silk shag waistcoat, a pair of good velveteen breeches, a

new down hat, cost 15s. two pair of blue stockings, never been mended, a pair of new shoes, two new blue and white striped shirts, a short velveteen jacket, another scarlet waistcoat, spotted with black, another pair of velveteen breeches, two neckerchiefs, one of silk, and one of cotton, two pocket-handkerchiefs, and two night-caps.

He brought back with him, one short jacket and one waistcoat, two white shirts, two pair of stockings, an old hat, not the hat he took, and a pair of bad shoes: he has not brought back one article he took with him. *He has brought back the Itch with him.*

SARAH

Her ✕ Mark.

VICARS

Bill paid by the OVERSEER.

York, July 5th, 1813.

B. W. VICARS,

Bought of JOHN HODGSON,

	£.	s.	d.
4½ yds Dark Cloth, 3s. 9d.	0	16	11
2½ yds Stout Cord, 3s. 9d.	0	9	5
4½ yds ditto Cotton, 1s. 2d.	0	5	3
Pocketing for 3 Coats	0	1	10
3½ Dozen Buttons, 8d.	0	2	4
	<u>1</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>

Bill paid by the OVERSEER.

C.

Mr. VICARS.

Shirts mended	0	1	6
7½ yds Cloth	0	13	9
2 Shirts made	0	2	9
2 pair Stockings	0	6	0
	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>

Bill paid by the OVERSEER.

D. The Overseers of Fishlake, Dr.

To the Governors of the York Lunatic Asylum,

OCTOBER 13th, 1813.

	£.	s.	d.
Board, &c. of Wm. Vicars, 4 weeks 3 days, 9s. ...	1	19	9
Letter 1s. 9d. Shaving 5d. Stamp 2d.	0	2	4
Paid Short	0	0	6
	<hr/>		
Received, Geo. Surr,	2	2	7
Allowing deposit	1	1	0
	<hr/>		
	1	1	7
	<hr/>		

E. This is to certify that I was sent for, by Mr. Hopwood, of Thorning Hirst, on Thursday the 14th instant, to examine the state in which William Vicars, of Stainforth, was dismissed from the York Asylum. He had the itch very bad, was also extremely filthy, for I saw his wife not only comb several lice from his head, but take them from the folds of his shirt neck; his health was so much impaired, that he was not able to stand by himself; his legs were very much swelled, and one of them in a state of mortification. He is now much recovered, both in mind and health, by bark and a generous nourishing diet. Witness my hand this 29th day of October, 1813.

CHARLES MAPLES, Surgeon.

N. B. The words in Italics were not in one of the newspapers, they were added by S. Vicars at a subsequent examination.

G. H.

Dr. BEST'S DEFENCE.

The following statement will be verified *on oath*, by the individuals whose names are mentioned below, and by the Medical Officers of the York Lunatic Asylum.

CHARLES HOLGATE, a Keeper in the Asylum, had the especial charge of Wm. Vicars, from his coming to the Asylum on the 17th of April, to the middle of the Summer, during the whole of which time he was in a state of almost incessant violence, and when his hands were confined was in the habit of tearing his clothes with his teeth. During this period he tore both his suits of clothes entirely to pieces, some time afterwards he was provided with a new suit of clothes; the said Charles Holgate, in the mean time, viz. for about six weeks, supplying him with clothes of his own.

About the middle of the Summer, SAMUEL WINN, another Keeper in the Asylum, was appointed to take care of William Vicars. Soon after this time he became less violent, being much weaker, and showing a strong tendency to palsy: he continued however to tear his clothes, and within a very short time completely destroyed his new suit, with the exception of two shirts and two pair of stockings. During the remainder of the time he was in the Asylum, he was supplied with different articles of clothing by the Keepers.

About the end of September, he had an Apoplectic fit, laying speechless and senseless for two or three days, from which he was recovered by suitable treatment, and from the effects of which he was only convalescent at the time he left the Asylum.

During his illness he had a fire always in his room, and had a special attendant constantly sitting by him; and, besides the assiduous medical treatment he received, he was abundantly supplied with nutritious food, mulled ale, and every thing that was judged most likely to be conducive to his comfort and recovery.

The Ulcer on his leg broke out during his confinement to bed, and was dressed daily by the Surgeon; and though it at one time

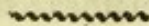
threatened mortification, yet it was both in an improved and an improving state when he left the Asylum.

A trifling eruption broke out on his thighs, arms, and sides, in the second week of his illness, but it appeared to depend entirely on the state of his constitutional health, and had none of the characters of the itch.

He was kept as clean as possible in the deplorable condition in which he lay, but as his discharges were generally involuntary, it was absolutely impracticable to keep him in a state of complete cleanliness.

CHARLES BEST.

Nov. 5, 1813.



To the EDITOR of the YORK HERALD.

Sir,

I think it my duty to inform the public, that I have presented the following Statement to the Governors, at the Asylum, this day. I am not at present informed what is the decision of the Court. I shall therefore make no comments, nor give any opinion upon what has passed, but I do most confidently hope, if the Governors have thought it right to come to any decision, that, at least, the nature of the evidence upon which that decision is founded will be stated to the public. However, I care little what is their conclusion, so that it only produce such wholesome Regulations, (the appointment of Visitors, &c. &c.) as may prevent even the suspicion of such things occurring in future.

I remain, Sir, your humble Servant,

GODFREY HIGGINS.

York, Thursday evening, Dec. 2, 1813.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I think it my duty to lay before you the following statement of certain facts which came publicly before me as a magistrate, respect-

ing a lunatic of the name of Wm. Vicars. I have done myself the honour of presenting them to you in person, in consequence of a conference I had some time ago at Doncaster with Dr. Best, and of the advertisement published by him, the result of that conference; and also, in order that I may verify the documents as far as in my power, and be ready to afford you any explanation which you may require. The object of this statement, Wm. Vicars, was sent to the Asylum by my orders, against his friends' consent; the evidence respecting him was given publicly in the Town's Hall, at Doncaster, and I think I am bound in justice to myself, as well as to this poor but respectable and unfortunate man, to show that I will not connive at the injustice with which he appears to me to have been treated; his friends at least shall be satisfied, that if justice be not done to him, the fault is not mine. It has been represented to me, that I ought to have sent the statement first to Dr. Best, before I published it. I think otherwise. But it may be well for those who are of that opinion to recollect that, in consequence of Mr. Peacock's conduct, the doctor had all the opportunity he could require of rendering a satisfactory explanation. He took the opportunity afforded to him, by coming and talking with me at Doncaster, and by giving me a written statement, in defence of the Asylum, marked F, which, to say the least of it, is not satisfactory to me.

At the time I first wrote the statement which I sent to the Courant, marked G, I did not know the name of any person connected with the Asylum: I had never read any of the letters which have lately been published in the York papers respecting it; nor have I to this day read more than three or four of them, and I never have had, until this week, any communication, directly or indirectly, on this subject, with any person in the City of York, or its neighbourhood, except Dr. Best and the Editors of the two York papers. I should not have said a word of my own motives or conduct in this affair, had it not been for something like an insinuation contained in Dr. Best's letter marked H, of Nov. 20, that I was lending my name as a magistrate to encourage a malicious conspiracy against him and the Asylum: but I hope and trust no one will believe that I would so far forget

myself and the situation I have the honour to hold. No one, surely, will suspect me, of wishing, wantonly, to hurt the feelings of any man, much less of a man like Dr. Best, whom I had never seen, and of whom I had never heard any one speak, but with esteem and respect. He may think it policy to turn the attention of the public to my offences instead of the offences of the Asylum, but I do not think it will avail him much. I cannot think that, in attacking me, he has taken the best method of defending himself.

By Dr. Best's account, the only difference in opinion betwixt him and myself, seems to be, that *he* wanted a full and complete investigation in private—I wanted one in public. In consequence of the Doctor's journey to Doncaster, I have had a great deal more trouble than I should otherwise have had; but I should have been amply repaid, if my trouble had been ten times as great, by the thanks of numbers, for taking up the cause of their relations and friends. Yet, in several instances, when I have urged them to let me bring forwards their individual case, the answer has been, I can take care my friend shall be ill used no more, but I will not advertise him in all the York papers for a lunatic. I shall now probably be told, I am raising an outcry again—be it so; but what I say is true. I think no one will deny that the case of Vicars is a very strong one in its present appearance. Having brought it before the public, I have done my duty, and I shall be very glad if the gentlemen connected with the institution can be able to show that they have done theirs, and to convince the friends of Wm. Vicars and the public, upon *unquestionable* evidence, that his case has been mistaken; but I apprehend nothing short of the whole evidence being laid before the public will be deemed satisfactory—less than that will not satisfy me. Upon the document marked F, Dr. Best's defence, which he might have published, if he had thought proper, along with mine, I think it right to observe, that it seems to me incredible that any inferior servant of a mad-house should be found so humane as to lend his clothes for six weeks to a lousy and itchy pauper, who, if not lousy and itchy at that time, was so mischievous as, in spite of all restraint, to destroy his

own clothes as fast as they were given to him, and for whom the opulent township of Fishlake was bound and willing to find every necessary. I may possibly err in my judgment, but I cannot admit such interested and incredible evidence as the above to stand in competition for a moment with the disinterested and unobtruded evidence of Francis Moat and the two Maples's.

I *sought* their evidence, it was not *offered* to me.

I think it right to correct a mistake which took place in the copying of my first statement in the Herald; the words, "except Mr. Branson," ought to have been inserted in the tenth line from the bottom, after the word "agree."

I called on Mr. Branson *twice* on Saturday last, and sent a special messenger over to him on Sunday with a note, to apologize for the mistake, and to inquire whether he recollected any thing more respecting Vicars: he was unfortunately from home, but I received a letter yesterday, to inform me he now recollected that Vicars was sufficiently violent at his house to justify and require a recommendation to the Asylum. I certainly never doubted the man's insanity; I believe Mr. Branson never saw him after his return—Mr. Maples never before his admission.

The cases of Wilson, Schorrey, Kidd, and Thirkeld, appear to me to demand your serious attention.

It really surprises me, considering the general difficulty of substantiating particular charges in regard to the treatment of Lunatics, and the delicacy which generally exists in exposing the instances of this disease, that I have been able to collect such a mass of important evidence in *one day and a half*.

There is one other fact, of which no separate document is laid before you, to which I must call your attention. Since the 1st of January last, 23 or 24 persons appear to have been buried at St. Olave's church from the Asylum. You will naturally inquire whether all the patients who die in the Asylum are interred in this place.

Surely, my Lords and Gentlemen, if you dispassionately discuss the circumstances which I have laid before you, you must agree with me that public investigation into the state of the Asylum, of which you are the guardians, is absolutely necessary;

and that the institution ought to be placed on such a footing, as, by the purity of its principles, the frankness of its proceedings, the wide extension of its doors to the insane poor, might challenge and command the approbation, the confidence, and the continued patronage of that liberal public to whom it is indebted for its origin and support.

GODFREY HIGGINS.

York, December 1, 1813.

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YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

AT a Quarterly Court of the Governors of the York Lunatic Asylum, held the Second Day of December, 1813 ;

PRESENT,

*His Grace the ARCHBISHOP of YORK, in the Chair.*

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| The Right Hon. The Lord | Mr. James Fryer    |
| Mayor                   | Robert Swann, Esq. |
| Godfrey Wentworth, Esq. | Henry Bland, Esq.  |
| Thomas Lloyd, Esq.      | Mr. Edward Wallis  |
| Rev. William Dealtry    | Mr. J. B. Wilson   |
| Rev. Thomas Preston     | Mr. R. Cattle      |
| Rev. C. Constable       | J. Prince, Esq.    |
| Rev. H. Whytehead       | Dr. Belcombe       |
| W. C. Fenton, Esq.      | Mr. J. Hodgson     |
| Thomas Swann, Esq.      | Dr. Beckwith       |
| George Palmes, Esq.     | Mr. Thomas Bell    |
| P. Saltmarshe, Esq.     | Dr. Lawson         |
| Thomas Wilson, Esq.     | Mr. John Brook     |
| John Roper, Esq.        |                    |

The Governors having taken into their consideration the Statement published in the York and other Newspapers, respecting the treatment of WILLIAM VICARS, lately a Patient in this Asylum, and having examined upon oath such Witnesses as were competent to afford information on the same, are unanimously of opinion, that during the time that the said William Vicars remain-



ed in the Asylum, he was treated with all possible care, attention, and humanity.

RESOLVED,

That whilst the Governors are at all times ready and anxious to promote an inquiry into the supposed existence of any abuse in the conduct of this Institution, they cannot but regret the mode by which an *ex-parte* statement of the case, which has this day come under their consideration, has been circulated in several Newspapers previous to an opportunity being afforded to the Governors of a regular investigation of the grounds of the complaint.

RESOLVED,

That this Court be adjourned to FRIDAY the 10th Day of December instant, at Twelve o'clock.

RESOLVED,

That the Thanks of this Court be given to his Grace the Archbishop of York, for his attention to the business of the day.

ORDERED, That these Resolutions be published in the York and Doncaster Newspapers.

E. EBOR.

YORK ASYLUM.

To the EDITOR of the YORK HERALD.

Sir,

As I am informed something more is expected from me relative to the meeting of the Governors of the Asylum, on Friday last, than what I published last week in the Herald, I beg you to state the following particulars—I wish to say as little as I can with propriety.

The Archbishop, the last minute before I came away, told me



very politely, that they would detain me no longer, they had no further any occasion for me.

From the resolutions in the Newspaper, I see the Governors meet again on Friday, perhaps they may examine at that time the flagrant cases I laid before them, ready to be supported by the oaths of several most respectable persons in your City. As the Governors have the cases in writing, and the addresses of all the Witnesses, my presence *cannot* be necessary. I hope and trust the Governors will publish the cases, and all the evidence on both sides, in order that the public may be satisfied as to the past, and that they will appoint Visitors, and adopt other proper regulations, to prevent what has happened from recurring in future.

I give my word, I have not written or seen, before publication, any anonymous letters on this subject, and none shall be written or published by me. Any misrepresentations which may be made of my conduct in the Papers, whether anonymous or otherwise, will be treated with the contempt they deserve.

The evidence which I have seen and heard, leads me to a conclusion directly the reverse of that drawn by the Governors. *I am very far from satisfied with what has been done.*

Though some Persons *may* treat my opinion with contempt, yet a few humble paupers, relatives of the Lunatics, *do* wish it to be known. I cannot consent to keep it concealed.

The Magistrates of the North Riding I am told are building an Asylum for their own paupers. Why are they doing this?

I beg leave to call the attention of the Magistrates of the East and West Ridings to the following facts:

In that most excellent institution, called the Retreat, belonging to the respectable Society of Friends, 26 patients have died in sixteen years, during which period the average number of patients has been 46. In the Asylum, containing at the time of the last report 199 patients, 24\* have been buried at one church alone, in the last eleven months; and it was sworn in the Asylum

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\* How many of those are poor persons? The deaths at the Asylum appear to be in the proportion of 3 to 1 of those at the Retreat.—*ceteris paribus.*



by one of the interested witnesses, that only a slight appearance of typhus had shown itself in one or two cases.

I now take my leave of this subject with a little hope, mingled with much regret at what has passed, and with a consciousness that I have done my duty to the best of my abilities.

I remain, Sir, your humble Servant,

G. HIGGINS.

Skellow-Grange, near Ferrybridge, Dec. 9, 1813.

YORK COURANT.

YORK ASYLUM.

At an Adjourned Quarterly Court of Governors of the York Lunatic Asylum, held on Friday the Seventh day of January, 1814;

PRESENT,

*His Grace the ARCHBISHOP of YORK, in the Chair.*

|                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor. | Mr. Roper,                  |
| Dr. Best,                      | Rev. Wm. Bulmer,            |
| Thos. Wilson, Esq.             | Wm. Gimber, Esq.            |
| P. Saltmarshe, Esq.            | Benj. Brooksbank, Esq.      |
| Rev. T. Preston,               | Dr. Beckwith,               |
| John Prince, Esq.              | Mr. J. B. Wilson,           |
| Mr. Edward Wallis,             | Richd. John. Thompson, Esq. |
| Sam. Wm. Nicoll, Esq.          | Rev. R. H. Whytehead,       |
| Mr. J. Gray,                   | Rev. Robert Stephen Thomp-  |
| Rev. J. Graham,                | son,                        |
| Henry Bland, Esq.              | George Palmes, Esq.         |
| Mr. Robert Cattle,             | Geo. Lowther Thompson, Esq. |
| Rev. C. Constable,             | Richard Fountayne Wilson,   |
| John Dalton, Esq.              | Esq.                        |
| W. C. Fenton, Esq.             | George Healaugh, Esq.       |
| Mr. Catton,                    | David Russel, Esq.          |
| Rev. James Richardson,         | Mr. Samuel Tuke,            |
| Mr. Wm. Hornby,                | Mr. Priestman,              |
| Mr. John Hodgson,              | Rev. C. Wellbeloved,        |
| Mr. Mason,                     | William Danby, Esq.         |



Matthew Wilson, Esq.  
 Rich. Toulmin North, Esq.  
 John Rawdon, Esq.  
 John Dyson, Esq.  
 Gervas Elam, Esq.  
 Dr. Lawson,  
 Mr. Thos. Marshall,  
 Godfrey Higgins, Esq.  
 Mr. Crosby,  
 Thos. Lloyd, Esq.  
 Rev. Wm. Dealtry,  
 Wm. Marshall Esq.  
 John Tweedy, Esq.  
 Dr. Belcombe,

Mr. Wm. Tuke,  
 Mr. Thorpe,  
 Mr. John Wormald,  
 The Mayor of Doncaster,  
 Mr. Daniel Tuke,  
 Barnard Clarkson, Esq.  
 John Cooke, Esq. of Camps  
 Mount,  
 Mr. Michael Clarkson,  
 Wm. Gray, Esq.  
 Mr. Joseph Marshall,  
 Mr. Samuel Richardson,  
 Robt. Swann, Esq.  
 Barnard Clarkson, jun. Esq.

At this Court the Committee appointed on the Tenth of December last, to investigate certain charges then before the Court, reported the several Depositions taken by them on the cases referred to their investigation.

The Committee further reported their opinion, that in the case of Martha Kidd, a gross neglect of cleanliness and of attention to the person, is in full proof.

That in the case of the Rev. Mr. Schorey, there has been considerable personal neglect; and that both towards himself and Mrs. Schorey, some of the Keepers have conducted themselves in a very reprehensible manner.

That in the cases of George Arundel, John Thirkell, and Richard Thirkell, and of Mr. Wilson, no sufficient ground of censure has been established.

The Depositions taken by the Committee having been read,

*Resolved,*

That the opinion of the Committee on all the above cases, be adopted as the opinion of this Court.

*Resolved,*

That the Thanks of this Court be given to the Committee, for the great labour and exertion with which they have conducted the Investigation of the Cases submitted to them.



