

**A practical appeal to the public through a series of letters, in defence of the new system of physic by the illustrious Hahnemann ... : Letter the first / by John Borthwick Gilchrist.**

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A PRACTICAL  
APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC,  
THROUGH  
A SERIES OF LETTERS,  
IN DEFENCE OF THE  
NEW SYSTEM OF PHYSIC  
BY  
THE ILLUSTRIOUS HAHNEMANN;

WHO COMMENCED HIS HONOURABLE CAREER IN GERMANY, THIRTY YEARS AGO,  
AS A HOMŒOPATHIC PHYSICIAN;  
AND CONTINUES STILL, THOUGH NOW AN OCTOGENARIAN,  
TO PROSECUTE HIS PROFESSION OF MEDICAL FAITH WITH PROGRESSIVE SUCCESS,  
FROM A SYSTEM FOUNDED UPON REASON, TRUTH, AND LONG EXPERIENCE,  
ALREADY CONFIRMED BY INCONTROVERTIBLE FACTS,  
AUTHENTICATED BY A CLOUD OF RESPECTABLE WITNESSES  
IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF EUROPE AND AMERICA;  
WHICH, IF INTRODUCED AND VERIFIED IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS ALSO,  
WILL SPEEDILY BE HAILED THERE  
AS THE MOST USEFUL AND CONSEQUENTLY THE GREATEST DISCOVERY OF ANY AGE,  
AND A REAL BLESSING TO FUTURE GENERATIONS,  
WHEN ASSAILED BY THE CHOLERA MORBUS, AND OTHER FATAL DISEASES,  
WHETHER CHRONIC OR ACUTE.

A Variety of Candid Remarks and Desultory Observations are likewise subjoined, on HAHNEMANN'S "*ORGANUM*;" which may be justly styled his Gospel of Medicinal Redemption to perishing Patients in the hands of their well-meaning but deluded Physicians, who may thus procure a seasonable supply of Genuine Cordial Drops from the True Balm of Gilead, extracted from the Homœopathic Laboratory, for the general Benefit of Mankind, and the particular Consolation of every Hypochondriac Dyspeptic Nervous Sufferer in the known World.

*LETTER THE FIRST.*

BY JOHN BORTHWICK GILCHRIST, LL.D. &c. &c.

"\* HAUD IGNARUS MALI, MISERIS SUCCURRERE DISCO."

\* The Rhyme of a Regal Widow is here sacrificed to the reason of a Loyal Radical.

LONDON:  
PARBURY, ALLEN, & CO.  
LEADENHALL STREET.

1833.

THE HISTORY OF THE  
CITY OF LONDON  
FROM THE FOUNDATION  
TO THE PRESENT TIME  
BY  
JOHN STOW

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TO THE GREAT AND GOOD  
FOUNDER OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC SCHOOL  
OF THE  
HEALING ART,

THUS DESERVEDLY ELEVATED BY HIM ALONE TO "THE SCIENCE OF PHYSIC,"  
WHENCE ITS THEORY AND PRACTICE WILL IN FUTURE BE PERFECTLY CONSISTENT  
WITH NATURE, SOUND LOGIC, AND COMMON SENSE :

ALSO,  
TO ALL THE PROSELYTES OR ADMIRERS OF HAHNEMANN'S  
ADMIRABLE METHOD OF TREATING THE CHOLERA MORBUS, AND OTHER EQUALLY  
MALIGNANT COMPLAINTS, WITH UNEXAMPLED SUCCESS :

TO THE  
MANY GENEROUS FOLLOWERS OF THE OLD SCHOOL,  
WHO, DURING THE TEDIOUS LAPSE OF SIX YEARS,  
LABOURED ASSIDUOUSLY, BUT IN VAIN, TO ALLEVIATE MY MISERIES, WITH  
A PATIENCE AND SYMPATHY WHICH DID GREAT HONOUR TO THEIR HEADS AND HEARTS ;  
BUT, ACTING ON ALLOPATHIC PRINCIPLES, THE WHOLE OF THEIR BENEVOLENT  
EXERTIONS ONLY EXPOSED ME TO LINGER ON, FROM BAD TO WORSE,  
WITHOUT THE LEAST PROSPECT OF ULTIMATE RELIEF :

LIKEWISE,  
TO MY NUMEROUS FELLOW-SUFFERERS, AND GASTRITE FRIENDS,  
WHO INVARIABLY PERFORMED EVERY THING IN THEIR POWER  
WHICH THEY CONCEIVED COULD  
IN ANY WAY TEND TO ASSUAGE THE POIGNANCY OF MY CEASELESS DISTRESS,  
IN VARIOUS PLACES AT HOME AND ABROAD, WHERE WE MET :

*THIS CRUDE PERFORMANCE,*

WRITTEN, CURRENTE CALAMO, FROM MOTIVES OF GRATITUDE AND HUMANITY,  
IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,  
BY THEIR GRATEFUL FRIEND AND WELL-WISHER,

JOHN BORTHWICK GILCHRIST, LL.D.

VEVEY, Jan. 23, 1833.

THE GREAT FARMERS  
FOUNDER OF THE HONGKONG SCHOOL  
OF THE  
HEALING ART

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VITA BREVIS ARS LONGA.

At the distance of many hundred miles from London, I was engaged in writing the contents of the subsequent sheets, while still a convalescent, and unable to study attentively the few homœopathic books procurable at Vevey: my ardour in the sacred cause of Humanity nevertheless induced me to commence a Series of Letters, of which the following pages comprise the projected contents of the First and Second Numbers, that no time might be lost in communicating to the public all the knowledge I then possessed on this important subject; which it struck me might, in the interim, have been embraced by persons better qualified than me to do ample justice to a benevolent enterprise fraught with so much advantage to mankind.

I started, therefore, in the humble capacity rather of a grateful patient, preaching from the bosom of the snow-covered Alps of Helvetia the probable and speedy appearance of some gifted British proselyte to the great physician HAHNEMANN'S doctrines, than as an initiated homœopathist in my own person; and have hitherto purposely avoided every thing except a mere reference to books, individuals, and places, where ample information was procurable, until I could undertake something on secure grounds myself. Having had the pleasure, two days ago, of an interview with DR. QUIN,

whose name alone will confer credit on the New Science of Medicine, he being already one of Hahnemann's most-distinguished and successful disciples, it delights me to announce, that he has not only already commenced practice homœopathically in the metropolis with eclat, but, moreover, intends to publish, in the course of this year, a complete view of Hahnemann's system, translated from the German into English; which will emancipate the British empire from the disgrace of having yet done nothing worthy of a name in that department, while our intelligent competitors, the French, Swiss, Italians, &c. are busy as so many bees, for the production of useful homœopathic versions in their respective languages. It is not my intention to be altogether idle during the short stay I can make in London; where it will be in my power, by a variety of intermediate hints from the French works in my possession, so far to pave the way for the quintessence of Hahnemann's *Organum* &c. in an English dress, by the celebrated homœopathist whom I have mentioned above, and the latchet of whose shoes, in that capacity, it hardly becomes me, as a mere patient, to tie.