*Resolved,*

That it be referred to the following Committee, (any five of whom shall have power to act) to make an inquiry into the Rules and Management of this Institution ; and to report facts and their opinion thereon to the next or subsequent Quarterly Court of the Governors, or to the General Meeting in August, viz.—

|                                      |                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| His Grace the Archbishop of<br>York, | Benj. Brooksbank, Esq. |
| Thos. Smith, Esq. (Lord<br>Mayor)    | Wm. Carr, Esq.         |
| Rev. Thos. Preston,                  | Thos. Wilson, Esq.     |
| Rev. Wm. Dealtry,                    | Henry Bland, Esq.      |
| Geo. Palmes, Esq.                    | Rev. John Graham,      |
| Sam. Wm. Nicoll, Esq.                | Mr. Brook,             |
|                                      | Mr. J. Gray.           |

*Resolved,*

That Dr. Best be requested to attend the Meetings of the Committee, to answer such questions and inquiries as may be proposed to him, and to offer any suggestions which may occur to him as beneficial to the Institution.

At this Court, the Committee appointed at the Special Court held on the Thirtieth day of December last, in consequence of the late Fire, made a report of their proceedings.

The Report having been read,

*Ordered,*

That it be referred to the same Committee to meet the Directors of the County Fire Office, and to join with them in appointing a proper person or persons to value the loss sustained by the Fire ; and that they have power to carry into execution the other suggestions contained in their Report, and to add two or more Governors to their Committee.

*Resolved,*

That the Thanks of this Court be given to those individuals who exerted themselves in rendering assistance on occasion of the late Fire.



*Resolved,*

That it appears on inquiry, that none of the unhappy accidents which occurred on the late Fire, can be attributed to any of the sufferers being in a state of restraint from chains or otherwise.

*Resolved,*

That his Grace the Lord Archbishop of York be requested to accept the cordial and unanimous Thanks of this Meeting, for his candid, impartial, and peculiarly able conduct in the Chair.

*Resolved,*

That the Resolutions of this Adjourned Court be Published in the York and Doncaster Newspapers.

*E. EBOR.*

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YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

To the EDITOR of the YORK HERALD.

Sir,

Least any improper inference should be drawn from my silence, I think it right to state to the public, that I am perfectly satisfied with the decision of the late Meeting of Governors; and am persuaded that in consequence of the recent proceedings, the Patients are treated with as much *care, humanity, and attention*, as circumstances will admit of. It gave me great pleasure to be able to second the motion for thanks to his Grace the Archbishop and the Committee who conducted the late Investigation. I now entertain the most sanguine hopes that in August next, this Asylum will be put upon as good a plan of management as is adopted in any similar Institution in the kingdom. This expectation, Sir, is an ample compensation to me for the anxiety I have felt on this occasion, and for those misrepresentations to which I have been ex-

posed in the discharge of what I conceive to have been my duty as a *Magistrate*.

I remain, &c.

G. HIGGINS.

Skellow-Grange, Jan. 10, 1814.

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The next Quarterly Court of Governors will be held at the Asylum on Thursday the 14th Day of April instant, at 11 o'Clock in the Forenoon.

JOHN BROOK, *Treasurer*.

York, April 4, 1814.

The following Donations have been received by the Treasurer since the last Quarterly Court, viz:—

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
S. W. Nicoll, Esq.	20	0	0	Rev. Wm. Smith	20	0	0
D. Russel, Esq.	20	0	0	Wm. Carr, Esq.	20	0	0
Rev. C. Wellbeloved	20	0	0	C. Duncombe, Esq.	21	0	0
John Dyson, Esq.	20	0	0	B. Brooksbank, Esq.	20	0	0
Mr. D. Tuke	20	0	0	Mr. J. Mason	21	0	0
Mr. John Crosby	20	0	0	Mr. S. Tuke	20	0	0
Mr. Jonathan Gray	20	0	0	Mr. T. Procter	20	0	0
Rev. J. Graham	20	0	0	Godfrey Higgins, Esq.	20	0	0
Wm. Gimber, Esq.	20	0	0	Wm. Marshall, Esq.	20	0	0
J. Rawdon, Esq.	20	0	0	J. Cook, Esq.	20	0	0
Rev. J. Richardson	20	0	0	Mr. J. Marshall	20	0	0
Mr. S. Richardson	20	0	0	Mr. J. Catton	20	0	0
A. Thorpe, Esq.	20	0	0	Mr. J. Wormald	20	0	0
Mr. D. Priestman	20	0	0	Rev. R. S. Thompson	20	0	0
J. Tweedy, Esq.	21	0	0	R. J. Thompson, Esq.	20	0	0
G. L. Thomson, Esq.	20	0	0	Mr. B. Clarkson	21	0	0
Mr. Wm. Hornby	20	0	0	Mr. B. Clarkson, Jun.	21	0	0
Mr. Wm. Tuke	20	0	0	Mr. M. Clarkson	21	0	0
M. Wilson, Esq.	20	0	0	Mr. T. Marshall	20	0	0
R. T. North, Esq.	20	0	0	J. L. Raper, Esq.	20	0	0
T. Smith, Esq.	20	0	0	Sir W. Ingilby, Bart.	20	0	0
Wm. Gray, Esq.	20	0	0	John Swann, Esq.	20	0	0
Rev. Mr. Perring	5	0	0	Rev. T. G. Read	26	5	0

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

To the *EDITOR* of the *DONCASTER GAZETTE*.

Sir,

Having some time ago called the public attention to a case, as I conceived, of mal-treatment, in the York Lunatic Asylum, the statement of which, it was alledged, might injure the reputation of that Institution, I thought it my duty, as soon as I could with sincerity, to endeavour to remove any unfavourable impression which that statement might convey. This I did in a letter of the 10th of January last.

I am extremely sorry that it is now my duty to guard the public from being deceived by the opinion expressed in that letter. Visiting the Asylum early this morning, I discovered, to my great surprise, that the house is yet in the most shocking state. I discovered a number of secret cells in a state of filth, horrible beyond description, and which, in my opinion, it was impossible could be produced by the occupation of one or two patients in less than several nights: in one of these cells was a chain, with handcuffs affixed, fastened to a *new* board in the floor.—These cells were occupied the last night by *women*, the most miserable objects I ever beheld.

Upon inquiry I find that these cells were kept secret from the two Committees who were appointed to examine the state of the house, &c. and that they were informed as I was, before I discovered the door which led to these hidden cells, that they had seen the whole of the house.

A special meeting of Governors being held about two hours after my discovery, at which Col. Cooke, of Owston, presided, I was enabled to have these cells examined, by at least 20 of the Governors, but not until all the straw, perfectly soaked with urine and excrement, had been removed, and clean straw put in the place.—The state they were in, even after this operation, I leave to the Governors to describe.

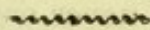
I shall make no comment upon this statement, except to express a hope, that the public will never rest satisfied till this *Augean Stable* be swept clean, from top to bottom.

Many more extraordinary circumstances connected with this Institution, shall be laid before the public in proper time. I hope the statement of these facts will not fail to procure a full attendance of Governors, at the next Quarterly Court in April.

I remain, &c.

G. HIGGINS.

March 24, 1814.



YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

To the EDITOR of the YORK HERALD.

York, April 2, 1814.

Sir,

A fresh attempt having been made by Mr. Higgins to raise a popular clamour on the subject of the Lunatic Asylum, and to excite the indignation of the County against the persons concerned in its management, it seems to be requisite that some notice should be taken of his letter.

I am myself led to reply to it, partly because there is a prevailing opinion that I am responsible for every thing appertaining to the Asylum, and partly from being apprized, by collateral circumstances, that Mr. Higgins's present attack is personally and particularly levelled at me.

There are four sleeping-rooms or cells for females at the Asylum, separate from the main building.—They are of a very sufficient size, entirely lined with wood, and furnished with ventilators, straw-beds, blankets, &c. Such apartments form an indispensable appendage to every large building for the reception

of Lunatics, and are designed for the use of those unfortunate persons who cannot, with propriety, be permitted to sleep in the galleries with the other patients, on account of their excessive uncleanness or violence. From the situation and habits of the four poor women by whom they are usually occupied, they are, every morning, at the time of cleaning them out, in an extremely offensive condition. I have no doubt that they were so when seen by Mr. Higgins, though not to the extent described in his letter, and I am convinced they will continue to be found in the same situation, with very little improvement, under every precaution, and contrivance, which it is possible to adopt. I am fully persuaded that the idea of concealing these cells from the knowledge of the Governors never entered into the thoughts of any individual belonging to the Asylum. No one could have any motive or interest in doing so; and it can be proved, if required, that they had been previously seen by different Governors.

With respect to the chain and handcuffs, they have been particularly examined by a Committee of Governors. The locks of the handcuffs being entirely filled up, and the hinges obliterated by rust, it is evident, on the most casual inspection, not only that they are incapable of being used at present, but that they cannot have been employed, as far as can be judged from their appearance, for a long series of years. It is quite impossible that this circumstance can have escaped the notice of Mr. Higgins, and yet he has deliberately attempted to disseminate a belief, that this chain and these handcuffs are still in use at the Asylum; or, in other words, he has laboured to mislead and inflame the public mind, to the deep prejudice of individuals, by an insinuation, which, at the time he was bringing it forward, he knew to be wholly unfounded.

With reference to the notion of my responsibility, I here judge it expedient to inform the public, however superfluous such a statement may to many persons appear, that if the site upon which the Asylum is built is a damp and improper one—if the plan upon which it is constructed is injudicious and imperfect—if half of the accommodations have been destroyed by fire, and if

the remaining apartments are insufficient for the comfort and the security of the patients—if the servants are too few to do the business of the house, or if they at any time neglect to perform it—and, lastly, if there is any thing defective in the general constitution and laws of the Institution, I do not consider myself as responsible for any of these circumstances, or for the evils which may naturally be expected to result from them.

I am, Sir, &c.

CHARLES BEST.

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YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

At a Quarterly Court of Governors of the York Lunatic Asylum, held on the 14th Day of April, 1814;

PRESENT,

*Sir WM. INGILBY, Bart. (Chairman)*

The Lord Mayor  
Tho. Wilson, Esq.  
John Tweedy, Esq.  
Wm. Marshall, Esq.  
G. Higgins, Esq.  
Mr. Wm. Tuke  
Mr. J. Hodgson  
Rev. H. Whytehead  
Mr. John Mason  
Mr. Jona. Gray  
Rev. C. Wellbeloved  
Mr. B. Clarkson  
Mr. M. Clarkson  
M. Wilson, Esq.  
Tho. Lloyd, Esq.  
W. Gimber, Esq.  
Mr. Edward Wallis  
B. Brooksbank, Esq.  
Dr. Beckwith  
S. W. Nicol, Esq.  
Mr. Catton

Mr. D. Tuke  
Dr. Lawson  
John Roper, Esq.  
Mr. J. Prince  
Mr. Wm. Hornby  
Dr. Belcombe  
Geo. Palmes, Esq.  
Dr. Best  
Mr. Samuel Tuke  
Rev. J. Graham  
D. Russell, Esq.  
P. Saltmarshe, Esq.  
Rev. W. Bulmer  
Mr. Tho. Bell  
Mr. John Crosby  
G. L. Thompson, Esq.  
Wm. Gray, Esq.  
Rev. W. Smith  
Rev. R. Thompson  
Mr. Tho. Marshall  
Rev. R. Croft



Mr. D. Priestman  
 Mr. R. Cattle  
 Rev. E. H. Brooksbank  
 Tho. Smith, Esq.

Rev. J. Richardson  
 A. Thorpe, Esq.  
 Mr. J. Brook.

The Committee appointed to inquire into the Rules and Management of the Institution having produced their Report,

*Resolved,*

That the two parts of the Report of the said Committee, with the Appendix and Minutes therein referred to, be printed, and a Copy sent as soon as may be to each Governor.

That Mr. ALDERMAN WILSON, Mr. BROOK, and Mr. GRAHAM, be requested to carry into effect the preceding Resolution.

That the Committee be requested to prepare their further Report as to such Alterations in the Rules as they may think requisite, so that it may be laid before the Quarterly Court in July next, and may be in possession of the Governors previous to the August Meeting.

*Resolved,*

That it appears to this Court, that when the Committee of Rules and Management were conducted through the Asylum on the 28th of January last, the four Cells for Female Patients, recently discovered by Mr. HIGGINS in a state of extreme dirt and neglect, were not shown to them.

That the Chain found in one of the four Cells above referred to, was in that state of rust and decay, that it could not have been used for a considerable length of time.

That it is the opinion of this Court, that Mr. HIGGINS is intitled to the Thanks of the Governors for his upright, persevering, and successful exertions in bringing to light the abuses which have prevailed in this Institution.

That Mr. SAMUEL TUKE and G. L. THOMPSON, Esq. be added to the Committee of Inquiry into the Rules and Management of this Institution.

That Mr. S. TUKE, the Rev. J. RICHARDSON, Mr. THORPE, and Mr. D. PRIESTMAN, be added to the Committee appointed in



consequence of the late Fire, and that such increased Committee shall consider and report to a Special or Adjourned Meeting, or to the next Quarterly Court, the best Plan for improving the Accommodations of the House, and also that they be empowered in the meantime to dispose of such a number of Patients now in the House, as may appear to them, under the present circumstances of the Asylum, necessary for the comfortable accommodation of the remainder, and also to draw on the Treasurer for a sum not exceeding Five Hundred Pounds.

That the Rev. JAMES RICHARDSON and Mr. JOHN MASON, be appointed Visitors for the ensuing Quarter.

That inquiry be made whether blame attaches to any Officers or Servants of this Institution, in respect of the recent violent death of John Bardwell, *alias* Chappey, a Pauper Patient ; and also relative to his removal from the Asylum without a Coroner's Inquest.

That the next Quarterly Court be held on the Wednesday in the Summer Assize Week.

That this Court feel it incumbent to notice, with approbation, the promptitude with which the County Fire Office has paid the sum of £2392 4s. 2d. being the amount of the estimated loss occasioned by the late Fire, and its readiness in acquiescing with the wishes of the Governors of this Institution, to replace the damages by a Money-Payment instead of rebuilding the premises.

That the cordial Thanks of this Meeting be given to Sir WILLIAM INGILBY, Bart. for his very impartial, able, and satisfactory conduct in the Chair.

That these Resolutions be published once in each of the York and Doncaster Newspapers.

WILLIAM INGILBY, *Chairman.*

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*EXTRACT from the YORK COURANT.*

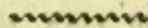
“ The vote of thanks to Mr. Higgins, at the Asylum on Thursday last, was very strongly objected to. The following are the names of the Governors by whom it was opposed.”



*Oath offered to be taken at Pontefract Sessions.*

Many more circumstances, very disgraceful to the management of the York Asylum, I could name to you on the present occasion, but I apprehend I have stated to you quite sufficient to induce you to consider seriously the situation of the paupers sent by you to that place, and who have no other protectors but yourselves. I do now most solemnly swear, that the whole of the above is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I swear, that when I first undertook to procure redress for William Vicars, I did not know even the name of any Officer, or Servant, connected with the Asylum. I swear further, that I had not had any communication directly, or indirectly, with any person at York, on the subject of the Asylum. I swear, I was not actuated by any motive of pecuniary interest, or by enmity or malice to any individual; but by a sense of duty and feeling for the unfortunate sufferers. Those were the sole motives which induced me to enter into the investigation connected, I trust I may add without any unpardonable offence, with the hope and expectation that I should receive the thanks of every humane and benevolent person, so help me God.

G. HIGGINS.



*Prayer of the Petition to the House of Lords.*

For those reasons your Petitioner humbly prays, that your Lordships will not listen to any prayer of the said Governors, to exempt their House from the operation of the proposed law; but rather that if any alteration be thought necessary, your Lordships would make the law more strict, with respect to the said Lunatic Asylum. And that your Lordships would be pleased to enact, that the visiting Magistrates should, in part, always be taken from the three Ridings of the County of York, as well as

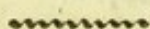


from the County of the City of York. That your Petitioner is ready to verify the above, and many other facts, at the Bar of your Lordship's House ; or in any other way that to your Lordships may seem meet and proper,

And your Petitioner,

shall ever pray,

G. HIGGINS.



*To the GOVERNORS of the YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.*

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

As the abuses, which are now not denied to have existed in the York Lunatic Asylum, will probably be laid before Parliament in the ensuing Session, it is unnecessary to say much about them.

Let me however briefly remind you, that it appears from the reports of your Committee, that large sums of Money arising from the admission of opulent Patients have not been applied, according to the original intention, to the relief of the poorer classes ; and that the Lunatic Poor, who have been confided to the care of your Officers and Servants by the Magistrates, have been neglected and abused. It does not, however, appear that any of the persons, who have thus abused your confidence, or betrayed their trust, have yet been dismissed from their situations, or even censured for their misconduct.

Under these circumstances, I hope you will not fail to attend at the general Meeting, which is fixed for Friday in the ensuing Race Week, at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon.

I think it now both my right and my duty to call upon you to do justice to the Institution and the Public, and I feel confident I shall not call in vain.



In the name of all those Persons, whose violent deaths are so stated in your books, as to disguise the facts from you, I call for justice.\*

In the name of *one hundred and forty-four*† Patients, whose deaths have been concealed from the public and from you, I call for justice.

I call upon you to clear the house of every individual, who has neglected his duty or abused his authority.

I call upon you to cleanse the Augean Stable from top to bottom.

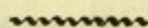
I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

GODFREY HIGGINS.

Skellow-Grange, Aug. 1814.



### YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

To the EDITOR of the YORK CHRONICLE.

Sir,

From the nature of the letter published by Mr. Higgins, in the York Herald of Saturday last, it is not to be doubted that decided steps will be taken by the Governors of the Asylum, at the approaching Meeting on Friday.

Should the facts, to which the Governors are referred, be found to warrant the contents of that letter, *justice demands* that



\* The number of Casualties in this house cannot be known, because, when a man's brains are dashed out, he is entered in the Books, *died*: and when a Patient has disappeared, and can never afterwards be heard of, he is entered, *removed*.

† See the printed Report of the Committee, page 13.



the suggestion therein contained, should be acted upon without hesitation, in regard to every Officer and Servant of the House.—Should it appear that the charges are not warranted by the facts to which reference is made, it follows as a matter of course, that suitable notice will be taken of conduct, on the part of the accuser, which it would in that case be impossible to designate by appropriate expressions.

In either event, whether the guilt be affixed on the accused or on the accusing party, justice will not be complete, in circumstances of such enormity, unless some ulterior measures be resorted to by the public at large, or by the Magistrates of the County.

I am, Sir, &c.

August 23, 1814.

Y. Z.

At an Annual Court of Governors of the York Lunatic Asylum, held at the Guildhall, in the City of York, the 26th Day of August, and by Adjournment the 27th Day of August, 1814,

*His Grace the ARCHBISHOP of YORK, in the Chair:*

The Report made by the Committee, of such Rules and Regulations as appear to them expedient for the future Management of this Institution, having been laid before this Court:

*Resolved,*

That the Rules and Regulations of the said Report be adopted for the Government of this Institution, subject to such alterations as this Court shall determine on.

That the Rules and Regulations, as now altered and adopted by this Court, be printed and distributed.

That no criminality attaches to Dr. Best, for misapplication of the Funds of this Institution.

That until a Committee for General Purposes shall be appoint-



ed, the present Committee of Rules and Management shall exercise the powers vested in the Committee, for General Purposes by the new Rules and Regulations.

That the Offices of Steward, Apothecary, and Matron or Housekeeper, be declared Vacant on the Seventh Day of October next, and that the Vacancies be then filled up.

That the Cordial Thanks of this Court be given to the Committee of Rules and Management, for their laborious Investigation of the Affairs of the York Lunatic Asylum, which has led to a great Reformation in the Management of that Institution.

*Ordered,*

That these Resolutions be Advertised in the York and Doncaster Newspapers.

E. EBOR.

His Grace the Archbishop having left the Chair :

*It was Resolved*—That the most Cordial and respectful Thanks of this Court, be offered to his Grace, for his able, impartial and most conciliatory conduct in the Chair.

*Ordered*—That this Court be Adjourned to the Seventh of October next, at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon.

### YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The following Donations and Legacy have been received by the Treasurer, since April last :—

|                                         | £. |
|-----------------------------------------|----|
| A Donation from Mr. Wm. Stead, jun..... | 20 |
| Rev. James Dallin .....                 | 21 |
| Dan. Gaskell, Esq.....                  | 20 |
| Benj. Gaskell, Esq.....                 | 20 |
| M. Stapylton, Esq.....                  | 20 |
| John Hustler, Esq.....                  | 20 |



|                                                                                                              |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|                                                                                                              | £.  |
| Wm. Aldem, Esq. ....                                                                                         | 20  |
| Mr. John Mason, jun. ....                                                                                    | 20  |
| A Legacy bequeathed by the Will of the late John Dods-<br>worth, Esq. to the Fund called Lupton's Fund ..... | 100 |

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EXTRACTS FROM THE ORDER BOOK.

Aug. 23, 1793.

Mr. Withers moved that an Annual Subscription of one Guinea and upwards, be admitted for the benefit of the Asylum.

This motion was negatived.

Aug. 22, 1794.

Doctor Burgh moved, that a Committee be appointed to inquire into the state of the Hospital, with respect to its constitution, its management, its receipts, and disbursements from its first commencement; and that they be required to report the same at the next General Annual Court of Governors, to be held in the Year 1795—Negatived.

A motion having been made, "That a statement of Lupton's Fund from its commencement to the time being, be annually published, together with the general state of the Asylum," the previous question was put upon it, and carried upon the affirmative, because the motion was judged full of improprieties.

SUBSCRIBERS TO LUPTON'S FUND LIVING.

Christopher Morritt, Esq.
*Mr. John Lund,
*Wm. Wilberforce, Esq.
Henry Grimston, Esq.
Mrs. Lofthouse,
*Mr. Gray,
*Charles Duncombe, Esq.
Mr. Jennings.

FUND.

£7450. Stock in the 3 per.
cents. (consold.)

Those marked * are GOVERNORS of the Asylum.

QUARTERLY COURT.

March 23, 1809.

Ordered,

That the Paper produced this day by Dr. Hunter, respecting the Medical Regulations of the Asylum, and signed by the Dean of York as Chairman, be produced at the next Annual Meeting, in consequence of Dr. Hunter's request.

ANNUAL COURT.

Aug. 25th, 1809.

Resolved,

That in consequence of the death of Dr. Hunter, it is not necessary to take into consideration the Paper presented by him at the Quarterly Court, on the 23rd of March last, and which was then directed to be produced at the Annual Meeting.

37

RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE
YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM,

*As Adopted at an Annual Court of Governors,
held on the 26th of August, and, by Adjourn-
ment, on the 27th day of August, 1814.*

OFFICERS.

The Officers of the Asylum shall consist of a **PHYSICIAN**; a **TREASURER**; an **APOTHECARY**, who shall also act as **Superintendent**; a **STEWARD**, who shall also be **SECRETARY**; and a **MATRON**.

GOVERNORS.

All Benefactors of £20. and upwards at one time, shall be Governors, as also the Lord Mayor of York, the Mayor of Doncaster, and the Governor of the Merchants' Company at York, respectively, for the time being.

No Donation being made subject to any condition whatever, or directed to be applied to any particular purpose, shall constitute a Governor.

In case of any future Subscription of £20. or upwards, by any Public Body, Society, or Partnership, one only of their number, to be named by themselves, shall act during his life as a Governor, and on his death the privilege shall cease.

No person shall be allowed to vote at the election of any Officer of the Asylum till the expiration of six calendar months after he shall have become a Governor.

COURTS.

There shall be a General Annual Court on Friday in the August Race Week, with unlimited powers.

Four Quarterly Courts shall be held—on the Wednesday in the March Assize Week, and on the second Wednesday in the months of June, September, and December, respectively.

Special Courts shall be called by the Steward on the requisition of any five Governors, previous notice being given in each York Newspaper, specifying the object of calling such Special Court.

At the General Courts, seven Governors shall constitute a quorum; and at Quarterly and Special Courts, five Governors shall constitute a quorum. The Chairman shall, if it be desired by any Governor present, be chosen by ballot. When the numbers on any question are equal, the Chairman shall have a second vote.

No Governor, or other person, shall be present when any matter relating to himself is under consideration, unless with the approbation of the Court.

No Rule shall be made or altered at a Quarterly Court, unless after previous notice at a General or Quarterly Court.

No Governor, being an Officer of the Establishment, shall be of the quorum, either at a General, or a Quarterly, or a Special Court.

COMMITTEE.

At each Quarterly Court a Committee of seven shall be appointed by ballot, three of whom shall be a quorum.

The Committee shall meet the first Tuesday in every Month, and shall also be called together by the Steward, as occasion shall require, at the discretion of himself or the Apothecary, or

at the desire of any one of their own number. In case of sudden emergency, a meeting may be held *instantly*.

The Committee shall audit all the accounts, and lay them before the Quarterly Courts; shall contract with tradesmen for provisions; make purchases of necessaries not exceeding £10. at one time; hire and discharge servants; determine the sums to be paid by Patients, as well as the persons to be admitted; discharge Patients when they see occasion; and give such orders and directions as they shall think requisite.

No Officer of the Institution shall be eligible to act on the Committee.

VISITORS.

Every Quarterly Court shall appoint Visiting Governors, two for each month.

Books shall be kept for entering the observations of all the Visitors, under their respective signatures; which shall be read at the Quarterly Courts, and shall be always open to the inspection of the Committee.

The Visiting Governors, on receiving information of the death or escape of a Patient, shall meet and examine into the circumstances, and shall direct such advertisements, investigation, and inquiry, as they shall think necessary, and report facts and observations to the Committee, who shall report such facts and observations to the Quarterly Court.

The Quarterly Court may also appoint three Ladies, whether contributors or not, as Visitors of the Female Wards for the quarter.

PATIENTS.

Previous application shall be addressed to the Steward before any Patients are sent for admission.

The payment of each class of Patients per quarter shall be from time to time fixed by the Quarterly Court.

Classes for the remainder of the year 1814.

1. Patients at 3 Guineas per week.
2. Ditto, at 2 Guineas.
3. Ditto, at 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*
4. Ditto, at 1*l.* 1*s.*
5. Ditto, at 14*s.*
6. Parish paupers, and others in indigent circumstances, at 9*s.*
7. Patients deriving benefit from the Reduction Fund, who shall pay not more than 8*s.* nor less than 4*s.* per week, at the discretion of the Committee.

Patients in the first class may be attended by their own servants, paying such a sum for their board as the Committee shall think fit, and such servants being under the control of the Apothecary and the Committee. The three first classes shall dine at a separate table.

The admission and classification of each Patient shall be made by the Apothecary, subject to such alteration as the Committee under the circumstances shall think expedient; and in the admission and classification of Patients, regard shall be had to the accommodation of as great a number of indigent Patients as possible.

A report shall be made by the Steward, to each Quarterly Court, of the number of Patients, specifying their respective classes, and the length of time each has been in the Asylum.

No criminal Lunatic shall be admitted as a Patient.

PHYSICIAN.

The Physician, in addition to his professional duties, is expected to pay attention to the state of the persons of the Patients; to remark the condition of their apartments; to notice any negligence or misbehaviour which he may observe in any of the Officers or Servants, and to represent it to the Committee if he find necessary.

The Physician is expected to record on the books, on the removal of a Patient, the state of his health at the time of his re-

moval ; and to report to the Committee whether the Patient had been discharged, or taken away, by his friends.

The Salary to be paid to the Physician shall be Three Hundred Guineas per annum, until further order.

The Physician is precluded from accepting any Fees or Gratuities on account of Patients in the Asylum.

TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall receive all legacies and donations, and give discharges for the same ; he shall receive the dividends and interest upon the money in the Funds, or on securities ; and shall issue money to the Steward when it shall be deemed necessary ; and he shall make up an annual account of his receipts and disbursements. The money which he shall from time to time receive, shall be paid into one of the York Banks, to the separate account of the Lunatic Asylum.

APOTHECARY.

The Apothecary shall be resident in, and be the superintendent of the House. He shall attend to the preparation and at the administration of medicines ; shall have full power over the attendants and other servants, and may discharge them. He shall see each Patient at least twice every twenty-four hours ; and shall daily remark the condition of every apartment. On the death or escape of any Patient he shall give immediate information to the Visitors. He is expected to support the authority of the Matron over the female Servants.

He shall keep a correct register of the death of every Patient, which shall contain the christian and surname of each Patient, the date of his death, and the complaint of which he shall be supposed to die : he shall also keep a register of remarkable cases which may occur in the practice of the House, for the inspection of such medical men as may be Governors, or introduced by a Governor.

STEWARD.

He shall keep the accounts with the friends of Patients ; enter the minutes at the Courts, or copy them into the books if made in his absence ; keep correct lists of admissions, deaths, and removals, with such particulars as the Committee shall suggest ; and settle accounts with the Treasurer when required.

He shall give each of the Committee two days previous notice of their stated Monthly Meetings, and shall also call them together as often as he, or the Apothecary, shall see occasion, or at the desire of any one of the Committee.

He shall pay bills under the direction of the Committee or Treasurer, and generally transact such concerns of the Institution as the Committee shall direct.

THE MATRON

Shall superintend generally the domestic arrangements, victuals, &c. and shall keep an account in writing of the linen, for the inspection of the Courts and Committee ; she shall have the particular management and control of the female Servants, and care of the female Patients. If any thing require correction she shall represent it, in the first instance, to the Apothecary, and, in case she find it expedient, to the Physician, Visitors, or Committee.

There shall be a Housekeeper under the Matron.

SERVANTS IN GENERAL.

All the Servants shall have fixed salaries or wages, and no perquisites.

If any of the Patients escape, the expense of following, and bringing them back, shall be defrayed out of the wages of the Servant under whose particular care the Patient was placed ; unless the Committee shall be of opinion that no blame attaches.

If any Servant strike, or otherwise ill-treat any Patient, such Servant shall be dismissed from his or her situation.

The present orders to the Servants shall continue in force until they are revised and altered, which the Committee from time to time shall have power to do.

LUPTON'S FUND.

When the Fund now accumulating shall be opened for the purposes of its establishment, all existing and future contributors of £20. or upwards, to that Fund, shall be Governors ; but they shall have no distinct power over that Fund.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Diet Table shall be from time to time revised by the Committee, with the assistance of the Physician.

An Annual Report shall be prepared by the Committee for publication and distribution, previous to the General Court.

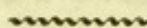
In case of the death, resignation, notified intention to resign, or removal, of any Officer of the Asylum, the Committee shall, within fourteen days, cause one calendar month's notice to be given, by advertisement in all the York Newspapers, of a Special General Court, to supply the vacancy ; and all elections shall be by ballot.

No friend of a Patient, nor any stranger, shall visit the House without written leave from the Physician or a Visitor, or without the approbation of the Apothecary ; and in case of the Apothecary's refusal, he shall report the occasion of it to the friend of the Patient, and record it on the Books.

The Quarterly Court of the Committee shall have power to suspend any Officer of this Institution, and to appoint a substitute during such suspension ; and in such case a Special General Court shall be held within two calendar months, to be called by

advertisement in all the York Newspapers, one calendar month previous to its being held, for the purpose of determining upon dismissal or restoration to office.

The friends of Patients may call in any regular Physician in consultation with the Physician of the Institution.



A List of the Governors of the York Lunatic Asylum.*

Sir Charles Anderson, Bart.
William Aldam, Esq.

Rev. Francis Best
Charles Best, M. D.
John Blades, Esq.
Robert Bower, Esq.
Mr. John Brook
William Beckett, Esq.
Rev. William Bulmer
Stephen Beckwith, M. D.
Henry Bland, Esq.
William Belcombe, M. D.
Mr. Thomas Bell
Charles Brown, Esq.
Benjamin Brooksbank, Esq.
Rev. E. H. Brooksbank

Earl of Carlisle
Samuel Crompton, Esq.
Rev. Robert Croft
Rev. Charles Constable

Francis Constable, Esq.
Mr. Robert Cattle
Sir George Cayley, Bart.
Bryan Cooke, Esq.
Mr. John Crosby
William Carr, Esq.
John Cooke, Esq.
Mr. John Catton
Mr. Barnard Clarkson
Mr. Barnard Clarkson, jun.
Mr. Michael Clarkson

Lord Dundas
Corporation of Doncaster
The Honourable L. Dundas
John Dalton Esq.
Rev. William Dealtry
William Joseph Denison, Esq.
William Danby Esq.
Mr. John Dyson
Rev. James Dallin
Charles Duncombe, Esq.

* Any error in this List will be rectified on its being pointed out to the Steward of the Asylum.

Rev. John Eyre
Mr. Gervas Elam
Mr. John Elston

Earl Fitzwilliam
Joshua Field, Esq.
Francis Foljambe, Esq.
James Fox, Esq.
Miss Fountayne
Miss Judith Fountayne
William Carr Fenton, Esq.
Mr. James Fryer

Viscount Gallway
John Greame, Esq.
Thomas Goulton, Esq.
Mr. Jonathan Gray
Rev. John Graham
William Gimber, Esq.
William Gray, Esq.
Daniel Gaskell, Esq.
Benjamin Gaskell, Esq.

Richard Hey, Esq.
Richard Hobson, Esq.
John Hotham, Esq.
Simon Horner, Esq.
Mr. John Hodgson
Miss Howard
Godfrey Higgins, Esq.
John Hustler, Esq.
Mr. William Hornby

Sir William Ingilby, Bart.

The Duke of Leeds
Henry Legard, Esq.
Richard Langley, Esq.
John Lawson, M. D.
Thomas Lloyd, Esq.

Viscount Milton
Henry Maister, Esq.
Merchants' Company in York
The Very Rev. George Mark-
ham, Dean of York

Maxwell Constable Maxwell,
Esq.

Mr. John Mason
William Marshall, Esq.
Mr. Joseph Marshall
Mr. Thomas Marshall
Mr. John Mason, jun.

Thomas Norcliffe, Esq.
S. W. Nicoll, Esq.
Richard Toulmin North, Esq.

Rev. Thomas Preston
Rev. J. Preston
Mr. John Prince
George Palmes, Esq.
Mr. D. Priestman
Mr. Thomas Proctor
Mr. Cæsar Peacock
Mr. John Roper
Mr. D. Russell
John Rawdon, Esq.
Rev. James Richardson
John L. Raper, Esq.
Mr. Samuel Richardson
Rev. T. C. R. Read

Earl Spencer
James Salmond, Esq.
John Sykes, Esq.
Philip Saltmarshe, Esq.
Rev. Richard Sykes
Richard Sykes, jun. Esq.
Thomas Swann, Esq.
Robert Swann, Esq.
Thomas Smith, Esq.
Rev. William Smith
Mr. William Stead, jun.
John Swann, Esq.
Martin Stapylton, Esq.

Leonard Thompson, Esq.
Richard Thompson, Esq.
Thomas Thompson, Esq.
G. L. Thompson, Esq.
R. J. Thompson, Esq.

Rev. R. S. Thompson
 Mr. D. Tuke
 Mr. A. Thorpe
 Mr. William Tuke
 Mr. Samuel Tuke
 John Tweedy, Esq.

The Honourable Edward Venables Vernon, Lord Archbishop of York.

Rev. William Whytehead
 William Walker, Esq.
 Thomas Wilson, Esq.
 Mr. Joseph Bilton Wilson
 St. Andrew Ward, Esq.

Richard Fountayne Wilson, Esq.

James Walker, Esq.

Godfrey Wentworth Wentworth, Esq.

Mr. Edward Wallis,

William Whytehead, Esq.

The Rev. R. H. Whytehead

Rev. C. Wellbeloved

Matthew Wilson, Esq.

Henry Willoughby, Esq.

Mr. John Wormald

The Lord Mayor and Commonalty of York.

Donations are received by Mr. John Brook, of York, the Treasurer, and at the York Banks; and at the Bank of Messrs. Robarts and Co. London.