The courteous reader will remark, that this notification is dated the 23d of March, and the Manuscript two months ago, when I had no idea of being obliged to reach London with all possible speed, on urgent private business, which forced me to leave Vevey at a few hours' warning, though hardly strong enough to perform so long a journey at this season.

Fatigue, and the inability to procure a place in the public diligences, occasionally obliged me to halt six

days at various stations on the road, which alone required a whole week to traverse; and I not only walked several miles daily, when the weather was favourable, but after leaving the sledges at the bottom of the JURA, I ascended to the top on foot, through snow and ice the whole way, with rather more risk and labour than expected when I first attempted this task, which was voluntarily imposed by myself.

The annexed Pamphlet of 100 pages contains the First and Second Letters of the promised Series, which shall be immediately followed by the Third and last; wherein I intend to insert some communications from Dr. CH. G. PESCHIER, of Geneva; and one, should it reach me in time, from the venerable HAHNEMANN'S self.

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J. B. G.

LONDON, March 23, 1833.



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### ERRATA.

Title Page: after FIRST, add, *comprises the SECOND also.*

Page 9, for *trains* read *train.*

23, — *indeed* — *indued.*

33, — SECOND — THIRD.

51, — *publishers* — *publishing.*

65, — *drawing* — *dawning.*

71, — *minuters* — *minutissima.*

WHEN a plain old man, like the writer of the present Appeal to the Public, attempts to make his appearance before that awful tribunal, he should at least endeavour to put his best foot foremost; and in this spirit of deference to the judgment of his readers, they will readily perceive he is ushered into their presence by a liberal-minded Clergyman of the Church of England, who may so far be considered as the Law and the Gospel testimony to the truth of the following desultory narrative and remarks.

---

TO J. BORTHWICK GILCHRIST, ESQ.

MY DEAR SIR,

It is a trite remark, that the genius of our English nation is not generally inventive. We are rather a plodding, imitative race, who nicely scan the actions and schemes of others, and adopt them as our own with advantage and improvement. A Genoese discovered another Hemisphere; and Great Britain has derived more benefit than his employers from the adventure. The art of Spinning was contrived in Italy; and England, *stealing the secret*, has surpassed and almost supplanted her mistress in the manufacture of silk and cotton. We have spirit, enterprise, and perseverance, but not originality; for, with the exception of the BACONS, HARVEY, NAPIER, NEWTON, and WATT, I am not aware of any British philosophers who have contributed to supply grand primitive ideas or heretofore-unexplored helps to the commonwealth of European knowledge. These six names are, doubtless, a host, as far as so small a number goes; though they cannot detract from the

accuracy of the axiom with which I began. Yet it is praise, rather than a slur on our mental properties: for to engraft into our own stock whatever we see of good in the trees of our neighbours, and to share in their respective excellencies, surely is preferable to being confined to the production of our native crab, though it may belong exclusively to ourselves. It was not a Briton who first exposed the crying abuses of the Romish Church—the shackles which its cunning policy imposed upon the human mind and upon personal freedom; and yet, which of the early Protestants against those abominations has gained so large a portion of rational liberty, or can boast of such widely-spread illumination among all its classes, since the Monk of Wittenburg commenced his inroad upon spiritual privileges? It seems as if we were laudably zealous to embrace any doctrine or system that promised progression in science or social happiness.

It is therefore not without surprise I contemplate the neglect with which one of the most sweeping innovations that has ever been attempted in this our nether world is disregarded in England; viz. the alteration, fundamental and entire, recommended and practised with such wonderful talent by DR. HAHNEMANN, in the cure of all sorts of mortal ailments. I know it is no easy matter to contend with long-established customs and pre-conceived opinions, however wrong, in any line whatever. GALILEO was imprisoned by ignorant ecclesiastics for asserting that this our Earth turned round! The same obsolete jargon is still retained in our Courts of Law at this hour that was *orthodox* in the times of our Norman conquerors; for a man who has given a box on the ear is still arraigned as though he was a stabber and a murderer: and none can understand the terms of an indictment, or even of a simple contract, who have not served an apprenticeship to the bar, or an attorney! It is the same in the other learned profession, of Physic. Prescriptions are written in cabalistical or hieroglyphic characters; potions and pills are compounded of twenty various ingredients; and patients are tortured by their counteracting and conflicting

qualities, to a degree that is pernicious and barbarous! Yet it is obvious to the dullest intellect, that hot and cold, moist and dry, sudorific and algific, cannot conduce to the consummation of a common purpose. When such discordant materials are equally balanced in the unfortunate stomach that receives them, there must ensue an intestine war, seriously irritating and hurtful to its vessels, though neutral as to the disease. When the curatives predominate, good will arise; and contrariwise, evil. But, then, it is only the excess of the one part that causes such effect: the rest has been pure loss, or possibly something worse. The simplicity, therefore, of which Dr. Hahnemann is the author, and the infinite smallness of his remedies, are incalculable ameliorations.

But above all, his principal problem, *Similia similibus curantur*, appears to me so consonant with reason, is argued in his books with such convincing force, and you exhibit in yourself such a living proof of its magical efficacy (for I may now avow, that three months ago the grave seemed yawning for you), that I take the warmest interest in your project of enlightening the people of London upon a method of treatment that has turned out so profitably to your own individual self, and to the many other persons whom we have seen with our own eyes, or heard of with our own ears, as deriving health from it within this our very circumscribed circle. Yet I dare not flatter you with sanguine hopes of immediate or speedy success. *Magna est veritas, et prevalebit*, is a certain result in the long run; but, then, it is an exceedingly slow traveller. However, your worthy master's example may encourage you. Hahnemann has been persecuted in one town, calumniated in another, menaced with death in a third; and yet he has survived all those indignities, and ebullitions of spleen, envy, and stupidity; and now, in his old age, is gratified with the applause and adherence of a large and daily-increasing flock of disciples in almost every quarter of Europe. You must not, therefore, be deterred by a slight, or even a formidable opposition. He, who wandered about in the lowly guise of a carpenter's son, with the co-operation of a few

illiterate fishermen, has finally converted the highest, mightiest, and most intelligent of many lands to become His followers, by the sole dictates of reason: and you must also, like Him, expect to be resisted, in the outset, by the Pharisees and Sadducees of Medicine. They are in possession of lucrative practice, and will not tamely resign it. Some candid and generous souls among them will perhaps investigate your theory, and surrender themselves to your evidences and facts. But the mass of long-visaged and hypocritical Galens of the regularly-bred school, who are too old to learn and too obstinate to recant, and the quacks and mountebanks who vend their one incomparable panacea for every imaginable complaint, will bark in unison against you.

Contemn, my good friend, their puny efforts: be firm and vigorous in a just cause: exert that energy of heart and mind, the clear comprehension with which I know you are endowed: provoke discussion upon this inestimable pearl, Homœopathy, that is beyond all price: invite publicity—and the triumph must at last be yours. For myself, who have always been an unbeliever in the pretended skill of our most fashionable and renowned *Æsculapii*, who have laughed in my sleeve at their solemn grimaces while pondering a case of which the golden fees were the essence, I shall heartily rejoice whenever I can see a prospect of their mystification being destroyed, and a little common sense substituted in its stead. That you may be instrumental in such a desirable work, is the devout prayer of him, who is very faithfully yours!

J. S.

VEVEY, Jan. 23, 1833.

*Homo sum, nihil humani a me alienum puto.*

EACH pulse within my heaving breast I feel,  
 Big with the fate of Physic and of man;  
 So far as health with bliss or wealth below  
 Can crown the hope of heaven-aspiring souls:  
 My faith, in truth, seeks paradise on earth,  
 With justice, virtue, *reason, liberty*.  
 Shine welcome *Suns!* from fair Columbia's shore,  
 Extend your empire here, in JACKSON's name!  
 Teach all to cherish life, and yet behold  
 Peace with good-will proceed from pole to pole,  
 From West to East, o'er mountains, seas, and plains,  
 With timely reformations in their trains,  
 And Charity, the mild celestial maid,  
 To deck the brows of HAHNEMANN the Sage,  
 As *medicus salvator* of mankind!  
 Since JENNER fairly earn'd Ten thousand pounds,  
 One hundred thousand must be due to him  
 Whose system of the new Hygiæan school  
 Shall soon supplant the practice of the old,  
 To make both leech and *patient* meet with joy;  
*This*, with the prospect of returning health;  
 And that, delighted at his new-born skill.—  
 Fly, little chanticleer! and crow so loud,  
 That every sphere may echo back the sound,  
 Till doctors, patients, friends, or foes, arise  
 From their deep sleep of apathy, to learn

Glad tidings of salvation to them all,  
 And act like beings rational, to save  
 Their healths and reputations free from harm!—  
 On NEWTON, JONES, or LESLIE, can their *Sirs*  
 Shed lustre down the flowing stream of Time,  
 Where many a poor benighted wight is drown'd,  
 Like some blind puppy or a squeaking pig,  
 When far beyond their depth they brave the flood.—  
 Instead of sounding titles, let me tell  
 That HAHNEMANN's a great, kind, honest soul,  
 Than which no honour that a King can grant,  
 In Wisdom's sight, could ever rise so high.

TO THE  
MEMBERS OF THE HEALING ART,  
IN THE MEDICAL, MEDICINAL, AND MANUAL DEPARTMENTS OF THAT  
HONOURABLE PROFESSION, IN EVERY QUARTER OF THE  
CIVILISED WORLD.

---

GENTLEMEN,

I COMMENCED my career, perhaps like many of you, rather from necessity than choice; but the whole theory and practice of physic, in nearly every branch except one, appeared to me so devoid of any solid principles of stability or rational foundations, that I became, in a few years, disgusted with the uncertainty of success in one line of my business, and the heart-rending operations of the other. Under these feelings, it gave me real pleasure to embrace a good opportunity for carving out another road to fortune and fame, in British India, more congenial with my taste and talents, and not less valuable, at that particular period, to my country, as well as to the service in which I was then engaged: whence arose all my subsequent labours, as the first lexicographic philologer in the humbler paths of popular orientalism: while my cotemporaries, the celebrated Persian classic JONES, the profound COLEBROOKE, the indefatigable scholar WILKINS, and last not least renowned, the eccentric HALHEED, all of whom aimed at higher game among the summits and depths of Eastern lore, to gain deservedly those substantial rewards which I have never won, by preferring the *utile*



to the *dulce*, during half a century's pursuits on lower oriental grounds. Long-protracted studies in warm climates, for the space of twenty-five years abroad, arduous tasks, speculations, pecuniary losses and crosses, with disappointed fits of ambition, under a variety of tantalizing events, in a similar lapse of time at home, jointly conspired, since 1826, to impair all the energies of my body and mind, to such a degree, that I have virtually been buried alive from that period till now, by a species of nervous dyspeptic hypochondria, vulgarly yclept the *blue devils*, and still, on retrospection, more terrific to me than death or a yawning grave. The above concise portion of my biography is merely intended to let you, Gentlemen, know, what I was, who I am, including the part still allotted me to play on the grand stage of existence, before my final exit to that "unknown country from whose dreary bourn no traveller returns;" and, moreover, to demonstrate my claims to your confiding attention to my candid advice and disinterested observations, in this address to a community of fellow citizens, for whom the *esprit de corps*, and personal experience of their liberal sympathy for myself, as an invalid, I shall always cultivate the highest esteem, and a fervent desire for their general happiness and success, whether converted, as I could wish, to homœopathy or not. Though the venerable HAHNEMANN'S new practice of physic has been founded on the most auspicious experience, for thirty years past, in Germany, and which he styles Homœopathy, in direct opposition with the old system, termed by him Allopathy, neither his

fame nor his invaluable publications have yet made any sensible impression on the British or French Faculties; while Prussia, Russia, Austria, Italy, Naples, with other kingdoms or states, not only in Germany, but in America, are at this moment rapidly adopting Hahnemann's comprehensive *organum*, and sounding in the name of humanity his more than Æsculapian renown. All his works are procurable, or ought to be so, at Mr. Baillièrè's, the bookseller's shop, Regent-street, No. 219, where the most authentic information, I presume, may be obtained, concerning Hahnemann himself and the most of his respectable proselytes in every quarter of the globe. Among them will be found the worthy Dr. QUIN, one of King Leopold's physicians, and already famous for his skill in the cure of the *cholera morbus*, and other maladies, homœopathically; who being a liberal-minded benevolent practitioner, there can be no doubt, will readily communicate whatever he knows on the most valuable discovery hitherto made in any country or age.

The Doctor recently left Paris (where he practised with great eclat, as a homœopathist) for London; in which city, it is supposed, he will immediately preach the new doctrines, and follow them in his practice, now that the cholera again threatens, through Ireland, to invade the British Isles; where hundreds of sufferers died not long ago, in the hands of allopathists, who would probably have escaped, had they been treated homœopathically, as Dr. Quin's own published work will clearly tell. When you have satisfied yourselves that mine is no wayward dream, nor the raving of a

visionary, by conversations or the perusal of homœopathic testaments in the metropolis, let me earnestly beseech you, if the expense be not beyond your means, to visit the illustrious founder of homœopathy, or some of his distinguished disciples, that you may see, hear, and admire the miracles they have *bona fide* performed, by means so simple and self-evident, that a candid genius must feel and acknowledge their truth at a single glance. After a few months' residence in Anhalt Cœthen, Hahnemann's head-quarters, among the states of the Germanic Confederation, at Lyons, Geneva, Vevey, &c. in the Helvetic Republic, no medical man can be at a loss for instruction, either medicinally or medically; because all the followers of the new academy have imbibed, from their virtuous teacher, that winning frankness and universal philanthropy which render them the friends and brothers of the whole human race. They have no secrets; their books of cases, prescriptions, medicaments, laboratories, &c. &c. are all open to the inspection of the public, whose belief is not expected till it can be secured upon undeniable facts alone.