REPORT

OF THE

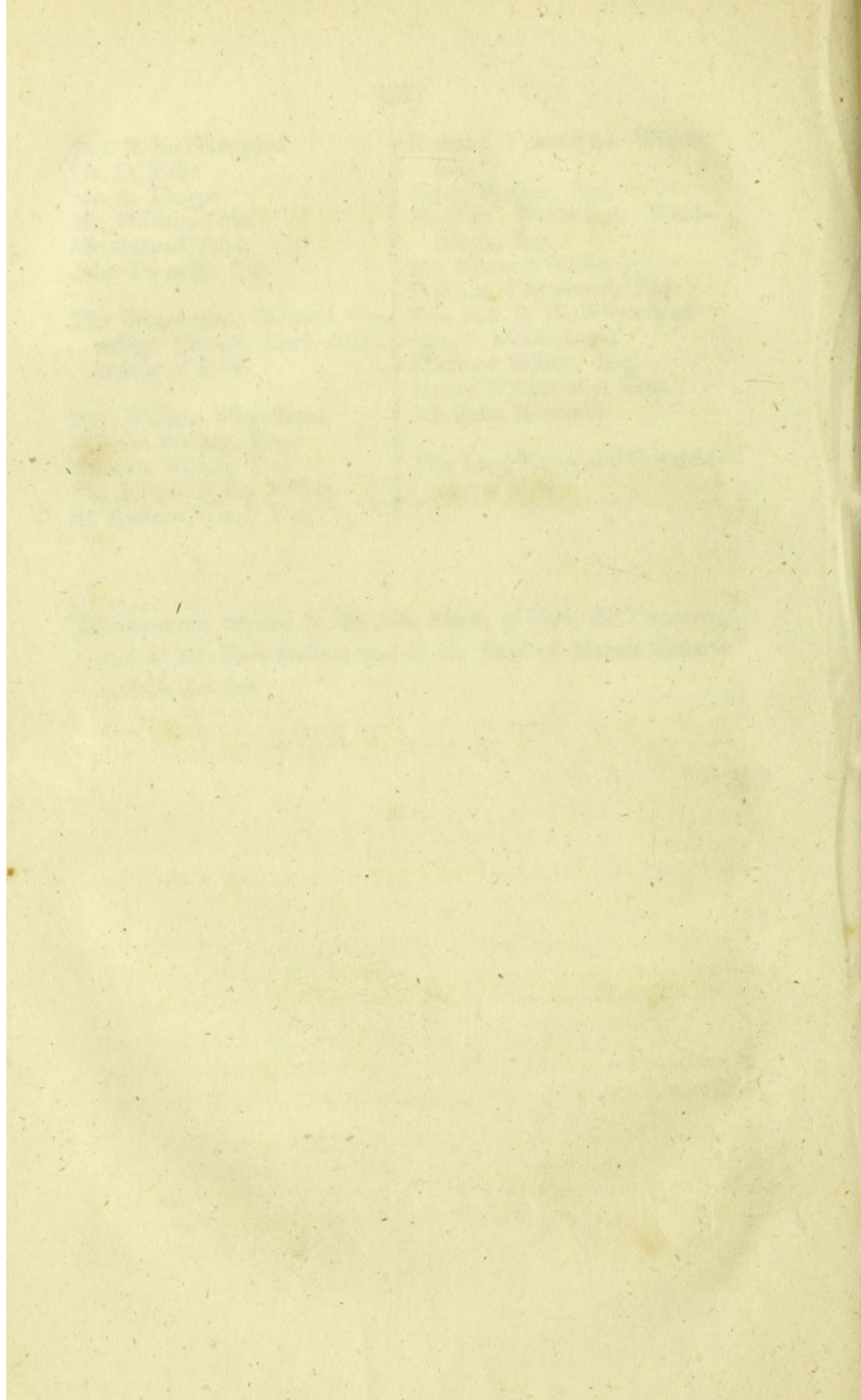
COMMISSIONERS OF LANDS

AND

MINES AND FOREST

IN

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

INTO THE

RULES AND MANAGEMENT

OF THE

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

INTO THE

RULES AND MANAGEMENT

OF THE

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

THE FIRST PART

OF THE

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE,

&c. &c.

At an adjourned Quarterly Court of Governors of
the York Lunatic Asylum, held on Friday the
Seventh Day of January, 1814,

Present,

His GRACE the ARCHBISHOP of YORK, in the Chair, and
Sixty-five Governors.

RESOLVED,

That it be referred to the following Committee,
(any five of whom shall have power to act,) to make
an Inquiry into the Rules and Management of the
Institution, and to report facts, and their opinion
thereon, to the next or subsequent Quarterly Court
of the Governors, or to the General Meeting in
August; viz.

His GRACE the ARCHBISHOP of YORK.

THOMAS SMITH, Esq. (Lord Mayor.)

The Rev. THOMAS PRESTON.

The Rev. WILLIAM DEALTRY.

GEORGE PALMES, Esq.

SAMUEL WILLIAM NICHOLL, Esq.

BENJAMIN BROOKSBANK, Esq.

WILLIAM CARR, Esq.

THOMAS WILSON, Esq.

HENRY BLAND, Esq.

The Rev. JOHN GRAHAM.

Mr. BROOK.

Mr. JONATHAN GRAY.

That Dr. BEST be requested to attend the Meet-
ings, to answer such questions and inquiries as may
be proposed to him, and to offer any suggestions
which may occur to him as beneficial to the Insti-
tution.

5

FIRST PART
OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
AS TO THE
RULES OF THE INSTITUTION.

YOUR Committee find, on examining the books and other documents relating to this Institution, that neither its design has been distinctly declared, nor the rules for its management ever collected or digested into any regular form. It became necessary, therefore, to trace the progress of the Institution from its origin.

Your Committee have, in the first place, collected in an Appendix (A) such extracts from the order books and from advertisements as relate to the design of the charity. On this head your Committee have briefly to notice, that the Asylum is designed, generally, for the relief of Lunatics, being either parish paupers, or belonging to distressed and indigent families: that persons of limited incomes, or in moderate circumstances, are deemed objects of this charity, if the expense of their care and maintenance cannot be otherwise supported without occasioning pressure and distress to their

families. Your Committee have also to state under this head, that persons labouring under the affliction of an unsound mind, whether considered curable or not, are admissible as patients; and, generally, all persons whom the Governors may deem proper objects; and, that though the Asylum is an establishment for the County of York, patients from other countries or places may be admitted on extraordinary occasions.

In the Appendix (B) are collected the rules relative to patients.

For some years after the first opening of the Asylum in 1777, your Committee find by the rules, that this Institution continued to receive only patients in low or distressed circumstances. The finances, however, being inadequate to the maintenance of a number of patients of this description sufficient to fill the building, a limited number of patients in affluent or easy circumstances was, in the year 1785, determined to be admitted on a rate of payment adequate to their abilities; with a view to providing a surplus, from the payments of this class, towards the support of the most necessitous objects.

The classification of the patients, and the fixing of their respective payments, is intrusted by the rules to a Committee of seven Governors, to be chosen annually, the Physician being one. Your Committee remark, that the payments for *parish paupers* have been fixed, by the rules, at a sum intended to be not less than the computed average expense of their maintenance; with a view to relieve, as far

as possible, such poor persons as are not assisted by parishes.

Your Committee have collected in the Appendix (C) the resolutions which relate particularly to the office of Physician. In 1777, the acting Committee were of opinion that it would be proper to have one Physician only ; and Dr. Hunter was requested by them to attend in that capacity. This he appears to have done gratis, for the first eight years ; at the end of that period, on the admission of affluent patients, it was resolved, that the Physician should receive from them the reasonable emoluments of his profession.

It may be proper for your Committee here to notice, that an experiment was made by the Governors for one year, of allowing the Physician a salary of £200. in lieu of fees ; (a mode strongly recommended in a letter from the late Dr. Hunter.) At the end of the year it was, however, determined, that the Physician should receive his moderate and reasonable fees from affluent patients as before.

For the rules relating to the Governors, your Committee refer to the Appendix (D).

The Appendix (E) contains the rules relative to the regular appointment of Visitors, who in addition to the general superintendence implied in that appointment, are to examine and sign all the bills before they are sent by the Steward to the friends of the patients, in order to prevent fraudulent charges.

The rules for the direction of the Steward (F), Apothecary (G), Housekeeper (H), Head

Keeper (I), and Servants in general (J), will be found in the Appendix, under their respective heads.

The Appendix (K) contains the rules applying to two distinct funds, called the Reduction Fund, and Lupton's Fund.

The Reduction Fund originated in certain donations confined by the donors to the maintenance of patients only, but not applicable towards buildings or repairs. These donations, which were placed at the discretion of the Governors, were formed by them into a fund, for reducing the payments by the most necessitous objects not receiving parochial relief.—The other fund, called Lupton's Fund, is confined to the maintenance of lunatic parish paupers, and other indigent lunatics within the City, Ainsty, and County of York. This fund is directed by the Governors to accumulate until the Archbishop of York for the time being, shall think it so considerable, that the dividends may be applied for the intended purpose.—No subscription to these funds entitles the donor to the privileges of a Governor.

E. EBOR.

SECOND PART
OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
AS TO THE
MANAGEMENT OF THE INSTITUTION.

YOUR Committee report, that they have taken Minutes of the information which they have at different times obtained on this head of their investigation, and to these Minutes they beg to refer the Court. They consider it, however, more convenient in this part of their Report, briefly to arrange the information, which they have collected, under the same heads as the rules already stated in the Appendix to the first Report.

PATIENTS. (Appendix, B.)

THE classification of all the Patients in the house, which was made about the year 1785, appears to your Committee never to have been repealed. They have to report, however, in point of practice, a wide departure from this rule. Patients are now admitted, not by a Committee, but by the Physician only, who also fixes the several rates of admission. The number of classes, the number of

Patients in each, and their respective payments as taken on an average of three-quarters of the last year, viz. from March to December, are as follows :

First Class, poor persons, (of whom about 80 are parish paupers,) amount to 107 in number, and pay to the Institution 9s. per week.

Second Class, in number 17, pay each to the Physician 1s. per week, and to the house 9s. per week.

Third Class, in number 13, pay each to the Physician 2s. per week, and to the house 10s. per week.

Fourth Class, in number 15, pay each to the Physician 4s. per week, and to the house 11s. per week.

Fifth, the only Class in the Asylum above these, are the Physician's private Patients, whose accounts do not pass through the hands of the Steward. For these the Physician pays 14s. per week to the Institution ; a sum which covers all charges for board, lodging, coals, candles, tea, and medicines. This class, last year, averaged 16.—Each of the Patients above the first, or poor class, pay the Physician one guinea on admission.

About 28 poor Patients not included in the above 107, (amongst whom, by a resolution of the Governors, in 1788, no parish paupers are admitted,) receive assistance in four different degrees from the interest of the "Reduction Fund," to the amount of £35. per annum. Of these 28, however, 17 pay the sum of 8s. per week.

Your Committee think it important to remark, that none of the classes of Patients of 16s. 18s. and 20s. and upwards, fixed by the Governors in 1785, have for several years found admission into the Asylum; though these may be supposed to be now placed on the list of the Physician's private Patients, for whom the Institution receives 14s. per week.

No distinct account is kept of the actual expense to the Institution of each class of Patients. But the payment of 9s. per week was judged sufficient for the support of a Patient in the expensive year of 1801, (when the weekly payments for persons in the class of paupers was advanced from 8s. to 9s.) and the payments made by all the Patients have, with the aid of £35. per annum from the Reduction Fund, been generally equal to the total expenditure.

PHYSICIAN. (Appendix, C.)

It appears to your Committee, that exclusive of the daily attendance of the Physician at the Asylum in the performance of the duties of that office, a considerable portion of his time is occupied in answering the inquiries of the friends of the patients, both personally and by letter. The mode of his remuneration has been noticed under the last head.

TREASURER.

YOUR Committee find no rules applying to the office of Treasurer, now executed by Mr. BROOK,

There is no emolument attached to the office, and the legacies and donations received, are paid into one of the York Banks to the separate account of the Institution. The payments of the patients or their friends do not come into the Treasurer's hands, being received and accounted for to the Governors by the Steward.

VISITORS. (Appendix, E.)

YOUR Committee find that from the first appointment of Visitors in 1782 they appear to have generally acted, at least till the year 1794; since which period your Committee find no such officers to have been in existence.

STEWARD. (Appendix, F.)

THE Steward (to whom your Committee find full powers over the servants is intrusted by the rules) has a salary of £80. per annum, and the house called the Asylum Lodge.

The present Steward, Mr. SURR, is 82 years of age; and though in full possession of his mental faculties, is often prevented by the infirmities of age, from going out and visiting the Asylum during the winter season. When your Committee consider his years, and the distance of his residence from the Asylum, they view with less surprise the almost total want of subordination and vigilance which they find to prevail amongst the servants in the absence of a watchful and confidential head.

It is the duty of your Committee to notice, that of the fifteen rules prescribed by the Governors, for the regulation of the Housekeeper's conduct, the Steward, in the copy he gave to Mrs. ATKINSON, has omitted rules 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 15; and that the key of the beer and bread, which she ought to have, is placed in the hands of an inferior Male Keeper.

APOTHECARY. (Appendix, G.)

THE salary of Mr. ATKINSON, the Apothecary, is £ 100. per annum. He does not consider himself possessed of the authority to prevent the servants going out when they please.

HOUSEKEEPER. (Appendix, H.)

MRS. ATKINSON, as Housekeeper, is paid £30. per annum.

It appears to your Committee, both from the mutilated instructions which she received from the Steward, and from her account of the conduct of the servants, particularly of the Female Head Keeper, that she exercises only a partial and contested authority in the house.—Having found it impracticable to prevent the ingress and egress of the servants in the night, she has for several years ceased to lock the back-kitchen door before she goes to bed.

HEAD KEEPER. (Appendix, I.)

THOMAS BLACKADER's wages are £21. per ann. He also receives 5s. on the admission of each male patient above the poor class. His authority as Head Keeper was successively disputed by BACKHOUSE, and by BATTY, two former Keepers, and is now, in a less degree, by HENRY DAWSON, a present Keeper; and the men-servants have refused to obey his orders.

SERVANTS IN GENERAL. (Appendix, J.)

THERE are, besides, in the house, three Male Keepers, whose wages are £20. £16. and £12. respectively. A Gardener receives £25.; a head Female Keeper 12 guineas; two other Female Keepers 10 guineas each. A Cook £15. and an under Cook 8 guineas.

The following perquisites are received: For the male patients of the superior classes are charged about 74 guineas per annum, divided amongst four men.

For female patients of the higher classes, about £25. are shared by three Female Keepers. The servants are apprised of the amount which each of these patients contributes to them. The money arising from the manure that is sold, (though manure is sometimes purchased for the garden,) is divided by the three under Male Keepers and the Gardener. The Keepers also take the cast clothes

of the patients when they consider them to have been worn a sufficient time.

Though the rules provide, that no servant shall absent himself from the house for more than one hour without leave, it appears that they seldom or never ask leave, and that several of them are frequently out late at night at the same time.

MISCELLANEOUS. (Appendix, L.)

YOUR Committee find that an Annual Report of the state of the Institution, signed by the Apothecary, is published in the three York newspapers; but that due care does not appear to have been used as to its correctness. The Annual Report of 1813, states the total number of admissions from the opening of the Asylum to July 1, 1813, to be 2556, and the total number of deaths to be 221.

The Committee, having appointed Messrs. WILSON, GRAHAM, and BLAND, to examine the Steward's Books, have received from them the subjoined statement, from which it appears, that the actual number of admissions from the opening of the Asylum, (November 1, 1777,) to July 1, 1813, inclusive, have been 2560, and that the deaths during the same period have been 365.

STATEMENT.

WE whose names are hereunto subscribed, having been requested, (at a Meeting of the Committee, February 8, 1814,) "To ascertain from the Books, the actual number of Deaths from the commencement of the Institution, in order that it may be added to the Report of the Committee,"

REPORT, That we have carefully examined the same, and find, that from the opening of the Asylum, November 1, 1777, to July 1, 1813 inclusive, the patients admitted have been 2560, and that the deaths during the said period have been 365.—The particulars of each year are annexed.

We have to remark that the deaths of Whiteley and Kildale, in 1802; of Harrison, in 1804; and of Fowler, in 1806, though remembered by the servants of the house, are not inserted in the books.

It does not appear by the books, whether the following patients were discharged or died; they are therefore not included in the above list of deaths.

Margaret Smith, admitted February, 1787.

Catharine St. Clair, admitted October 16, 1790.

D. Myson, admitted April 20, 1796.

D. Thackwray, admitted July 26, 1796.

Mrs. Parke, admitted August 9, 1797.

THOMAS WILSON.

JOHN GRAHAM.

HENRY BLAND.

Admissions and Deaths of Patients in the Asylum in each year, from its commencement, to July 1, 1813; taken from the Steward's Books.

From Nov. 1, 1777, to July 1, 1778	Admiss.	Deaths.
1778	18	3
1779	35	3
1780	35	4
1781	38	1
1782	50	7
1783	37	6
1784	40	5
1785	57	2
1786	52	4
1787	59	7
1788	75	3
1789	61	3
1790	63	9
1791	55	8
1792	69	4
1793	58	6
1794	83	7
1795	78	6
1796	85	6
1797	95	13
1798	69	5
1799	67	8
1800	64	7
1801	103	18
1802	85	16
1803	88	10
1804	85	13
1805	79	9
1806	79	12
1807	99	22
1808	120	20
1809	78	29
1810	99	23
1811	92	23
1812	99	19
1813	111	24
	<u>2560</u>	<u>365</u>

ON a deliberate review of the results of their investigations, your Committee feel it their duty for the present to subjoin the following observations.

1. That the admission of private patients of the Physician, on the plan for many years past adopted, is a practice not sanctioned by the Rules of the Institution, and in itself objectionable; and that the principles on which the Physician to the Asylum shall be remunerated require the most serious attention.

2. That though the admission of opulent patients, if subjected to proper and specified limits, may be expedient for the purpose of deriving assistance for poor patients from their liberal payments, no sufficient advantage at present results from the admission of such patients.

3. That the permission given to the servants to receive perquisites from the richer patients, is calculated to occasion a neglect of the poorer classes, who have it not in their power to purchase the same attentions.

4. That as the appointment of visitors seems indispensably necessary in all public Institutions, Committed in a great measure to the care and management of hired servants, your Committee feel the greater cause to lament their discontinuance at the Asylum, where the necessity for their attendance is particularly urgent, as the Steward who is vested with the authority

of a superintendent of the house, does not reside in it.

5. That the structure of the building, and the disposition and dimensions of the day-rooms, appear to your Committee ill adapted for the accommodation and superintendence of the Patients.

6. Your Committee consider the present number of Servants wholly inadequate to perform the work of the house, and give the requisite care and attention to the Patients, who in consequence of this insufficiency in the number of Keepers, are too frequently left to themselves.

7. As the deviations from the existing Rules which your Committee have remarked, appear to have existed before the appointment of Dr. BEST, your Committee are of opinion, that in case any censure should be considered by the Governors, as attaching to these deviations, it ought not to be imputed to him.

Lastly, Though it may be expected from your Committee that they should proceed to suggest such new regulations as may appear to them requisite, yet they are sensible that the consideration of these must require much time and attention: and they therefore reserve to themselves the further period to which the Court has thought fit to continue their powers, before they make a Report of their opinions on this important topic.

E. EBOR.

APPENDIX

To the First and Second Parts of the Report of the Committee appointed to make an Inquiry into the Rules and Management of the York Lunatic Asylum.

A

*Documents * relating to the Design of the Institution.*

York, Aug. 7, 1772†. SENSIBLE of the deplorable situation of many poor lunatics in this extensive County, who have no other support but what a needy parent can bestow, or a thrifty parish officer provide, we do recommend to the public in general, a Subscription towards erecting a public Edifice for the reception of such unhappy people.

The excellent establishments of this nature at Newcastle and Manchester, give a noble example for imitation to this wealthy County.

It is therefore earnestly requested of those Noblemen, Gentlemen and others, who are desirous of promoting an Institution so highly beneficial to this unhappy part of the community, to meet at the Castle of York, at Twelve o'Clock in the Forenoon, on Friday in the next York Race Week, to consider of proper

* The following documents, (except such as are copies, or extracts from advertisements in the York Courant, and noticed as such, are extracted from the Order Books.

† From the York Courant.

means for putting the same in execution, and of opening a Subscription for so laudable a purpose.