Numbers of you, Gentlemen, may be destined for the East or West Indies, and other British settlements beyond the seas; but let me solemnly declare, that if you persist in leaving Europe as allopathists only, you expose yourselves, with your eyes open, to run the dreadful risk of killing your unhappy patients, *actively* or *passively*, according to the nature of their peculiar complaints. Recollect, that nearly all the drugs and chemical preparations of the new system must be conscientiously manufactured by yourselves, to obviate,

on difficult occasions, the heinous charge of murder from your own consciences, or the suspicions of your victims' friends. You will perceive the importance of this seasonable notice, after you have perused only the preliminary portions of the *organum*; whence you will at the same time discover, with delight, that the extent of your medicine-chest need rarely exceed the size of a very small dressing-box or large pocket-book, which you will be enabled periodically to replenish without the aid of an apothecary, who may be prematurely forced, like Othello, to exclaim, with his brethren, "My occupation's gone at last." It affords me no small satisfaction, however, to subjoin the following crumbs of comfort to them, even under such melancholy prospects for so respectable and opulent a fraternity.

1. In populous cities and towns, the demand for druggists, chemists, pharmacopolists, &c., after the introduction or establishment of homœopathy, will very gradually decrease, although a considerable proportion must ever be required: but in places of inferior size and consequence, the reverse will certainly occur; there, indeed, the apothecaries ought to set their wits to work, and their houses in order, ere it be too late.

2. Every body in the medicinal subdivision of the healing art, with few exceptions, being, in these days of progressive intelligence, so far qualified to act manually and medically in the course of their apprenticeship, they are prepared to start fair enough with other competitors, as homœopathists.

3. A comprehensive allopathic education serves as an excellent basis to raise homœopathy upon: and

until this shall supplant that, both may run their race of mutual forbearance, till the touchstone of experience shall amicably decide the contest between them, and clearly shew which should have the preference.

4. Surgery, in its various ramifications, can readily be taken up, when the pestles and mortars are, to a certain extent, put down by the homœopathists' wonder-working hands.

The surgeons, as manualists, have little if any thing to fear, except the supposed efficacy of homœopathic remedies, even against cancers and such distempers as have heretofore been extirpated by the knife, ligature, or actual cautery.

I fondly trust the guardians of and keepers in mad-houses will so far preserve their own senses there, as to treat their hapless inmates morally, on the allopathic plan, by conciliation and mildness, in return for ferocity or outrage on the part of the lunatics; but, physically, the reverse should be followed by the homœopathic mode, namely, to prescribe the minutest possible doses of those deleterious drugs which are known to produce upon sane persons some, many, or all the symptoms of lunacy.

Veterinary, urine-, horse-, cow-, cattle-, dog-, bird- and other domestic animals' doctors now compose a large class of society, whose general utility cannot well be disputed; though their respective rank in life is rather problematical, the first or veterinarian excepted, which has deservedly, within the last century, acquired no small share of credit and estimation, and will, I presume, have adequate discrimination to hail

with joy the homœopathic *modus curandi* in man, as one not less applicable in the multifarious disorders of animals, when these seem analogous to our own; and, as these poor beasts are dumb patients, more ingenuity is necessary to fathom the nature of their complaints than where human beings are the objects of medical treatment and research. The urine- or water-doctors, I fancy, are already out of date; being nothing but ignorant impostors, unable to distinguish between the male and female urinary secretions of mankind, or those of a cow and a horse: they, consequently, have nothing to hope from homœopathy, and this has as little to fear from them.

Having still, in British India, several estimable relatives, valuable old friends and acquaintances, among my quondam fellow-servants of the Honourable East-India Company, besides some thousands of my former pupils and oriental scholars, for whom I have never ceased to retain a lively interest and affection, my solicitude is deep felt, for so vast an empire to be forthwith trusted to the care of homœopaths alone; and I venture warmly to recommend this timely admonition to every reflecting individual, who has kindred, in any degree of consanguinity, in that remote and frequently unhealthy climate, where the mere heat of the sun is enough to hurry hundreds every season to a premature tomb, unaided by ignorance or a ruinous false practice of physic, which cures or kills rather by hazard, than from any safe theory, founded on a solid rock of truth in the art of physic, before HAHNEMANN'S *organum* became known, as it should have been thirty

years since. That enterprising old man is the veritable NEWTON in Physic, being to this most important science what Sir ISAAC was to Natural Philosophy, under the disadvantage of never having one single predecessor similar to the two BACONS, and particularly the illustrious BOYLE, who paved the way for Newton's system of the planetary motions, and likewise enabled him more easily to give a body and consistency to the whole of his consecutive splendid discoveries, from the *novum organum* formed by Boyle to raise and enlarge the powers of the mind by the salutary application of reason to every object of philosophical research. Newton accomplished in the luminous footsteps of his three precursors not more than Hahnemann has atchieved, unaided and alone, in the science of Medicine, and on the identical basis employed by the immortal authors of theories on the powerful effects of gravitation, attraction, adhesion, &c., in every part of the universe and of our visible world; that is to say, a system of truth illustrated and proved by experiments, which is the actual foundation of the new practice of physic as explained in Hahnemann's incomparable *organum*; before the existence of which it was a mere farrago of good and evil, but without any such tree of knowledge for the discrimination, culture, and production of salutary fruit. The powders prescribed by Hahnemann seldom exceed a small pinch of snuff, and the pills seem of the size of a grain of mustard: both are placed upon the nervous papillæ of the tongue, with no other vehicle than the existing saliva in the mouth, whence the medicinal

virtues of these substances are absorbed by the nerves, and carried to the remotest fibres of the human frame, quite independent of the circuitous process of digestion, through which the ordinary doses of food or physic reach their ultimate destination. Remedies thus exhibited, compared with those of the allopathic school, may really produce miracles, when to this is added the wonderful spell of infinite attenuation and diminution of the ingredients which constitute the whole homœopathic pharmacopœia, that seem to ascend in the scale of their efficacy in the exact ratio of their descent towards invisible divisibility, in both their essences and atomismal forms. Medicines prepared and prescribed homœopathically act so much like enchantment or charms, as to astonish every novice in this system, till his faith is confirmed by experimental observations on his own person, that of his friends, or patients; the auspicious issue whereof rarely fails to confirm his conviction, though puzzled, in many instances, to assign a plausible reason for the adoption of a new creed on the theory and practice of scientific homœopathy, so contrary to every received dogma in the art of healing, from the days of Hippocrates to our own times. The allopathists deny the possibility of curing diseases with medicinal doses not larger than pinches of snuff or mustard-seed, given often only once in eight, ten, or more days, and never consisting of more than one active article in each recipe; but the best answer to the unbelieving apostles of the above sect is, "Come, as Thomas did, to see, hear, learn, and feel, with your eyes, ears, and other senses, before