R. Ebor,	Rowland Winn,	Wm. St. Quintin,
Thomas Frankland,	Nathaniel Cholmley,	P. Johnson,
Edward Topham,	George Armytage,	John Lee,
Henry Willoughby,	G. Earle,	J. Dealtry,
George Palmes,	Robert Grimston,	A. Hunter,
William T. Jolliff,	Thomas Gascoigne,	H. Zouch,
John Hudson,	Daniel Lascelles,	J. Blake.
J. Bowman,	Henry Wood,	
W. Milner,	C. Turner,	

*York, Aug. 27, 1772**. At a Meeting held this day at the Castle, it was unanimously resolved, that a Subscription should be entered upon for the establishing an Hospital at York, for the reception of Lunatics. A Subscription was then opened, and a Committee appointed, to carry into execution the humane purposes of the Meeting. As soon as £5000. are raised, proper notice will be given by the Committee of the time and manner of paying in the Subscriptions.

The Committee hold their first Meeting at the York Tavern, on Wednesday, the 9th day of September next, at twelve in the Forenoon; and the general Meeting of the Subscribers will be held at the same place, on Monday, the 9th day of November next, in order to receive the Report of the Committee.

Such Noblemen, Gentlemen, and Ladies, as are desirous of promoting an Institution for the relief of an unhappy part of the community, are requested to send their names, and the sums they intend to subscribe to the Chairman of the Committee of the Lunatic Hospital at York.

A List of those who have already Subscribed.

His Grace the Archbishop of York.

&c. &c. &c.

* From the York Courant.

SUBJOINED TO, OR INCLUDED IN THE PRECEDING ADVERTISEMENT.

Reasons for the establishing a Lunatic Hospital.

IN a Country abounding with charitable Institutions of almost every kind, it is natural to suppose that something should be done for the relief of those unhappy sufferers, who are the objects of terror and compassion to all around them ; and whose cases lay a just claim to the benevolence of their fellow-creatures.

Strongly impressed with a desire of alleviating the miseries of that unhappy part of the community, some humane persons have formed a noble resolution of affording an Asylum for the reception of poor Lunatics. And in order to silence all opposition, and at the same time to diffuse these tender feelings amongst all ranks of people, they think it necessary to observe, that they were induced to plan and encourage this Institution from the following considerations.

1. It is well known, that no particular provision is made by law for Lunatics ; the common parish work-houses, and houses of correction, being no ways proper for their reception, either in point of accommodation, attendance, or medical assistance.

2. That there are only four Hospitals in this kingdom, for the reception of Lunatics, two in London, one in Newcastle, and one in Manchester. And experience has shown, that these humane charities are incapable of receiving and providing for the relief of all the unhappy objects who make application for admittance.

3. That the expense and difficulty attending the admission of a Patient into these Hospitals, do daily discourage applications for that purpose, particularly when made on account of the more necessitous objects, and such as reside at a great distance from these charitable Institutions.

4. That by this unavoidable exclusion, or delay in the admission of objects, many useful members have been lost to society, either by the disorder gaining strength, beyond the reach of medicine,

or by the Patients falling into the hands of persons utterly unskilled in the treatment of their disease.

5. That the constitutional laws of the County Hospital exclude all persons disordered in their senses. A Lunatic Hospital, that only receives rejected objects, cannot, by any means, interfere with that excellent and well-regulated charity.

6. That many families, (in no mean circumstances) through the heavy expense attending the support of one object of this sort, have themselves become the objects of charitable relief, and thereby doubled the load and loss to the public.

7. That the most fatal acts of violence on themselves, attendants, and relations, have often been occasioned by the smallest delay in placing Lunatics under the care of persons experienced in guarding against, and preventing attempts of this kind.

8. The last, but not the least consideration with the promoters of this design, is the assistance that may be given to many persons of moderate circumstances, who, labouring under the terrible misfortune of an unsound mind, have no place to retire to but a private mad-house, where their cure stands a great chance of being protracted for the benefit of the mercenary Keeper, if ever to be accomplished under the care of one who can lay so small a claim to medical abilities. Those persons or their relations, it is not doubted, would gladly give the preference to an Asylum under the direction of men of principles and honour, where the Patients might expect to meet with the most humane and disinterested treatment; and where they might have a chance of being restored to their health and friends, without impairing their fortunes.

Such, and such only, are the motives of the promoters of this humane design. In a country noted for the most extensive charities of every kind, there can be no doubt but that a sufficient sum may be raised, by a general Subscription, for the building an edifice for the reception of Lunatics.

The surplus money arising from this Subscription, after defraying the expenses of the necessary buildings, &c. will be applied towards constituting a Fund for the maintenance of the Patients.

York, Aug. 25, 1772.

York, Sept. 22, 1772.* To the Constables, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor, of all and every the parishes, towns, or places, within the County or precincts of York.

A scheme being set on foot for building an Hospital for the reception of Lunatics, or mad persons, who are so far disordered in their senses as not to be permitted to go abroad, but are obliged to be kept locked up in some secure place ; in order to form a better judgment of the real utility of such a charity in this County, or spaciousness of such an edifice, if necessary, you are required, some or one of you, to send on or before the 9th day of November next, directed to Sir Thomas Frankland, Bart. and M. P. to be left at, or sent by post, to the York Tavern, in the City of York, an account of the number of persons, who by lunacy or otherwise, are now furiously mad, within, belonging to, claiming settlement, or becoming chargeable to your different hundreds, towns corporate, wapentakes, constaberies, parishes, villages, or hamlets, and proper objects to be sent to such an Hospital, if erected and endowed. Those parishes which are so happy as to have no such mad persons belonging to them, are equally desired, by their Officers to send that account, under cover, as before requested.

Nov. 9, 1772. IT appears to this Board, that there are too considerable a number of such unhappy objects in this County, and that the Subscription does not exceed £4100. at present, nor can any part thereof be called for till £5000. be subscribed. Therefore, it is hoped, that those Noblemen and Gentlemen, who are inclined to favour this charity, would signify their intentions, that something may be resolved upon, as the building must be more extensive than was at first imagined.

Aug. 25, 1773. THAT the building be called the Lunatic Asylum.

That the Asylum when finished, be general for all Patients, who shall be deemed proper objects by the Governors present, and on

* From the York Courant.

whose behalf such regulations shall be conformed to, and such securities given, as shall hereafter be agreed upon.

That the regulation and management of the Asylum be considered at a future general Meeting of the Subscribers, with the advice and assistance of such Gentlemen of the Faculty as are desirous of promoting the undertaking, either by attending the Meeting in person, or by sending their sentiments in writing, under their hands, to the Secretary.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

*York, Aug. 25, 1773**. At a general Meeting of the Subscribers to the intended Lunatic Asylum, held this day, pursuant to advertisement, a Plan drawn by Mr. Carr, Architect, of an edifice to contain, at present, fifty-four Patients, was approved of, and agreed to be carried into execution: and a Committee was appointed with full power to treat and contract for the purchase of ground, and with workmen for the building, and to make calls upon the Subscribers, as occasion shall require, not exceeding £20. per cent. at each payment.

It was agreed, that this Asylum be general for all Patients who shall be deemed proper objects by the Governors, and upon such terms as the fund will admit of. The overplus of the money now subscribed, and all future subscriptions, will be applied in enlarging the building if requisite; and in the mean time will be placed out at interest, and the produce applied towards the relief of parishes, and private persons in indigent circumstances, by whom Patients shall be sent in.

The next general Meeting is appointed to be held at the York Tavern, on Friday in the next Assize week, at Twelve o'Clock at Noon.

Subscriptions and Benefactions will be taken in at either of the York Banks.

N. B. The Committee are desired to meet at the York Tavern, on Tuesday next, the 31st inst. at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon.

S. WAUD, Secretary.

* From the York Courant.

March 24, 1777. AT this Meeting it is ordered, that an Advertisement as now settled, be inserted in the several Newspapers mentioned below, as soon as possible, and that 500 copies of the Paper entitled "An earnest Application to the humane Public," now settled and approved of, be forthwith printed, and sent to Joseph Banks, Esq. to be by him presented or transmitted to such Noblemen, Gentlemen, and Clergy, as he shall think fit.

*An earnest Application to the humane Public, concerning the present state of the Asylum erected near York, for the reception of Lunatics.**

York, April 24, 1777. THE great expense attending the transportation of Lunatics from the northern parts of the kingdom, to the Hospitals of Bedlam, or St. Luke's, with the uncertainty of their being received when presented for admission, induced some humane persons to take into serious consideration the miserable state of these unhappy people, with a view to alleviate their distresses, as well as to remove a heavy and expensive burden from their parishes or families. And in order to silence opposition, and at the same time to diffuse these tender feelings amongst all ranks of people, they think it necessary to observe, that they were induced to plan and encourage this Institution from the following considerations.

1. It is well known that no particular provision is made by law for Lunatics, the common parish work-houses, and houses of correction being no ways proper for their reception, either in point of accommodation, attendance, or medical assistance.

2. That there are only two general Hospitals in this kingdom for the reception of Lunatics, and experience has shown that these humane charities are incapable of receiving and providing for the relief of all the unhappy objects who make application for admittance.

3. That the expense and difficulty attending the admission of a Patient into these Hospitals, do daily discourage applications for

* From the York Courant.

that purpose, particularly when made on account of the more necessitous objects, and such as reside at a great distance from these charitable Institutions.

4. That by this unavoidable exclusion, or delay in the admission of objects, many useful members have been lost to society, either by the disorder gaining strength beyond the reach of medicine, or by the Patients falling into the hands of persons utterly unskilled in the treatment of their disease.

5. That many families, (in no mean circumstances) through the heavy expense attending the support of one object of this sort, have themselves become the objects of charitable relief, and thereby doubled the load and loss to the public.

6. That the most fatal acts of violence on themselves, attendants, and relations, have often been occasioned by the smallest delay in placing Lunatics under the care of persons experienced in guarding against, and preventing attempts of this kind.

7. The last, but not the least consideration with the promoters of this design, is the assistance that may be given to many persons of moderate circumstances, who, labouring under the terrible misfortune of an unsound mind, have no place to retire to, but a private mad-house, where their cure stands a great chance of being protracted, for the benefit of the mercenary keeper, if ever to be accomplished, under the care of one who can lay so small a claim to medical abilities. Those persons, or their relations, it is hoped, would gladly give the preference to an Asylum under the direction of men of principles and honour, where the Patients might expect to meet with the most humane and disinterested treatment, and where they might have a chance of being restored to their health and friends, without impairing their fortunes.

Agreeable to this humane idea, an advertisement was inserted in the York newspapers, on the 7th of August, 1772, and in consequence of that notice, a very respectable Meeting was held at the Castle. His Grace the late Archbishop was invited to the Chair, who, after opening and explaining the nature of the Meeting, proposed a Subscription for the erecting a suitable building for the reception of Lunatics, being either parish poor, or belonging to distressed and indigent families.

This proposal was unanimously approved of. The sum of £2500. was immediately subscribed, and a Committee appointed to further the views of the Subscribers.

The first intention of the Committee was to inquire into the number of Lunatics within the three Ridings of the County of York, in order that some judgment might be formed of the number of these unhappy persons in the neighbouring Counties, that probably might claim the benefits of this humane charity. The returns made, were so numerous and alarming, that the Committee were induced to call a general Meeting on the 30th of July, 1773, when it was unanimously resolved, to desire Mr. Carr to give in a Plan of a building for the reception of Lunatics, with all the necessary conveniences; and he had it in orders to construct the house in such a manner, that the body of it might contain fifty-four Patients, with the power of extending two wings backward upon any future occasion.

At a general Meeting, held on the 25th of August, 1773, this plan was received and approved, and a Committee was chosen with power to purchase a piece of ground in the neighbourhood of the City, for the erection of a building, agreeable to the Plan given in. On the 11th of March, 1774, a field of five acres, contiguous to Bootham Bar, was purchased for the sum of £828.; and on the 12th of May following, the foundation of the building was laid. At this time, the money subscribed amounted to the sum of £5560. which, with the other sums expected to be subscribed during the progress of the building, was judged sufficient for the purpose of finishing and furnishing the house for the reception of Patients.

At this present time the Subscription amounts to £5690. but in consequence of deaths and other accidents, the Treasurer is not likely to receive the whole sum subscribed. It is therefore with concern that the Committee find this sum inadequate to the expense of finishing and furnishing the house for the reception of Patients; and unless some method can be found out to raise an additional sum, the money already expended will be rendered useless, and one of the most humane charities be lost to society. The

Committee, therefore, confide in the humanity of the public for an aid, and they flatter themselves, that the present deficiency will be made up by humane and charitable contributions, especially, when it is considered that this Asylum is confined to no district, but extends its arms to receive poor and afflicted Lunatics from every quarter of his Majesty's dominions.

Agreeable to the plan of the Committee, a weekly payment of Six Shillings from the respective parishes or friends of Patients will be sufficient to defray all the expenses of the house, without the assistance of any Fund, so that little more will be required, besides a sum adequate to the expense of finishing and furnishing the present building, together with a sum for carrying out the wings in case the number of Patients should increase beyond what can be accommodated in the body of the house, and of this there is a great probability, if we may judge from the numerous applications that already have been made from very remote distances. But should the Subscriptions fortunately exceed the charge of the necessary buildings and furniture, in that case, the overplus money will be converted into a Fund for lessening the weekly payments of the Patients.

The Committee propose that this Charity shall be called the LUNATIC ASYLUM, and be under the direction of a President, Treasurer, and Governors. At the last general Meeting, a Treasurer was elected, and a Committee appointed, to direct the business of the Asylum till an establishment be made for the regular admission of Patients.

And here it will be proper to remark, that no attending Physician or Surgeon will receive either fee or reward, as long as the Hospital continues to receive only paupers, or persons in low and indigent circumstances, agreeable to the original design of the Charity.

Donations for this benevolent purpose will be received by, &c.

Aug. 22, 1777. THAT the Rules and Conditions of Admission be, in the mean time, prepared by the Committee, with the assistance of the York Physicians, and published.

That the Asylum be deemed an Establishment for the County of York, with liberty to the Governors to admit Patients from other Counties or places on extraordinary occasions.

THAT * this Charity shall continue to be named the York Lunatic Asylum, and be considered as a general Establishment for the reception of all persons labouring under an unsound mind, whether curable or not.

B

Rules Relative to Patients.

A Diet Table was formed in the year 1783, and is entered in the Order Book.

Aug. 27, 1784. THAT a Committee of Seven be appointed annually at the General Meeting, with power to fix the payments of the respective Patients; the Physician always to be one; two or more of the Committee to have the power of fixing the payments

Aug. 28, 1784†. AT the General Meeting, &c.

Resolved,

That all Patients upon admission shall pay One Pound and Four Shillings in advance, which will be considered as sufficient board for three weeks, during which period the Committee will inquire into the circumstances of the Patients, in order to determine upon the classes to which they shall belong: and of this determination, notice will be sent to the friends of the Patients.

(Signed) MICHAEL EASTBURN.

Aug. 26, 1785. THAT when any Patients of a better condition offer themselves to the Asylum, they be admitted upon a rate of payment which may be deemed adequate to their circumstances;

* Entered amongst the Resolutions at the end of the Order Book without date; but supposed to be in the year 1785.

† From the York Courant.

and that Dr. Hunter, to whom the Governors think themselves obliged for his liberal, disinterested, and charitable attendance upon the necessitous objects of the Charity, may be requested to do justice to his own interest, by receiving from the friends of such Patients, the reasonable emoluments of his profession.

THAT* all Patients in the house, and such as hereafter may be received shall be classed according to their respective circumstances.

- Class 1. Eight Shillings.
- 2. Ten Shillings.
- 3. Twelve Shillings.
- 4. Fourteen Shillings.
- 5. Sixteen Shillings.
- 6. Eighteen Shillings.
- 7. Twenty Shillings, and upwards.

The weekly payments discharge board and lodging, coal, candle, tea, washing, and medicines.

That a separate table be kept for such Patients as are rated above 8s. per week, with privilege of being admitted without certificates.

That women with child, labouring under unsound mind, shall be received upon security being given, that the child shall not become chargeable to the parish in which the Asylum now stands.

That in cases of sudden lunacy, Patients will be received into the house without previous notice, if presented before sunset. But in all other cases, it is expected that notice will be sent to the Apothecary, at the Asylum, a few days before the arrival of the Patients, that every thing may be properly prepared for his or her reception.

That Lunatics coming recommended as parish poor, shall be placed in the first class, except upon extraordinary occasions, it

* Resolutions entered at the end of the Order Book without any date ; supposed to have been passed about 1785.

being the intention of this Institution to give the greatest relief to such persons as are in low and distressed circumstances, and who do not receive relief from their respective parishes.

That it would be convenient to the public, as well as advantageous to the Asylum, if Patients in easy circumstances were admitted.

That Patients of the last description (but who at no time shall exceed ——* in number) shall be admitted, on their paying a suitable pension to the Asylum; but it is understood, that such Patients shall pay reasonable fees to the Physician for his attendance.

That the Fund established by Lady Gower, Mrs. Bouchier, and Mrs. Bouverie, and known by the name of the "Reduction Fund," be considered as an establishment for the relief of those Patients in low circumstances, who pay for themselves, and have no parish relief. The payments made by this class of Patients, not to exceed Six Shillings, nor be under Four Shillings a week, till the increase of the Fund may make a future deduction advisable.

July 3, 1788. It is the opinion of the Committee, this day assembled, that incurable Patients do not for the future exceed one-third of the whole number of Patients which the Asylum will hold, and that one-third of the Cells in number, be reserved for incurables, subject to such other appropriations of those Cells as contingencies shall from time to time require.

That Patients in the first class, who pay above Eight Shillings a week, do not exceed twenty in number at one time.

Aug. 22, 1788. THAT no more than twenty-five rooms be reserved for incurables.

That in case it be necessary to dismiss any incurable, in conformity to the foregoing Resolution, the Visitors shall determine which of them shall be dismissed, paying attention to the nature of

* The word is obliterated in the Order Book.

their case, and the situation of their families; and that two months notice be given to the family of the incurable to take him or her away.

That no person be dismissed as incurable so long as four rooms are unoccupied.

That no more than twenty-five Patients of the first class be in the house at one time.

Aug. 23. 1788. RESOLVED, that whereas £37. a year, arising from the interest upon three separate sums given by the late Countess Dowager Gower, Mrs. Bouchier, and Mrs. Bouverie, is as yet the only fund appropriated to the relief and maintenance of the Patients in this Asylum, a weekly payment which was of necessity exacted of every Patient at the period of its first institution, continues to be necessary still. And whereas, persons of every condition, as well those, in easy circumstances, as those the most necessitous, are admitted into this Asylum to partake of the benefit of commodious habitation, and of the great ease, good order, and excellent medical assistance given here; it was resolved, that the Patients should be formed into classes according to their respective fortunes, and that those of the superior or opulent class should pay, according to their abilities, certain weekly rates exceeding the expense of their maintenance, thereby creating the means of relieving the necessitous by lowering their weekly payments to a rate more suitable to their circumstances, though not adequate to the expense of their maintenance. This Court upon a full and serious reconsideration of the principle of that resolution, and upon the experience of the effect produced by the regulation, does now confirm it; and does also confirm the rule whereby Patients sent into this Asylum by parish officers, and according to the strict injunction of the law, maintained at the charge of their respective parishes, are rated at 8s. per week each, this being the computed average expense of maintaining each Patient: the Court being clearly of opinion, that whenever the means arise, it is more in the true spirit of charity, that those means should be applied to the relief of necessitous individuals, than to the ease and accommo-

dation of the opulent proprietors and inhabitants of a parish, under whatever specious description it may be thought proper to mask their case.

July 2, 1795. THAT in future, no particular servant shall be admitted with any Patient, but that Patients of every description shall be attended by servants belonging to the house.

April 1, 1802. THAT no person be admitted into the Asylum who hath been tried for any criminal offence committed during a state of insanity, and sentenced to a state of confinement.

Jan. 28, 1813. THAT no Patient shall be admitted into the Asylum without a certificate of his insanity, signed either by a regular Medical Practitioner, or by the Clergyman of the parish in which he has resided.

That sufficient security shall be given by some individual of competent circumstances, for the due payment of the Patient's expenses.

That written answers shall be transmitted to the printed Queries of the Physician, respecting the previous history and treatment of the Patient's disorder.

That in the instance of persons not paying more than 9s. a week, One Guinea shall be deposited in the hands of the Steward, and restored on the Patient's removal from the Asylum.

That no individual, who has been guilty of murder, or of any other capital offence against the laws of his country, (even though such criminal act may have been committed under the influence of insanity,) shall be received as a Patient into the York Lunatic Asylum.

C

Rules Relating to the Physician.

Sept. 21, 1777. It is the sense of this Committee, that it is most proper to have one Physician only, for the Asylum, and Doctor Hunter being desired to attend as such, he consented thereto.

Aug. 26, 1785. That when any Patients of a better condition offer themselves to the Asylum, they be admitted upon a rate of payment which may be deemed adequate to their circumstances; and that Dr. Hunter, to whom the Governors think themselves obliged for his liberal, disinterested, and charitable attendance upon the necessitous objects of the Charity, may be requested to do justice to his own interest, by receiving from the friends of such Patients the reasonable emoluments of his profession.

That a Report be made by the Physician at each General Meeting of the number of Incurables, together with the state of all the Patients.

Aug. 23, 1788. AND whereas, the Court, having considered that it was unfit and unjust that Patients in easy and affluent circumstances should, equally with the necessitous and indigent, enjoy the gratuitous assistance of the attending Physician, did resolve, *Aug. 26, 1785*, to request the Physician to accept from Patients of the former description, the reasonable emoluments of his profession: And whereas by a subsequent resolution of August 24, 1787, the Court did request the Physician to accept a salary of £200. for the ensuing year, in lieu of fees from Patients of the superior class, this Court, upon a serious and deliberate review of this last-mentioned resolution, determined not to renew it at this period, but request the Physician henceforth to receive such moderate and reasonable fees from the class of affluent Patients, as he was accustomed to receive heretofore.

July 19, 1809. Dr. Best was proposed by Godfrey Wentworth, Esq. and seconded by the Rev. Thomas Preston, as the sole successor to Dr. Hunter, the late Physician to this Asylum, and unanimously elected.

D

Rules Relating to the Governors.

Nov. 9, 1772. THAT all Benefactors of Twenty Pounds and upwards be Governors, as also the Lord Mayor, and the Governor of the Merchant's Company, for the time being.

That there be held a Court of Governors on Wednesday, in each of the Assize weeks, and a general Meeting of Governors on Wednesday in the Race week, and that notice thereof be given in the York Paper.

That a Donation of Twenty Pounds or upwards shall constitute a Governor, with the privilege of recommending as many Patients as he may think proper.

Aug. 24, 1792. THAT no Donation given to the Asylum subsequent to the 26th of August, 1791, being made subject to any condition whatever, or directed to be applied to any particular purpose, shall constitute a Governor.

That in case of any future subscription of Twenty Pounds and upwards, by any public body, society, or partnership, one only of the said partnership, to be then named by themselves, shall act during the course of his life as a Governor, and on the event of whose death this privilege to the partnership shall cease.

That no resolution or order of a General Court can be reversed or suspended by authority of a Quarterly Meeting.

April 3, 1794. THAT no sum exceeding 40s. shall be expended without an order from a Quarterly or Special Court.

Aug. 23, 1805. THAT no Subscriber shall be allowed to vote at the election of any Officer in the Asylum, till the expiration of six calendar months after he shall have paid his subscription.

That in case of the death or removal of any Officer in the Asylum, the Quarterly Court immediately subsequent to such death or removal, shall, by public advertisement, call a Special General Meeting, to supply the vacancy within one month after the holding such Court, and that the orders of such General Special Court shall be as valid as if they had been made at an Annual Meeting.

Aug. 25, 1809. THAT no proposition for increasing the number of Officers of this Institution shall be made, except at the General Annual Meeting, nor taken into consideration but at a

Special Court then to be appointed, and to be holden within three months from the said General Annual Meeting, and of which Special Court notice shall be given in the York Papers.

Aug. 23, 1811. THAT in case of the resignation, or intimation of the intended resignation, of any Officer of the Asylum at a Quarterly or Annual Meeting, such Quarterly or Annual Meeting shall, by public advertisement in the York Papers, appoint a Special General Meeting to be held within one month, to fill up the vacancy occasioned by such resignation.

E

Rules Relating to Visitors.

Aug. 22, 1782. ORDERED, that at every Quarterly Meeting two Gentlemen be desired to be Visitors at the Asylum, to make their observation, and report the same to the next Meeting, and that till the next Meeting, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Barstow, and Mr. Myres, be desired to be Visitors.

Jan. 15, 1784. THAT, from this day, no bills, excepting such as are for subsistence only, shall be sent to any of the friends of the Patients in the Asylum, without being signed by one or more of the Visitors.

July 1, 1784. THIS Order was made to prevent all fraudulent charges.

Rules relating to the Steward.

Oct. 5, 1797. ORDERED that the Steward over and above his general duty, is vested by the Governors with full powers over every Servant in the house, except the Apothecary, and in case any servant should prove refractory and disobedient, he or she may be discharged by him, with the consent of the Physician, or a Governor in his absence, and another Servant hired.

G

Rules relating to the Apothecary.

THAT the duty of the Apothecary shall extend to seeing the Servants in the house do their duty, in cleaning out the galleries and rooms of the Patients, and in performing the other offices belonging to them as Servants; that he shall see the Patients take their Medicines, and give the necessary attendance during the operation of such as may require attendance, that he shall strictly attend to the directions given him by the Physician, and shall not absent himself from the Asylum but on proper occasions.

That he shall not order any drugs without the approbation of the Physician.

As the Physician cannot be always present when a Patient comes in, the Apothecary to take care to collect from the Patient's friends an accurate account of the case in writing, for the inspection of the Physician, to be afterwards corrected and inserted in a book kept for that purpose.

H

Rules relating to the Housekeeper.

1. The Governors require that you carefully superintend the management of this Charity in every particular, and see that it is conducted with the greatest possible regularity, cleanliness, and economy.

2. That you take care of the household goods and furniture, according to the inventory, and be ready to give an account thereof when required.

3. That you visit the wards and offices every day, and take care that the rooms, beds, linen, and other things in the house be kept clean.

4. That you keep a regular account of the women's apparel, that the friends of the Patients may have no cause of complaint when the Patient returns home.

5. That you, every morning, give a bill of directions to the Cook, for providing a dinner for the family, agreeable to the directions in the table of diet, and take care that the meat be served up at a regular stated hour, and see that none is wasted, and that neither liquors nor provisions be brought to the Patients but such as the house provides.

6. That you permit no Patients to go into the kitchen, but such as are employed, by your orders, as assistants to the Cook; that you suffer as few persons as possible to have access to the provisions or stores, without your being present, in order that none be purloined.

7. That no provisions or stores of any kind be purchased without first obtaining your order, except such as are purchased by the Apothecary*, and that you see that there is the quantity charged, and that the quality be good.

8. That the Servants will sit down to supper at a stated hour, you being at the head of the table, and the Head Keeper at the bottom; and those Servants who do not attend at the stated hour, shall not have any supper served out, unless they produce a reasonable excuse for their absence.

9. That you suffer no Servant, male or female, to be absent from the house, without leave first obtained from you or the Apothecary.

10. That you shall not absent yourself from the Charity, unless on necessary business, without leave obtained from the Apothecary.

11. That in case of the improper behaviour of Servants, you are to complain to the Apothecary, who may correct the abuse by a reprimand or dismissal, or he may lay the complaint before the Governors.

12. That you treat the Patients with good-nature and tenderness, and that you never suffer any degree of cruelty, insolence, or neglect in the Servants towards them to pass unnoticed.

* In this and following rules where the Apothecary is mentioned, the Steward is intended, the Apothecary at that time filling both offices.

13. That you see the out-doors securely locked within one hour after supper.

14. That you take care to see the Patients go regularly and orderly to bed; the women going at one time, and the men soon after. That you take care, that no fire or candle be left in any of the women's rooms. That you see the galleries locked up every night, and that the house be left in perfect order and security before you go to bed.

15. That you see all the fires put out before you go to bed: but it is impossible, to mention all your necessary duties; it is expected that you so conduct yourself in the family, as becomes a Housekeeper, who is invested with full powers of management.

Sept. 21, 1809. THAT whenever any application shall be made for an additional supply of linen, an account of the linen then in use be laid before the Court, with the cause of the application.

Aug. 28, 1812. THAT an account of the linen be kept by the Housekeeper, in a book, upon the plan recommended by Dr. BEST, and be laid before the Governors half yearly.

I

Rules relating to the Head Keeper.

1. THAT you shall, every day, visit the men's wards and rooms, after the beds are made, and see that every thing be clean and orderly.

2. That you consider yourself as appointed by the Governors to superintend the Men-servants; and in case of any ill behaviour on their parts, to state the same to the Housekeeper, who, if she think proper, may lay the complaint before the Apothecary.*

3. That you pay a particular attention to the apparel of the male Patients, in order that their friends may have no cause of complaint when the Patient returns home.

* Steward.

4. That you treat the Patients with good-nature and tenderness, and that you never suffer any degree of cruelty, insolence, or neglect in the Servants towards them to pass unnoticed.

5. That you take care to see the male Patients go regularly to bed, the women going first, and the men soon after.

6. That you take care that no fire or candle be left in any of the men's rooms, that you see the galleries locked up every night, and that the house be left in perfect order and security before you go to bed.

Aug. 26, 1791. Signed, A. Hunter, H. Jubb, Jos. Oldfield, John Alexander Hunter, Wentworth Fitzwilliam, E. Stillingfleet, William Siddall, H. Myres, J. Hay.

J

Orders for the Servants in general.

1. That all the Servants in the house shall pay a proper attention to the orders given them by the Housekeeper and Head Keeper; and in case of any appeal from a Servant to the Apothecary, such Servant, if found in the wrong, shall be immediately discharged, if the Apothecary judge it necessary.

2. That all the Servants in the house conduct themselves towards each other with civility and good manners.

July 4, 1799. ORDERED, that the following Rules be transcribed and hung up in two or three conspicuous parts of the house, at the discretion of Mr. SURR.

That every Patient, before he or she comes out of the ward, shall be clean washed and combed, and the Servant in the house, whose duty it is to look after such Patient, shall be present to do or see that the above is regularly attended to.

That the beds and bedding be examined once in every week, and the same put into good condition, where they shall be found otherwise.

That Mr. SURR or Mr. ATKINSON be present at the inspection of the clothes and bedding in the men's ward, and Mrs. PECKITT in that of the women.

That the Servants shall take their turns once in every half hour, to look to the different Patients in the day-rooms and in the garden.

That no Servant shall be suffered to carry on any employ or traffic, but to attend entirely to the business of the house for which he is engaged, nor to be absent from the house longer than one hour at a time, without giving an account to Mr. SURR, or Mr. ATKINSON.

That Mr. SURR, Mr. ATKINSON, and Mrs. PECKITT, do report at the Quarterly Meeting, where they observe any refusal or neglect in attending strictly to the foregoing orders.

That in case any of the Patients shall escape, the expense of following and bringing them back shall be defrayed by the Servants of the house, in proportion to their wages, the Cook, the Under Cook, the Gardener, and House Steward excepted. The Housekeeper is also afterwards excepted.

Jan. 28, 1813. That if any Keeper or Servant shall strike or otherwise ill treat any Patient in the Asylum, such Keeper or Servant shall be dismissed from his situation.

K

Design of the Reduction Fund, and Lupton's Fund, and Rules relating to them.

Aug. 20, 1778. THAT Lady Gower's donation of £500. was given upon condition that the interest shall be applied for the relief of Patients only; that sum is accordingly vested in the public funds, and the dividends are applied for that purpose only.

THAT* the fund established by Lady Gower, Mrs. Bouchier, and Mrs. Bouverie, and known by the name of the "Reduction

* Resolutions supposed in 1785, (no date.)

Fund," be considered an establishment for the relief of those Patients in low circumstances who pay for themselves, and have no parish relief; the payments made by this class of Patients not to exceed Six Shillings, nor to be under Four Shillings a week, till the increase of the fund may make a further reduction advisable.

Oct. 1, 1789. AT a Quarterly Meeting of the Governors of the Lunatic Asylum, held for the purpose of auditing the accounts, the Archbishop being present, Mr. Mason having introduced Mr. Rockett, the intended donor to the Charity, and the said Reverend Mr. Dudley Rockett having declared that he is the person, who, in the resolution of the last General Court, held on the 28th of August last, intended to become a benefactor to the Asylum, upon the condition there expressed, and having this day given a benefaction of £400. out of the residue of the estate and effects of the late Mr. Thomas Lupton, deceased, to be appropriated * for the maintenance of Lunatic parish paupers, and other indigent Lunatics within the City, Ainsty, and County of York, [only]† and to be placed on government security for that purpose. It was therefore ordered, that the said sum of £400. together with £100. a late benefaction given by the Rev. William Mason, for the like purpose, be denominated Lupton's Fund, and be placed in the 4 per cent. consolidated annuities, in the names of the Archbishop of York for the time being, the Rev. William Mason, William Preston, Esq. and the Rev. Dudley Rockett, as Trustees; and that the dividend be suffered to accumulate, and be laid out in the same fund from time to time, together with any other benefactions which may hereafter be given for the like purpose, till it may be thought by the Archbishop of York for the time being, that the fund is so considerable that the dividends may be

* "Solely" erased.

† "Only" interlined. The alteration in this paragraph was made by the Treasurer, in consequence of a verbal order given for that purpose at a General Annual Court, his Grace the Archbishop of York in the chair, Aug. 28, 1795.

applied towards the relief of the poor objects for whom it is peculiarly intended; and it is further declared, that this fund shall be kept distinct from that which is now called the Reduction Fund, the produce of which is applicable to the immediate relief of those who are considered by the Governors as the greatest objects of charity.

July 21, 1791. A motion being made and seconded, "That it appears unreasonable and unjust, that the Subscribers to Lady Gower's 'Reduction Fund,' and 'Lupton's Fund,' should enjoy the same powers and privileges as those who subscribe in general terms, as from the very nature of their subscriptions, they must have a 'partial' and not a 'general' interest in the affairs of the Asylum."

Resolved, that placing the power of direction in the hands of those persons who subscribe their money for "partial" and not for "general" purposes, appears to this Court to be an infringement upon the rights of the general Subscribers, who alone ought to have the distribution and application of their own money. They therefore are decidedly of opinion, that no other than General Subscribers ought to be concerned in the General management of the Asylum.

That as the money placed in "Lady Gower's Fund" and "Lupton's Fund" is not subject to be disposed of at the will of the Governors of this Charity, this Court is of opinion that the power of the Subscribers to these funds, ought only to extend over their own Subscription money, and that in all future cases, where the application of the money is "particularly" directed, the Donors ought not to have any power beyond the disposal and application of the money subscribed by themselves.

Oct. 2, 1794. THAT the payment of the Patients so much exceeding the expenditure, One Pound Four Shillings per week may be added to the Reduction Fund.

July 2, 1795. THAT in consequence of the increasing income of the Asylum, the sum of One Pound Four Shillings per week

be added to the Reduction of the payment of poor Patients, which sum, together with weekly allowance ordered in October last, will make that Reduction to be Two Pounds Eight Shillings per week.

L

Miscellaneous.

Jan. 4, 1781. THAT a general State of the Asylum be annually published the first week in January, together with a List of the Benefactors.

Aug. 22, 1794. THAT in future the Annual State of the Asylum shall contain an account of the receipts and disbursements of the preceding year, and be published in the York Papers.

Feb. 8, 1813. THAT no persons unconnected with the Asylum shall have the liberty of visiting any of the Patients, without a printed order of admission, signed by the Physician.

MINUTES

*Of the Proceedings of the Committee appointed to
inquire into the Rules and Management of the
York Lunatic Asylum, &c.*

Jan. 21, 1814.

PRESENT.

The Rev. WILLIAM DEALTRY.

GEORGE PALMES, Esq.

Mr. BLAND.

Mr. BROOK.

Rev. J. GRAHAM.

Mr. JONATHAN GRAY.

HAVING examined the Books which seem to contain the only documents relating to the Asylum in the possession of the Institution, and referred to such Rules as are of importance for our present consideration ;

Ordered,

That Mr. BROOK be desired to extract the several Rules to which reference has been made, and draw them out in the order they occur in the Books.

Ordered,

That the next Meeting of this Committee be held at the Asylum, On Wednesday the 26th inst. at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon.

Jan. 26, 1814.

PRESENT.

The LORD MAYOR.

Rev. W. DEALTRY.

GEORGE PALMES, Esq.

Mr. BLAND.

Rev. J. GRAHAM.

Mr. BROOK.

Mr. JONATHAN GRAY.

THE Committee find, on inquiry, that the Asylum is under the management of the following officers:

Dr. BEST, Physician.

Mr. BROOK, Treasurer.

Mr. ATKINSON, Apothecary, at a Salary of £100. per annum.

Mr. SURR, House Steward. Salary £80. per annum.

Mrs. ATKINSON, Housekeeper. Salary £30. per annum.

And that the rest of the Establishment is as follows, viz.

		Salary.		
		£.	s.	d.
Male Servants.—	A Head Keeper	21	0	0
	A Second Ditto	20	0	0
	A Third Ditto	16	0	0
	A Fourth Ditto	12	12	0
	A Gardener	25	0	0
Female Servants.—	A Head Keeper	12	12	0
	A Second Ditto	10	10	0
	A Third Ditto	10	10	0
	A Cook	15	0	0
	An Under Cook	8	8	0

The Committee having requested Dr. BEST and Mr. BROOK to state what they consider to be the duties of their offices ;

Dr. BEST stated to the following effect :

That he exercises a general superintendence over the subordinate Officers and Servants of the Institution ; attends the Asylum daily, except when prevented by any particular business ; visits all the wards and apartments of the Patients ; orders any thing he sees amiss to be corrected ; prescribes medicines for such Patients as he judges to require them ; directs the diet and treatment he considers most proper in particular cases ; settles the rate of payment on the admission of each Patient, except in the instance of those who pay less than parish paupers ; answers the letters of inquiry from the Patients' friends ; informs the parishes or relatives of Patients when he considers them fit for removal, or directs the Steward to do so.