you place implicit confidence in our homœopathic doctrine of *similia similibus curantur*, contrasted with the allopathic maxim *contraria contrariis curantur*; the first demonstrated by the superior advantages of alleviating the pain of burns, scalds, &c. by the medium of heat to the parts injured, and of cold to frost-bitten noses, fingers, or limbs; while the last must inculcate the very reverse, probably at the expense of the poor sufferer's mortified nose, hands, or feet." To account for the incredible and apparently miraculous results of the homœopathic axiom in the *modus curandi* mentioned above, and confirmed by preparations of copper having been found, in the smallest doses, the best antidotes in *cholera morbus* and several afflictions of that class—since this deleterious metal itself is known to excite a species of artificial cholera—I shall at a future period propose a theory which may in some measure reconcile *medicinal wonders* with rational philosophy, nay, with common sense, and the experience of all mankind. Prudence, in the interim, tells me to postpone it, in order to discover whether Hahnemann or his numerous enlightened disciples have anticipated my eccentric notions or not: suffice it here to admit, that they rest on a very prevalent opinion of the cholera being generated by millions of *animalculissima* in the air &c. of the victims to that appalling pestilence, and, moreover, upon Milton's sublime conception, thus expressed in his *Paradise Lost*—"Millions of spiritual creatures walk the earth, unseen, both when we wake and when we sleep—all these, with ceaseless praise, God's works behold, both day and night," &c.

The annexed paraphrase affords a prospective glance at my extraordinary ideas on this not less singular theme; and must remain rather as the prelude to subsequent lucubrations, than a copious index of their nature, extent, &c.

Of animalculissima I ween,  
 Myriads of millions form and breed within  
 The microcosmal frame of mortal man,  
 Unseen by all but microscopic eyes,  
 Which live, nay move, and feed, alike unfelt,  
 On all our atomies, both day and night:  
 Whether we wake or sleep, these tiny elves  
 May gnaw the sympathetic nerves, that join  
 Ourselves and souls to one encircling coil.  
 The world's a mass of animation sure,  
 Where every atomissima may be,  
 For aught we ken, a nest invisible  
 Of beings thin as air or sunny beams:  
 The very diamonds pulverised may shew,  
 Through magnifying-glasses, to our view  
 A moving heap of animated dust.  
 When optics shall their *ne-plus-ultra* stage  
 Of gradual improvements reach the goal,  
 E'en at the plastic hands of living clay,  
 Perfection may descend, on angels' wings,  
 To crown auspiciously such glorious toil.  
 From Nature's womb vitality will burst  
 Upon the optic and all other nerves,  
 To make us stare with wonder at ourselves.  
 The valetudinarian thus will learn  
 One cacoëthic cause of all his woe.  
 A universal flow of life may then,

In solid and in liquid forms, appear  
 The sponge or pearl, gems, corals, uric stones,  
 Rocks adamantine, and huge marble blocks,  
 Nay, mountains fraught, from stormy ocean's bed,  
 With fossile fries and creeping things that lived  
 Ages before the Flood—now hard as flint,  
 Divested of cohesion's potent spell,  
 By trituration or combustion's power,  
 May shew a spirit breathing within all,  
 Thus to become the banes and antidotes  
 Of petrifactions in their numerous shapes,  
 As human calculi, of every kind.  
 Invisible these strange phænomena,  
 Through magic glasses may be brought to light,  
 To make men shudder at the fearful size  
 Of minimal monsters in our blood,  
 Brains, urine, humors, organs, nerves, and strings,  
 In what we eat, see, breathe, smell, hear, or drink,  
 Yea all within us, from the smallest toes  
 Up to the tip of every finger's nail,  
 And of each hair which grows upon our crown,  
 Their elemental matter is composed,  
 In miniature, of lions, tigers, wolves,  
 Hydras, hyænas fell, sharks, crocodiles,  
 Boas, and every other beast of prey ;  
 Nay, in the hollow of one rotten tooth  
 Thousands of dental mites are found to dwell.

But stop, my Muse! nor rashly here reveal  
 Some secrets more within the breast of Fate,  
 Until experimental proofs combine  
 To found chimæras on uncommon truths.  
 Kings, Queens, and Princes! Ladies fair, and Lords!  
 Hear what I say, who am no flatterer!

The bloom of beauty and the rust of steel  
 Are merely various forms of animals,  
 Who live alike on toys and mighty folks,  
 As on the lowly vitals of a clown.  
 Here's food for pride of birth and worldly state;  
 Yes! long before they shrink within the tomb,  
 At Death's command: that potent leveller  
 Proclaims this fearful fact round regal thrones,  
 That atoms decomposing teem with breath,  
 Or, finely ground, assume another mien:  
 With life indeed, and full of motive powers,  
 Quite unperceived they play their several parts  
 On that grand stage where Nature's all in all.—  
 Draw back, my soul! for this is hallowed ground,  
 Where few are fitted yet to scan thy flight.  
 That day may come," &c. &c. &c.

Hahnemann's radical reform, or regeneration of the practice of physic has been hid under bushels of monopolizing persecutions and prosecutions in his native land, pending the best portion of an octogenerian existence; yet he truly may now say, in the sunset of his most brilliant days, *Luceo discedens aucto splendore resurgere*; as the glorious republic of letters is starting from its procrastinated slumbers, to blow the trumpet of healing salvation, through the medium of the British press, to the four corners of the earth. On this noble *fulcrum* the organic lever of homœopathy may be efficaciously placed, to raise every sphere in the universe of learning in its behalf, and with prospects more generous than the Syracusan sage ever contemplated, in his vain desire to lift up the globe. Hahnemann's aim has, from the first, been godlike in the

extreme, by an ardent desire to chase sickness, sorrow, and pain far from the mournful beds of patient myriads, who may still live to bless his honoured name.

JENNER, unknown to himself, acted homœopathically in his benevolent and assiduous attempts, by the cow-pock *virus*, to diminish that of the small-pox, if not ultimately, by vaccination, to extirpate this plague entirely; which had previously been subdued homœopathically also, by simple inoculation of the same disease from one child's arm to another.

If the praiseworthy Jenner, whose vaccinationary precepts were translated by myself, in 1804, into the popular language of Hindoostan, richly deserved the Ten thousand pounds' reward voted by the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain, the members of the Holy Alliance of Europe, united with the Regal satellites of that omnipotent and wealthy corporation, should at least bestow, with Christian charity, One hundred thousand pounds upon the magnanimous Hahnemann, who has a thousand times risked his precious life and health, by dangerous experiments on himself, to be thereby better qualified to preserve millions of people under Royal sway from premature death and destruction. Such a gracious boon would not surpass one tenth of the money annually expended upon gunpowder, bombs, shells, mortars, rockets, mines, artillery, arms, *et hoc genus omne*, for the legitimate murder of their fellow-creatures, like hecatombes of brute beasts at the shrines of the heathen gods, heedless of that Christian grace divine and pretended right on which alone they claim to reign.

Gentlemen, in drawing towards the termination of this my First Epistle to you, I should state the means adopted for its reaching you in safety, and with all the despatch in my power, at this distance from home. My London correspondents have been entreated to get the whole inserted, either at once or gradually, as opportunities may offer, in all or any of the liberal journals which were last year very generously opened to every writer who offered his professional or sympathetic remarks on the desolating cholera, which once more seems to menace a second attack, *via* Ireland &c., upon the British shores. I have likewise mentioned the excellent periodicals called "The Examiner," "The Register," "Spectator," "Atlas," "The Observer," and some others of that class also, which may have escaped my impaired memory, after six years' suffering from valetudinarian infirmities, corporeal and intellectual combined. In the event of failure in all my projects just enumerated, it is my design to print this Appeal to the Faculty at my private risk and cost, for sale, at a price merely to indemnify, if practicable, my almost exhausted purse, before the last step be taken, of distributing gratuitously a given quantity of the earliest impressions at the doors of all the Medical seminaries in the metropolis. For the common good of society, I shall state, that my illness formerly described began so imperceptibly, that months elapsed before I was forced to submit to my fate, by retiring from business, studies, and engagements of every denomination, to enjoy at perfect leisure the benefits of medical advice, and the presumed advantages of change of climate, travelling

abroad, and the imaginary constant recreations connected therewith. I consulted some of the most eminent practitioners in London, Paris, Brussels, and in Germany, &c.; but though many of them were kind, very liberal friends, I grew commonly the worse by all their earnest attempts to set me, by a thousand different ways and means, once more upon my feet; which, in process of time, threw me into violent fits of despair, with depression of spirits, loss of flesh and strength, daily growing worse, till I was conscious of dying by atoms, under the unfeeling sneers of blockheads and fools, who swore I was only *un malade imaginaire*, without reflecting, that no individual in his proper senses would ever condemn himself to the horrors of a sick chamber, and the dearly-bought drugs of an apothecary's shop, for a series of days, months, and years, unless compelled by the irresistible power of some overwhelming complaint. What with constipations, cholics, flatulencies, sleepless nights and restless days, headaches, feverish paroxysms, urinary and intestinal affections, fits of gravel, bilious qualms, pains in the back, loins, shoulders and limbs, coldness of the extremities, weight and pulling down of the belly, difficulty of breathing, twinging in the fingers and toes, slight startings or cramps in the limbs, constant tickling or *pruritus* within the stomach towards the vertebræ, a sense of supervening immobility from the shoulders through the loins to the thighs, the most disgusting tastes in the mouth, secretions of clammy saliva, ringings and singings in the brain and ears, inability to support the trunk of the body erect, or to walk at times from one

room to another, gusts of discontent, ill-humour, and misanthropic feelings against man and beast, strange internal whiffing sounds between the brain and the top of the head, fearful dreams, night-mares, and the dread of being alone, the alternate desire to live or to die at the opposite suggestions of hope and despondency, total disinclination to mental and bodily exertions, love of repose either in bed or in solitude, impatience with noisy assemblies, heated rooms, public spectacles, &c., predilections for and prejudices against particular sorts of food, in general a strong appetite, clean tongue, clear eyes, though often obscured by dark spots dancing before them, a sense of acidity as if the teeth had been steeped in vinegar, a sleek parchment-like skin, commonly little or no thirst, but also, occasionally, a parched mouth, throat and tongue, anticipations of a thousand evils, apathy and indifference to every body and thing, unamiable and invidious thoughts, nocturnal emotions and impotent efforts to enjoy them or any other amorous indulgences, insuperable aversion to accounts, correspondence by letters, &c.; a violent distaste for the whole of my former literary pursuits; smarting in the eyes during the morning; turbid, red, white and gravelly urine, sometimes with scalding and protrusion of the rectum, when long constipated; access of *monomania*, which self-pride, and the terror of exposing my relatives to shame by a suicidal exit from accumulating miseries, alone was able to counteract. At first, there used to issue a very thin greenish saliva daily from one till dinner-time, and a cold trickling humour was wont to run apparently in the inside



of my thighs down towards my feet, with a conscious sense of blight or blast, that momentarily arrested my further progress, and made me feel wretched indeed. Sometimes I could not raise my arms to my head, nor stand upright for one minute on my feet, without the indescribable apprehension of becoming petrified on the spot: there existed an eternal working and noise among the viscera; while the liver, spleen, pancreas, lungs, and heart, never betrayed any positive signs of organic derangement, however much their several functions may have been disturbed by a protracted course of complicated disorders, all attended with a morbid sensibility and irritability of the whole nervous system, enough to have driven many other persons stark-staring mad. The spark of vitality has ever been truly powerful in me, probably by descent from a mother who lived to the great age of one hundred years, after passing a most laborious life under numerous privations in Newfoundland, whence she embarked alone, when upwards of seventy-five, to find an asylum with me in her native town of Edinburgh, where she died after a residence of twenty years in comparative ease and comfort. This ardent principle of animal existence never forsook me entirely; and I was in the habit of affirming, that if my kind-hearted medical friends could but divine the true cause of my tormenting malady, it would be found very simple, and by no means difficult of medicability; nor did I even despair of some remedy being discovered, in due season, to preserve me from otherwise inevitable perdition; and the sequel will evince that my conservative inspirations were not abortive.

Coma, confusion, and deep-seated uneasiness in the sensorium, with vertiginous faintings, and the terror of falling into apoplectic or paralytic fits in the streets, haunted my imagination continually: singular twitches in the bladder and urethra, especially when gravel or small stones were descending by the ureters, or hard fæces were lodged in the lower gut, then irritated, swollen, or inflamed by the lavement-pipes, paid me occasional visitations; which once led a German doctor to attribute every symptom of my hydra-headed disease to strictures and indurations in the urinary canal; and, though imperceptible to myself, he persuaded me to try bougies tipped with lunar caustic, and retained during ten minutes in contact with the parts affected. The result was excruciating, and to no good purpose, except to put my courage and patience to the proof of so diabolical an ordeal; afterwards followed by another still worse, from an experiment to try the efficacy of the Croton-oil, when rubbed with olive-oil externally on the abdomen, as one specific for the removal of constipation: but this also failed in every respect, save, by the communication of this acrimonious drastic, through my hands, to both eyes, a very severe inflammation of those tender organs was induced, which retained me in a painful condition of absolute blindness for some days, and made me more nervous than ever. At Paris, one celebrated physician leeches me first out of my current stock of good blood, and drenches me next with gruels, broths, soups, and the whole string of French slipslops, which disgusted me with his boasted system for ever: another galvanised and punctured me, during two or

three successive months, with needles that pricked me out of my wits; and, to convince me of the aperient effects of his mechanical applications, he likewise *crotonised* my poor bowels with small compound purgative pills, which, instead of meliorating my case, rather aggravated the whole of my growing evils. The muscles of the neck and shoulders were successively assailed with rheumatic affections, which darted like lances into the back of the head; and the minutest atmospheric vicissitudes, or even removing from a dry room or place to one more humid or colder, *pro tempore*, instantly caused flatulencies, and other unpleasant attacks all over the body from top to toe; so that I felt like a living mass of disease, and used to fancy myself fairly or foully bewitched into a portable coffin, and fast bound with cords twisted round both hands and feet, having every inclination to burst my bands asunder, but void of all power to perform the task. When thus afflicted, it seemed that the diaphragm was in a state of contraction, with which all the parts adjacent began to sympathize, and thus added to my other distressing signs of the general complaint. While cleaning my teeth or picking them, washing my mouth, face, hands, or feet, scratching the scalp, taking the wax from my ears, the mucus from the nostrils, or touching them internally, the distant portions of my frame were not only thrown into great commotion, but all the salivary glands were brought into action, and emitted a larger share of spittle than common, of variable tastes, colours, and consistences, including a more viscid discharge among the gums: these were