Mr. BROOK stated, That the Treasurer receives all legacies and donations to the Asylum ; receives the dividends and interest upon the money in the funds or on securities ; issues money to the steward, when he (the Treasurer) sees necessary, and makes up a general Annual Account (which is printed) of the receipts and disbursements of the Institution. The payments of the Patients or their friends do not come into his hands. He pays the money which he from time to time receives, into one of the York Banks, to the separate account of the Lunatic Asylum.

Mr. ATKINSON states, That his duties are those mentioned in the Order of the 5th of October, 1797.

That he does not consider his authority over the Servants to extend to prohibit them from absenting themselves from the house without his leave.

Mr. SURR, the House Steward, says, he comes down between nine and ten in the morning to the Asylum and asks the Servants if all is well, and any thing wanted, and frequently comes down two or three times a day. If any thing is wanted, he provides it. The Housekeeper orders the meat, and he sees it weighed. He pays the Housekeeper's weekly bill ; attends to repairs ; makes out the Patients' bills ; receives all the money paid by the friends of the Patients ; keeps an account of the number of the Patients, and what is paid for them ; pays the tradesmen's weekly bills, and

their other bills, when ordered by the Court. Receives securities for the payment of the Patients' bills.

Mrs. ATKINSON being asked what duties she performs, states they are contained in a Paper delivered to her by Mr. SURR, under his signature, and now produced by her.

This Paper, the Committee find to contain only the 1st, 2d, 12th, 13th, and 14th of the Rules for the Housekeeper.

Mrs. ATKINSON further states, she has complied with these orders as far as she was able. That she manages the domestic part of the family; looks after the victuals, and sees there is proper economy, and no waste. That she keeps an account of the linen.

Says she continued to see the doors locked for about six months; after which, she found the Servants got into the house some other way, and she has since that time left the back-kitchen door open. Says the Servants are frequently out when she goes to bed.—Complains that Mr. SURR would not permit her to have power in the house. She is not obeyed by the Head Female Keeper.

Adjourned to Jan. 28.

Jan. 28, 1814.

PRESENT,

His GRACE the ARCHBISHOP of YORK.

Rev. Mr. PRESTON.

Rev. Mr. DEALTRY.

GEORGE PALMES, Esq.

S. W. NICOLL, Esq.

Rev. J. GRAHAM.

Mr. BROOK.

Mr. JONATHAN GRAY.

Mr. SURR's Books having been examined for the three last Quarters, the Patients were classed agreeably to the Books, in the manner stated in the annexed paper.

Classes.	Description.	Average number of each Class.		
		Quarter ending June 12, 1913.	Quarter end. Sept. 12, 1913.	Quarter end. Dec. 12, 1913.
1.	Dr. BEST's private Patients; for whom he accounts to the Steward for 14s. per week each	16	16	17
2.	Patients who pay to the Ste- ward 15s. per week, of which Dr. BEST receives 4s. per week	16	16	14
3.	Patients who pay to the Ste- ward 12s. per week, of which Dr. BEST receives 2s. per week	11	13	14
4.	Patients who pay to the Ste- ward 10s. per week, of which Dr. BEST receives 1s. per week	17	17	17
5.	Parish Paupers, &c. paying 9s.	110	108	103
6.	Indigent Lunatics, paying 8s.	13	13	13
	Ditto 6s.	7	6	6
	Ditto 5s.	4	6	6
	Ditto 4s.	4	4	4
	Totals	<u>198</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>194</u>

Mr. SURR says, that 80 of the Patients in the 9s. class are parish paupers.

The amount of the sums charged to the men Patients in the superior classes, for the attendance of the Servants, is about 74 Guineas per annum, which is divided amongst the four men.

The manure is divided amongst the Men-servants and Gardener, except the Head Keeper. The amount of the sums charged to the female Patients in the superior classes, for the attendance of

Servants, is about £25. per annum, which is divided amongst the three female Servants.

Dr. BEST says, when he succeeded Dr. HUNTER, the classification now stated, was, with some slight differences, in existence. The highest class of Patients, or those called Dr. HUNTER'S own, at the period of Dr. HUNTER'S death paid only 10s. per week each to the Institution. The sum of 15s. per week, paid by one class, was divided into portions of 5s. paid to the Physician, and 10s. to the House, which is now 4s. and 11s. Dr. BEST does not know when the existing classification and mode of payment took place, or on what authority. No statement is made to the friends of Patients of the distinct purposes, as far as the House and the Physician are concerned, to which the payments they make are applied. Dr. BEST receives £1. 1s. on the admission of Patients in the 2d, 3d, and 4th classes, amounting in the year to perhaps £30. They also pay 5s. which on the admission of male Patients, is received by the Head Keeper, and of female Patients, by the Housekeeper.

Dr. BEST knows no exact limit to his own Patients ; the number has varied from 12 to 18. He visits the house daily ; is sometimes occupied half an hour there, sometimes much more, perhaps three hours, but the latter time not very often ; he is seldom less than an hour.

Dr. BEST sees all the Patients every day ; or very rarely omits seeing the whole.

Visiting the house is a small portion of his duty ; he also corresponds with the friends of the Patients, and sees them at his own house ; and much of his time is thus occupied.

Mr. ATKINSON says, he has no particular authority over the Servants ; that department belongs to Mr. SURR. Mr. SURR'S habit is, when he is well, to come down every morning, particularly on a Saturday when the meat is weighed. He might stay half an hour or more. The Servants look upon Mr. SURR as having the authority over them ; but Mr. ATKINSON has also a superintendence over the male Servants. He goes round the

wards every day, but seldom sees the Patients in bed, or put to bed.

The upper classes of Patients have tea included in their weekly payments. The lower classes have no tea*.

The higher classes have tea twice a day; the lower classes have gruel, or milk and oatmeal, for breakfast.

The better Patients, about 40, dine at one table, and the paupers at another.

There is another table where Mr. and Mrs. ATKINSON dine after the rest, and a few of the Patients dine with them. THOMAS BLACKADER, the Head Keeper, has a table which he attends, where five or six of the better Patients dine. A few have their dinners sent up stairs.

THOMAS BLACKADER, Head Keeper, has been thirteen years a Servant in the Asylum.

He had a paper containing the Rules for his direction as Head Keeper, but has lost it. Says it did not contain all that has now been read to him.

Says he used to superintend the Patients' linen, and their beds; (that is, to fix, on their admission, the proper rooms for them;) he used to take his turn with the other Keepers in going out. Two of the Keepers used to go into the town after eight o'clock. The doors used to be locked at ten; but for several years the regulations have not been so strictly enforced; any Servant can go in and out of an evening. Says the Servants refuse to obey his orders or directions; he does not consider himself as having the authority he used to have. BACKHOUSE used to have the principal power, though BLACKADER was called Head Keeper. BATTY followed BACKHOUSE, and HENRY DAWSON followed BATTY. There is not any one Keeper with particular powers; but BLACKADER says, he represents to the other Keepers if there is any want of cleanliness in the wards. Says, HENRY DAWSON has the whole power

* See Mrs. ATKINSON's statement.

over the other two Keepers. He is looked on as having the head power.

Mrs. ATKINSON, many years ago, ceased to lock the back door at nights, after which the Servants could obtain admission after ten o'clock at night. Says Mrs. ATKINSON has given up keeping the key of the beer and bread. Mr. SURR gave it to CHARLES HOLGATE, one of the Keepers.

Says he never knew a Patient confined in a cell for more than three or four days, or put in without a shirt on.

HENRY DAWSON says, he succeeded to BATTY's situation and powers as a Keeper. He has been a Servant in the Asylum between five and six years. BLACKADER does not interfere with him. Has never seen any written directions for the Servants. He does not consider BLACKADER as having particular power. Has always attended to Mr. ATKINSON's directions, but does not ask him leave of absence. Says the back-kitchen door is never locked night or day. A Servant may go out at this door and be out all night.

Besides the sums which are divided amongst the Servants for attendance on some of the better Patients, they have the Patients' old clothes. The Keepers judge amongst themselves when the clothes are getting bad ; and sometimes Dr. BEST observes it ; the Keepers tell Mr. SURR, who takes the Servants' representation : he does not see the Patients' clothes himself.

When Patients are very violent, and the strait-waistcoat makes their arms swell, it is taken off, and they are put in the cells. They stay there two or three days, or as much as a week, if very violent. They have blankets and straw ; they are sometimes put in without a shirt on. When Patients are confined, the cells are cleaned out three or four times a week.

Adjourned to Feb. the 8th.

York Tavern, Feb. 8, 1814.

PRESENT.

HIS GRACE the ARCHBISHOP of YORK.

GEORGE PALMES, Esq.

Rev. Mr. PRESTON.

BENJAMIN BROOKSBANK, Esq.

S. W. NICOLL, Esq.

Mr. BLAND.

THOMAS SMITH, Esq.

Rev. JOHN GRAHAM.

Mr. BROOK.

THOMAS WILSON, Esq.

Mr. JONATHAN GRAY.

Mrs. ATKINSON says there are about twelve gentlemen and ladies whose diet is the same as that at Mr. and Mrs. ATKINSON'S table. Of these, two or three dine at table with them ; and about seven gentlemen dine together at a table which the Head Keeper attends. Mrs. ATKINSON sends up meat from her own table for some of the ladies who dine in their rooms.

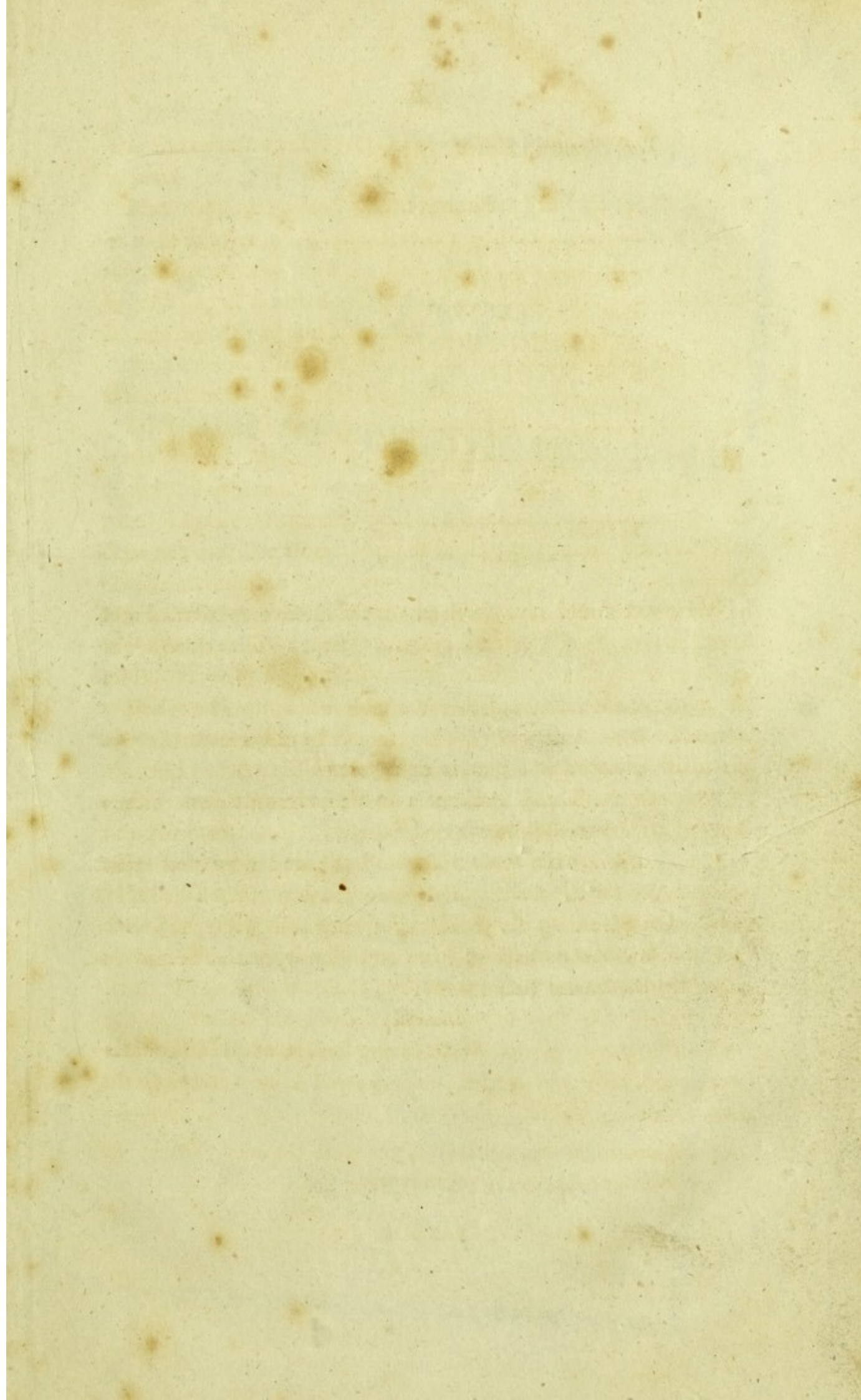
The middle class of Patients have three meagre days. They have a separate table from the paupers.

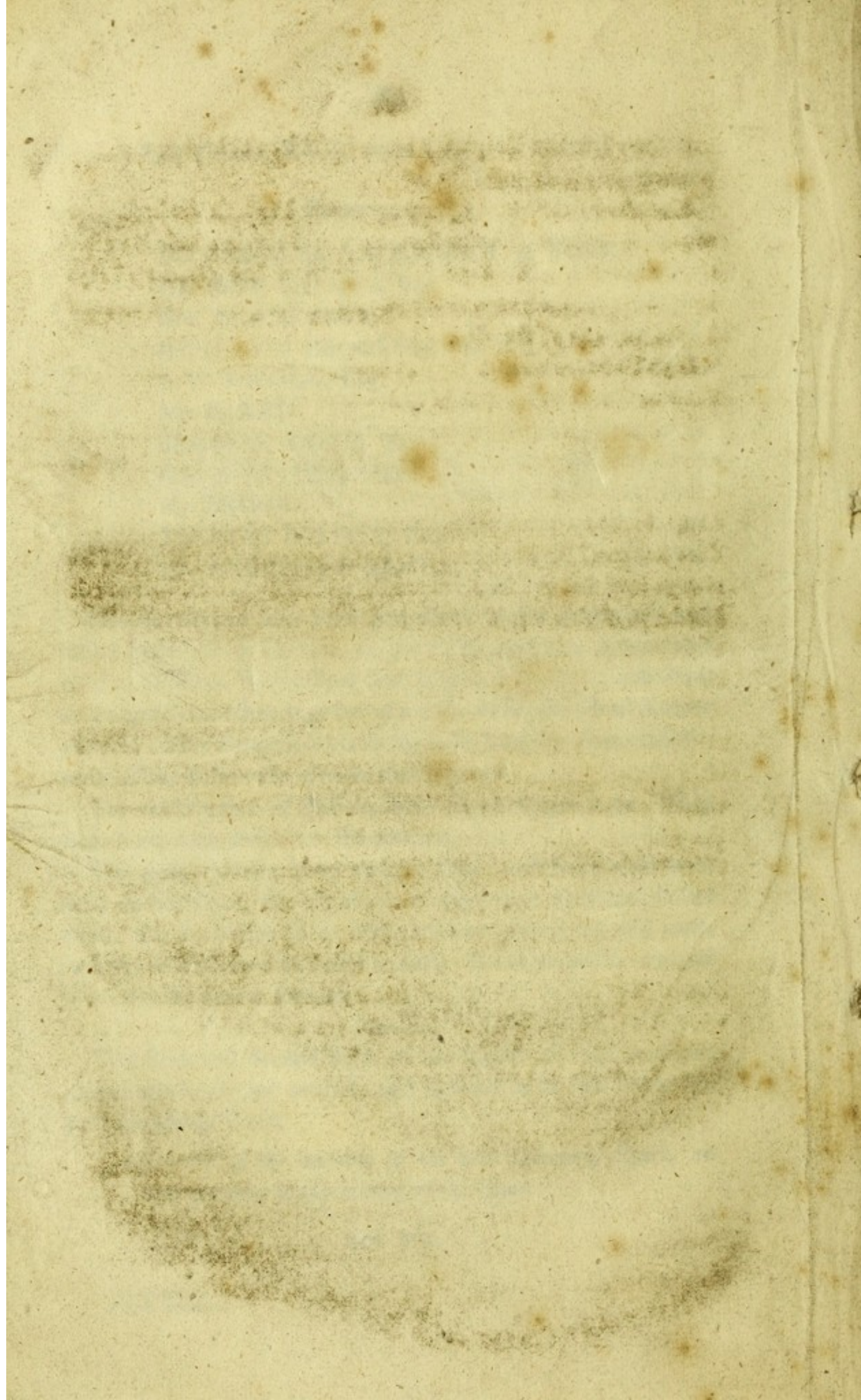
The paupers have three meagre days ; and have roast meat only on Sundays. On the other two meat days, they have boiled meat. On Saturdays the middle class have principally cold meat, and the lowest class have offal in hash. She separates the coarsest parts for the lowest Patients.

THE First and Second Parts of the Report of the Committee were considered and settled ; and ordered to be laid before the next Quarterly Court.

Adjourned to the morning of the next Quarterly Court, an hour previous to the meeting of the Court.

THE END.





RETALIATION ;
OR,
HINTS,
TO
SOME OF THE GOVERNORS
OF THE
York Lunatic Asylum.

BY CHARLES ATKINSON.

"The Dog-star rages!" nay, 'tis past a doubt,
All Bedlam's Resolutions are broke out,
Fire in each Eye, and Papers in each Hand,
They Rave, Recite, and madden through the Land;
From Shadows, will the Government defend,
And more abusive, call themselves its Friend ;
This prints his Name, and That expects a Bribe,
And all roar out, SUBSCRIBE ! SUBSCRIBE !

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

YORK :

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,
BY M. W. CARRALL, WALMGATE,
AND SOLD BY ALL THE BOOKSELLERS IN THE
CITY AND COUNTY.

1814.

RETALIATION;

HINTS

SOME OF THE GOVERNORS

OF THE
YORK INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

BY CHARLES ATKINSON.

"The Insurance Company, that is, the past a doubt,
All England's business is done in,
Here in each Port, and there in each town,
From East to West, and round the land;
From London, with the Government below,
And more than that, all the world over;
This is the name, and that is the name,
And all the world is doing it."

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

YORK:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,
BY J. W. CARR, 10, WHITE
AND SOLD BY ALL THE BOOKSELLERS IN THE
CITY AND COUNTRY.

1841.

RETALIATION, &c.

"MALIM VIDERI NIMIS TIMIDUS, QUAM PARUM
PRUDENS." Cic.

THE clock has struck twelve, and it is now past seventeen years, since I knew what it was to enjoy a state of Freedom. But being independent at present, (perhaps for a very short reign) I do feel inspired with the breath of Liberty, and being free, I will address free, and for once in my life, shall stand upon my own limbs, will advocate my own cause, and present myself to this little World of Lunacy, as a free agent.

The events of the Asylum are over with me. I have been cast down, and calumniated. I have experienced the Oppressor's

Wrongs, and the Great Man's Contumely.
 What *Better*, can I have to hope or pray,
 What *Worse* to fear from them?

I shall not undertake to criticise the Acts at the Asylum. I have nothing to apply to the broad Principle of Reformation, there, had it been effected, by Honourable and Impartial Men. I have to complain of injustices to my particular situation. To the want of due attention to the Inefficiency of my powers. To a total disregard of the state of Vassilage, in which I endured a twelve-year's (subterraneous) vindictive persecution from the late Physician. I complain of present Party-spirit, and of the application of Crimes to me, in which I had no participation.

I admit that many of the Governors are thorough Gentlemen.—But I have been treated by a few of them, with many personal insults,—insults inflicted upon a man, whose family, and confined circumstances prevented in him, the hope, and frustrated

the power of self-defence. Insults, the offspring of vulgar minds, and of dastardly conduct. When I was chosen into the office of APOTHECARY to the Asylum, it was in despite of all the energies of Doctor HUNTER; and from the moment I entered the House, (where he wished a person of his to be placed) as an officer, every emolument enjoyed by my Predecessor, every consideration and comfort was taken from me.

The subsequent Election of my Wife, against the same influence, did not at all serve to appease wrath, or in the least to conduce to the alleviation of my indurance. My circumstances however, were ill adapted to contend with so powerful a competitor, and what spirit prompted in me, policy kept down, so that I suffered with patience, for the sake of my family.

The whole of the Servants, over whom I ought to have presided, were, if not *overtly*, yet *tacitly* encouraged to thwart me, and every springe was set in every snare to en-

trap the Woodcock. Has it not been proved, that the very powers with which the Court supposed me to be invested, were privately withdrawn, nay absolutely wilfully and improperly withheld from me? So that with every appearance of being equipped *Cap-a-Piè* for power, I was exhibited with all the Insignia of Office, with every Emblem of War, whilst my hands were so begirt with the Trappings, as to render me incapable of the use of them. So much for the secret History of my Circumstances. Of late, every insinuation which the mal-influence of an Election could produce in common minds (independent of the curse superadded of Fanaticism) had been industriously applied to me. One Person charged me with This Failing, and another with That, as best suited their interested purposes; and not content with the accomplishment of these purposes, when their machinations had answered, they then united Insult to Oppression, and some of the Governors in the most brutal and unfeeling manner, retorted to my wife, and upon myself, the most contemptuous Insinuations.

Mr. HIGGINS, the *Grand Lunatic Reformer* in this business, (convulsed with mania*) conceived himself at liberty to traduce me, in the most blackguard language; he grossly attached a LIE to me, with as much apparent indifference, as if he had positive proof on his side, or my Character were of no avail to me. This he has done in Print, and *Litera scripta manet*.

Now, as he has himself, this Odium attached to him also in Print, he should have judged by the misery and cowerdice of his own feelings, how cruel it were to inflict it upon another.† However, I now stand independent of *Him*, and I tell him, that what he asserted was not the TRUTH.—It was wrested to his own purpose, and was one of

* And seventeen years close attention to Lunatics, should make me no bad judge of this.

† O Tite! si quid ego adjuro, curamve levasso, quæ nunc te coquit et versat sub pectore fixa, ecquid erit pretii.

Cic.

HIGGINS'S LIES ;*—But it is not all the dirty Slander of his Tongue, nor the fulsome Adulation to the Lord's (whom like the *Boa Constrictor*, he first slobbers over with his lubricating lips, and then gorges) that shall restrain me from vindicating my Character, which, humble as I am, I can and will defend, though this *Goliath of Reformation* stand in the Portico!

Mr. HIGGINS saw that Nature had not been very flattering to me, in the size of my person, nor very lavish of her favors to me. I am not exactly the man, whom this nature has authorised to strike Terror into an Enemy, for I am low in stature, and not very formidable in the display of physical powers ; but yet I have that within me, I hope, which holds a Sycophant at arm's

* The *Jeu d'Esprit* of Mr. HIGGINS and myself, respecting the LIE, might make a pretty subject for a Catch Club.—viz.

Says HIG. to AR. " You tell a LIE !"

Says AR. to HIG " Oh no not I."

" Perhaps" says HIG. " you'll say its me," —

" Oh yes, Oh yes,—so let it be !"

length, and keeps at a distance the Coward who attacks the Unprotected.

May words express the quantum meruit of some of the Governors, who were kind enough to throw a sable condolance over my afflictions ; and to cover them with an opiate garment. How much they considered me as the good tempered, somewhat negligent, though persecuted man—who heard, or who but myself, can tell? With one hand they forced me rudely into the hearse, with the other they sprinkled Hysop, and poured their Lachrymatories over my corpse. They tickled my vanity with a black feather, and perfected the solemnity of the ceremony, by the mournful accordance of the lamenting plumes. They chided loudly the driver for his haste, while they were goading the horses to speed. They brought me up to judgment with a restless impatience ; though tremblingly alive to sensations, I was again almost dead with fear. They patted me on the cheek, called out for trial ; they—(but stay)—*Miseremini mei, miseremini mei, saltem vos amici mei.*—They—turned king's evidence, and voted against me.

To one Holy Divine, I am more than ordinarily obliged, for a more than ordinary display of personal brutality. Can I forget the question he put to me on entering my apartment. "*Pray, Sir, what has become of the Patient who has been killed?*" I must own I did not expect such a burst of apparent *orthodox* feeling, from such an hypocrite.

Not less insolent was the triumphant entry of the satin coated Mould Warp, who, when he had got possession of the interior of the Asylum, and mounted upon the stair-case, elate with *victory*, could so far degrade himself, as to exclaim that they had ousted the Enemy, and got possession of the Intrenchments ! How delightful to see this self approving Governor,* clap-

* This gentleman having publicly signed his name to an assertion, that it would be no objection to the Apothecary, being a married man, proposed in the court afterwards, as an article of exemption to me, that a married man should NOT be eligible to the office. Pray Mr. Reader, let me ask you a moral question ; Is not that man capitally accoutred for this world, who upon the root of a bad heart, has been enabled to ingraft the Tricks of an Attorney ?

ing his wings like a bird, and singing out
 “ Well done Jonathan ! Well done Grey
 Cock ! Pretty Cockatoo ! Pretty Cockatoo !

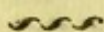
Shall I also forget the indignant gait, with
 which Mr. HIGGINS, after the Election,
 approached me in the Guild-Hall, when
 (unless I mistook a natural distortion for
 a cast of Contempt) he actually made a
 face at me : My God ! how must I despise
 that mind, and that man, who can trample
 on the Enemy he has just cut down. But
he has done his worst at me, and now I nei-
 ther stand in *awe* of his person or his power.
 Thank Nature, it is not *Goliath* that shall
 prevent little David from expressing his
 utter detestation of him, and of his proceed-
 ings.

The conduct of some others (observe I
 only assert some) of the Governors to my
 wife and to myself, by insolent and contu-
 melious looks, was to me, passing all hu-
 man endurance. I consider these epithets,
 as the spunging of low-bred, foul, and vul-

gar carcasses, when the men were dead to feeling, and all mercy was lost and extinct in them,—I repell and despise them. Here was the Oppressor's wrong—and the Insolence of HIGGINS was, the Great Man's contumely. But, mark me ! when I say the *Great Man*, (let it be printed in *mean Italics*!) It is an old saying, when you have money, you may have many friends, —But

Amissis Opibus—How d'ye Mr. Higgins?

I have no thanks to return, for any consideration, from these persons in my behalf. Be my faults what they might, it is not the usage of this country, to carry a man, *a la lanterne*, without an impartial trial upon evidence. I have paid the forfeit of the neglect of Governors, and of party malice. I am a Roman Catholic, and they should have treated me as such. I have not been taught to trust to so delicate, and awful a line of Salvation, as only to two extremes, to two alternatives ; I have been flattered with an intermediate hope, with a state of



Purgatory. Had they committed me to this Purgatory, for my venial transgressions, I might have remained there, to sob, and purge away these crimes done in the days of my nature. But, NO! they have actually deprived me, and my wife, and my children of bread. They have branded my name with an indelible mark! They have chastised my finite frailties, with an infinity of punishment. And I make no doubt, they will continue (in as much as they are able) to perpetuate the remembrance of my sins, and to execute the bitterness of their vengeance, so long as unjust minds can perpetuate any thing.

Not to advert to others, let one instance suffice; let common sense, and the common ears of the public, attend to the significance and din of a common dirge, so often repeated to them. It is the Key-note and crack sound from which the Governors have tuned and rung the numerous variations of the mellow and heart-stirring Harps of Commiseration. The history runs thus:



An amiable Clergyman is brought into the Asylum, by a feeling and lamenting wife; he stays there in the first instance, until he is sufficiently restored to be returned to the joys of his family: he however complains of his treatment, and requests to be taken there no more. He relapses, and yet his wife returns, and does take him there! there, where he is again not only subject to such treatment, but to worse. She complains terribly of this usage; but they defy and abuse her, nay, before her face they kick him down stairs, and the keepers declare that they value him no more than a dog; and yet he again recovers, and is again returned to his welcome home; and happy were she! and happy were he, and happy were they all for the happy rescue. But, cry mercy Lord! he again falls ill,—and shall I relate—this feeling wife, these complaining relations, this supplicating gentleman, in spite of all his entreaties, of all his mis-usage, of all his ample means, (which might have removed him any where), is once again, (can you believe it?)

is once again, (shall I repeat it?) dragged to this very house, to that very spot, to this *sad* Apothecary, to these very keepers, where all these cruelties were exercised, these miseries were inflicted. Is not this their own tale? Has not this tocsin been sounded through every town, in every village? And then let me ask you, in the name of common sense, after this worthy man, (for most worthy was he) had been sent to this accursed place, and three times returned to these terrible gallies, *by the relations, and this amiable wife*, let me ask you in God's name, where lies the blame, or with whom the cruelty? And who can now believe one word of the complainants, or does one word of this morbid history, though inverted, converted, or perverted, hang strictly or closely together? The story thus delineated to the public is affecting. It hath pathos and semblance of truth in all its attitudes. But when interpolated as above, and analyzed, it sinks into Bathos. In fact, it looks like a great piece of—LIE—N—(ota bene,) LIEN, in Latin, (which the

Romans spoke who lived in Rome,) signifies *spleen*. But now to my page for *cætera desunt*.

After my wife and myself had been dismissed, I requested that she would immediately remove our private property. It was rather late before our sentence was awarded us; and of course, before a cart, and means, could be found for so doing, the night was on. This became cause sufficient for suspecting, and hinting, that the darkness of this night served the purpose of plunder.* In consequence she insisted upon two, or more, of these Governors examining her boxes, as is usually done to

* Pray what species of unlawfulness, or plunder, may that be, which induced some of the Governors, to swindle away the house-keeper, from the County Hospital; was not the lady when chosen there, deemed a most indispensable person to that charity? Then why take her away clandestinely? Why rob Peter to serve Paul?—I ask for information, Was not this something like a burglary?—a much worse burglary, than any thing they had to fear, from my wife, I can assure them.

vagabond servants, before they quit their situations. After these Governors had attached imbecility, or what was tantamount, the weakness of goodnature to me.* After an impudent reformer had called me LIER! and some others had vociferated, that I should never be permitted in future to come near the house again; these *Just Judges!* actually submitted to request the favour of this very *improper man*, to see the patients put to bed, and to officiate at the house, for their proper convenience, until it suited them a second time, to discard him.† Nay they were actually obliged to his wife for continuing a short time to carry on the management of her former department. Here

c

* Omnia mea mecum porto.

† Amongst other traits of delicacy, and feeling towards me, that which induced some of the Governors, after, I believe, they had actually chosen a Matron, to ask me if I would accept the situation of Aopethecary, if my wife were not chosen, was not one of the least, or of the worst expedients, amongst others, for my expulsion. This was casting cruelty into the crucible to calcine it,—for “an oyster may be crossed in love.”

is a lamentable dilemma for the Magi, the Sagi, the Elect, for the best specimens of the HIGGIN'S School. Now as the more scrupulous *part* of Governors have chosen to scrutinize my poor administration, so severely, may I be permitted to cast an eye over the canvas of theirs. I will take the first day's duty, in which it may be supposed, that they would be uncommonly correct, and well appointed. I apprehend, however, it may be brought to easy evidence, that so far from having every thing properly ordered, in regard to Keepers, Apothecary, Matron, and Female Servants, that the house was one scene of uninterrupted Confusion ; for having cleansed the Augean Stable, and *we* hurried out, it was then to be Fair-Day, to be Liberty Hall at the Asylum. *Post Nubila Phæbus.*—Men and women were seen walking and talking, (and children piddling and puking) about the house, to grace the triumph, aye, with more freedom, than had ever fallen to my lot, in the best days of my residence.

The first acts of the mild, the wise, the new, and benignant Reign of the Governors, ran woefully wide of their projected mark. Did not one man soon after, foil both the strength and sagacity, of some of these Governors, and of all the keepers, when they endeavoured to put him on the strait waistcoat? I know this poor man, and diminutive as I am, (a mere Physical Atom in miniature,) I have done the job to him, single handed, with less force, and more mercy, in three minutes. In the second instance, did not a patient whom they met, truant out of doors, manage to escape them, first by outwitting and then by outrunning them? Let me repeat the question, did he not do it in a masterly way? The description of this, however, would better suit my poetry than my prosing, and who knows but that at some time, or other, I may court my favourite muse, to record and display the Benefit and Advantage of Wise Governors, and Mild Treatment, experienced from careful and judicious Reformers.

I have before remarked, that I had been above seventeen years an officer in the Asylum, and though represented, as very deficient in energy, and capacity, (which possibly betrayed me into some omissions,) yet there was a day,—a day, within the precincts of that space of time, in which (Papist-like) I confess, I did neglect my duty. It was a day on which I witnessed more fury and madness to be displayed, than in any other instance, whilst I held the situation. It was at a meeting of the Governors, when such a scene of personality and madness, was exhibited by some of the vulgar tribe, as ought to have induced me, in duty, to have called in the keepers, and to have jacketed straight, one half of them.

But I must now draw towards a conclusion.—After having written labels for the poor patients, I am now reduced by the *Suâ Spontê* of nature to write labels for the Governors. How they may resent it, I care not. I have been a child of adversity, and there are few conditions of life,

and its miseries, which I have not borne, and can yet bear in a good cause.

I promised to write free! and free I have written. I must and do commit myself to the retort of those, I may have offended—I seek no reconciliation! *Le jeu ne vaut pas la chandelle*. From these, I expect no more mercy out of an Asylum, than I met within it. And though they vauntingly boast (of no self-interested motives,) let those men, who are now deprived of their former employment and suffer from their party prejudice, answer this question.

My Cottage is an Asylum of Contentment! and I will in spite of all their measures, or motives, endeavour to make it, if not abundant in riches, at least it shall excel in comfort, and retirement.

If any incident here expressed, sits heavy upon the minds of those whom I call my Oppressors; if the compunctious visitations of their sober senses, incline them to ask of me, more means and motives for com-

plaint, although stigmatized, in part as a *murderer*, and disgraced in epithet as a *liar*, I have not run to the church as to a sanctuary; but I shall be easy to be found in an humble dwelling, by any man, and I hope, ready to answer, becomingly, any interrogatory.

And now let me address myself to those FEW, who had courage to vindicate a falling man, or who were pleased to consider him as an injured one.

To THEM, I am most humbly, most sacredly, most devoutly obliged. My early life was schooled with gentlemen! I am the son of a gentleman! my education was that of a gentleman! and my profession is so. And allow me to add, I have not been convicted by the Governors, of any conduct unbecoming a gentleman.* And though well sodden and saturated in adversity, yet

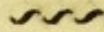
* An error in the entry of patients, (which however has not been imputed to me as a wilful one) might happen to any man, more versed in the department of bookkeeping than myself.

I am not bereft of that fairest of all human enjoyments, a GRATEFUL HEART, to those who have served me.

I THANK YE GENTLEMEN !

May I, lastly, be permitted to hope, that the Reformation which has been begun, by I know not what motives, may in future be narrowly watched, by the independent and uninterested Governors ; that no old tradesman, may be improperly supplanted ; nor a total dereliction of all principles in this regard, be suffered to obtain. And that the Tide of Monopoly, (the trade winds) may not be allowed to set in, but be stemmed, in the first instance ; that Justice, that very plausible looking maiden, in the late discussions, may not, like myself, be thrust out of doors, by a deeper and more selfish Character. “ *Non nos aut ferro Lybicos, populare penates venimus aut raptas ad littora vertere prædas.*”—VIRG. ÆNID.*

* I hope the young man who has got my situation, will desire Mr. T—l to be very grateful to Dr. S—n, and to use his best endeavours in return, to have him appointed as the Physician to the Asylum.



A LIGHT READING.



HAVING now, upon the fairest principles brought the whole nest of Hornets, my enemies, about me, some atonement may be expected from me, for having thus freely expressed my resentment. Believe me, it has been my only comfort. If the offended parties attack my purse they shall have it, it is as light as air, and will fly like a feather to them ; it is essence, it is soul, it is spirit ; yet is not capable, like the opulent Reformers, of doing mischief ; it is every thing but what it should be—substance ; for it is neither malleable, embodied, or tangible, but mocketh art.

If they attack my person—what means it? I am *un petit bon homme!* I am

Molto Piccolo. I am next to an Non-entity, in matter and shape! and having nothing left to enjoy, my life can be of little avail to me. I am a worm; but the worm that turneth! Will they imprison me? *N' importe*; two year's experience as a martyr, for a friend, has already taught me that lesson: but I shall be content, for I have told my tale.

Will they have a Champion, and who shall it be? Is it the Lawyer? I hope not, there is no contending against Old Nick. Shall it be Daniel? NO, I have not much stomach for Daniel; it must be bad flesh which Lions won't devour, and Daniel was safe in the lions' den. Shall it be martial Jonathan? pshaw! I have no chance against him, a *Cadaveris Crates*, and I should be affraid that the Marshal would PHANTASMAGORIA, and SHRINK into NOTHING. Then shall I be hurried out by little David? where the BLOOD of all the RUSSELL'S might over power me; NO, don't take Friend David and

Me for Cannibals, we must not EAT each other.

However, since I must be OUSTED, I will go peacefully, if they will let me, and convince them truly,

(Quæ virtus, et quanta bonis sit vivere parvo.)
first however, taking my leave, and leave to add a slight Signature,

Charles Atkinson

HESLINGTON, Dec. 31st. 1814.

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A Few Free Remarks on
- - - - - J. Higgins's
publications respecting the York
Lunatic Asylum.

By Corrector.