frequently full of boils, slight ulcerations, pimples, and for the most part indurated, and retroceding from the teeth, which, in several instances, became infected with caries, and went rapidly to decay. The lips, interiorly, were covered with a sort of efflorescence; but rarely parched, unless after eating spices, orange or lemon peel, confectionaries, or any heating substances, like pepper, ginger, &c., which I rarely used, on that account, without suffering for the debauch. Coffee was my great favourite: unluckily for me, it soon betrayed its heating qualities, and was discarded, along with tea; for neither of which could I find another substitute but milk, and this merely in very small doses, from its bile-producing nature in my constitution. A comical feeling of disjunction between the body and lower extremities seized me at times, with a notion that the former would sink to the ground, and be left helpless there, from a total want of props to rest upon: in short, these whims, though really delusive, were nevertheless lamentable, and kept me always agitated with one phantom or another. A tightness in the larynx and pharynx, with concomitant accessions of sore throat, cough, catarrh, and slight colds, obliged me to keep flannel next the skin at all seasons, otherwise I must have suffered severely; as that envelope, so essential to health, was in me dry, smooth, and torpid, to such a degree, that constant frictions with flannel, the flesh-brush, eau de Cologne, solution of camphor, &c., were used every morning, for six months together, in order to stimulate the skin to perform its functions properly, which are so very important for the preservation of good health.

The alvine evacuations were, for the most part, clay-coloured, earthy, hard, and lumpy, or formed into balls, without either the natural hue or odour of healthy stools; their expulsion, consequently, required forcible and long straining, which, on one occasion of this sort, induced an incipient inguinal hernia, against which a truss has ever since become indispensable, to my great annoyance, except when laid aside on going to sleep or in walking upright. This accident was provoked by my sitting over the steam of boiling water to facilitate a motion, independent of aperients or lavements, of which I was always unwilling to take any advantage, till driven by sheer necessity. A strange curvature *in membro virile erecto* persecuted me from the commencement of the disease; which would have effectually hindered the *emissio seminis*, if my strength had been strong enough, or other circumstances had been favourable for that secretion. This untoward symptom, however, was not a *chordee*, but a deviation from a right line *sui generis*, and one that, I trust, may still be remedied. The sight of the most enchanting views, the finest music, the most delightful objects in my journeys, had no joys for me, in our diversified tours; and the luxurious hotel-dinners only exposed me to pernicious temptations, as my appetite always required a check rather than a spur at any repast whatever, which was commonly the case with my fellow-patients; and we paid in our persons as well as in our purses for every epicurean irregularity, such as rich puddings, pies, pastry, made-dishes, fat meat, apple-dumplings, creams, sauces, ices, and all sorts of sweetmeats, delicacies, sugared biscuits, wine, spirits,

champagne, beer, ale, &c. On my nerves they acted more like poison than wholesome food. I never, almost, could say what particular dishes did me the most harm; for whatever I ate or drank disagreed with me, save plain roast mutton or beef, and potatoes without butter or grease, and when used with great moderation. But the dietetic part of my history I shall refer to a Second Address, that all future homœopathic invalids may know how to act, if they expect adequate benefit from that method of treatment whence I have already gained the prospect of a speedy recovery.

Driven from Paris to Dijon by the cholera, I remained there for some three or four months; and from the change of air, a pleasant country-house in the *Côte d'Or*, aided by simple puddings, with fine stewed cherries, and as few drugs as possible, I got muscular flesh and vigour enough to walk in the country, whenever the weather became cool, cloudy, and breezy; which exercise alone prepared me to take a walk daily of from four to eight miles at once. Over-exertion, with the intolerable heat of last summer, perhaps, retrograded my convalescence to this degree, that, on once more running from the approach of the cholera, I started for Switzerland, in a very precarious condition; and reached Vevey, as a valetudinarian whose expectations were any thing but sanguine. The heat of the sun, and his faintest rays, compelled me never to move without a parasol; a custom that I never could lay aside from the period I commenced being a gastrite or dyspeptic, wandering over the Continent in quest of lost health and spirits, still animated

with the belief that sooner or later I should catch them both at last: and I recollected that my esteemed friend Captain Gowan of the Bengal army, a few years before, had urged me seriously to repair to Vevey, and try the far-famed *cure de raisin*, which, in a similar predicament, had performed wonders on his frame, and soon re-established his health, that had been previously injured by long residence and military duties in a warm climate. No time was lost in beginning this agreeable course of cure; and for two months I regularly devoured, between breakfast and dinner, some pounds of the finest and ripest grapes procurable in the place. They renewed my wasted plumpness of face and limbs in a short time, by the nutritive qualities of their juice, which, to my great surprise and comfort, produced neither acidities nor flatulency: but, to my equal mortification, they never relieved the constipation in the least, and I was thrown back upon my quondam laxatives, which never failed to operate gently but perfectly at the same time, without however reaching the cause of this most obstinate effect of dyspepsy: they were of course mere palliatives, though preventives of other serious affections, and shall therefore be specified in another place. Having to all appearance completely failed in this medicamentation, my old ailments began to stare me in the face, attended with all their familiar terrors, aggravated by a sudden and dangerous attack of erysipelas upon my affectionate and faithful helpmate, Mrs. B. G., who remained under the baneful influence of that distressing complaint about three months. Her medical attendant, Dr. Convers of Vevey,

happened, by mere chance, to talk of Hahnemann's new system of medicine, and lent me the "Organum" for perusal: a few pages sufficed to convince me, that his doctrines alone were the surest means of performing a radical cure on me at once; and I set to work with heart and hand, to sink or swim in the new stream, as the old had barely kept me afloat, more dead than alive to myself and the whole world besides, for six horrific years. With the timely aid of Dr. Ch. G. Pechier of Geneva, one of Hahnemann's most enthusiastic proselytes, and the homœopathic prescriptions, I was able to walk, on a stretch, eight, twelve, and even fourteen miles daily. I rose and breakfasted in the parlour by nine o'clock; though not long since this was taken in bed, which I seldom left till eleven or twelve. 'Now I am ready to talk, read, write, study, smile, laugh, and be merry; though, very lately, reading newspapers was my sole amusement and recreation, without another prospective object to dwell on with anticipating delight, except the approaching radical reform in the British Parliament, and the benign influence this grand event must realise on the civil and religious freedom of the whole human race. At present, homœopathy is my grand hobby-horse, and yields those pleasures of imagination, hope, meditation, and active benevolence, to which my benumbed heart has been too long a stranger: my chief fear is, that I may gallop too fast, and too far, for my own immediate welfare, before I have fairly secured my recovery, through a retarded progress of evident convalescence in all points but one or two at most, viz. incorrigible constipation in



the bowels, and a deep-seated, torturing, intermittent pain in the loins, back, and shoulders. My faith in Hahnemann's gospel of medical salvation is so firmly established on his own and its merits, that I am resolved to bear boldly up against every intermediate blast, in the well-founded expectation that firmness on my side, and persevering exertions on the part of Dr. Pechier, must, before the termination of the current spring, set me on my former legs again, to visit many absent friends, and, among the rest, *en passant*, the great and good Hahnemann himself, at his own Æsculapian shrine. The very idea of making such a grateful pilgrimage will serve to keep me alive; and teach me to feel, that no man should be so faint-hearted as to die of despair, because he has not in a few months escaped from all the venomous stings of a hydra-headed monster, such as nervous and dyspeptic hypochondria has been ever since the time of Hippocrates, and required seventy-two months of growth in me. Let us fervently pray that this dreadful pest of society may be driven for ever far from the habitations of men, by the irresistible club of our Herculean champion of homœopathy.

I have enumerated a fearful catalogue of sufferings, connected with my share of the above distemper, that others may compare notes with mine, and learn to brave every sensation they may yet feel, by trusting implicitly to Hahnemann's guidance through all the rocks, shoals, and quicksands, that beset the sea of troubles upon a hypochondriacal sick bed. Some of them can hardly be conceived by any person who has

not himself been so situated; far less can they be described to a stranger, ignorant of the endless phases which dyspepsy assumes, in the corporeal and moral agitations to which its doleful victims are exposed. Few of these have been, I believe, omitted in the preceding lists of them; though some of the most common may appear to be so, for this good reason, that they hardly ever shewed themselves in me, such as, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, pain at the pit of the stomach even when pressed hard; and I never felt any violent aching in that organ from heartburn or similar acrimonious eructations; for while I was constantly worried out of my senses by nameless attacks of uneasiness, styled 'fidgets,' I was rarely forced to roar out from unsufferable pain. To subdue those of a colicky kind, a stone bottle filled with boiling water was my never-failing resource; and the same element alone I found to be the very best substitute as a lavement, and sufficiently effectual. Instead of repairing hereafter to watering-places, hot or cold baths, and erratic parties of pleasure, for the cure of visible or internal complaints, as most of them may yet be found to proceed from the self-same source, my advice is, that every patient should proceed to Germany, &c., as detailed already, and in that quality submit their cases circumstantially to the best homœopathist they can find, in the true spirit of faith, hope, and charity, supported by perseverance and temperance in their own conduct. To you, Gentlemen, whom I feel solicitous to send abroad as medical pupils, until you can procure homœopathic teachers at home, let me recommend a careful

revisal of your chemical and medicamental acquisitions, including all the objects of chemistry, pharmacy, and the materia medica, both simple and compound, in conjunction with a *quantum sufficit* of medicinal botany. These arts and sciences will tend to render you, almost at the outset, scientific and expert homœopathists, who are bound, in common honesty, honour, and conscience, to become at once your own medicinal operators and composers, and to continue so wherever no apothecaries exist, or remain ignorant, as they must for some years be, of homœopathic medicines, which, in *bulk* alone, are to the allopathical medicaments what a mole-hill is to a mountain, and, in absolute virtue, that which a sun-beam is to one feeble ray of a farthing candle; with this additional recommendation, that only one drug or medicinal substance is used in the same prescription, though it may sometimes be alternated with another, and in the ratio of one to ten in the *repetatur dosim*, from the beginning to the close of the disease. You, who may happen to be pining, in a state of mere vegetation, on the scanty pittance of half-pay, will do well to decamp for the Continent, to acquire a profound and practical knowledge of homœopathy at its fountain-heads; whence, at little expense, you may return to commence this astonishing method in fair competition with the present city, town, village, and country allopathists, who will thus be left behind you, and must ultimately trust their lot to the die of *Palmam ferat qui meruit*, in every branch of their profession. Even the ill-paid laborious Clergy might safely and lucratively try their hands as homœopathists, who have nothing

to do with surgery, if they dislike this manual department of medicine, when in charge of both bodies and souls of their unfortunately sick parishioners; a union of humane offices that, in my humble opinion, cannot derogate from the respectable character of a good and kind clergyman.

I have forgotten to observe, that neither palpitation of the heart, nor violent spasms of any sort, ever afflicted me, though ordinary occurrences in the majority of dyspeptic complaints. Gratitude to Providence, to Hahnemann and homœopathy, inculcates in my breast the propriety of devoting the very first months of my unexpected resurrection from the sepulchral gloom of hypochondriac dyspepsy to the dissemination of its almost superhuman powers in the conquest of that formidable disease, wherever the printing-press can reach; in the fond belief, that my luck in the medicinal lottery may catch the eyes of some, at least, of those worthy persons whom I have accidentally met during the extended course of my forlorn prosecution of *mens sana in corpore sano*, often in a much worse stage of that malady than myself. Some had been its victims for twenty, fifteen, and ten years, when I last met them at Cheltenham, Ramsgate, Brussels, Spa, Aix-la-Chapelle, Wisbaden, Paris, Dijon, and London itself: among the number, I shall never forget one medical friend, whose lot was truly severe: he had, like me, vainly tried every known drug and doctor for relief; and, after seven years' unsuccessful efforts by their means, he resolved to wash his hands completely of physic and physicians, whatever should be the result

of his bodily afflictions, which had been, then were, and I fear still continue to be, insufferable. His sympathy for mine, and the pains he took to administer whatever he could think of for my comfort, alone dictate the steps lately taken by me in his behalf, and that of many other honest good fellows who were not less compassionate in the mournful hours of my particular distress. The corps of hopeless gastrites, at every place where they resort, is annually increasing; and their generous fellow-feeling for each other is such, that should any member among them read this appeal to you, the nature and drift of it will speedily be conveyed through the whole community, as the most joyful news they could hear, even at the present eventful period of political affairs in the Old and New World. For this purpose, I endeavoured to procure the insertion of an English Letter from me in "Galignani's Messenger," three or four weeks ago,—but having never seen the receipt of it acknowledged, I conclude it would never appear in that wide-circulating journal,—whence I flattered myself that many dyspeptic patients on the Continent would have extracted the essence of my communication, and forwarded it to London, for the benefit of their hypochondriacal friends there. Disappointed in this object nearest my heart, I wrote to Geneva; but was informed, by a gentleman on the spot, that the overwhelming influence of the allopathists in that free city was opposed to the insertion of any article in favour of homœopathy, but that the more liberal "Lausanne Gazette" would at once comply with my request, which was done by the liberal and learned

editor, without one moment's hesitation. Unfortunately for me, the French version of the article was despatched without having been approved of by myself: it consequently contains some verbal errors, but not one to invalidate the fact of my having received infinite relief from Hahnemann's mode of treatment in two months, while six years of a contrary plan had constantly made me much worse. The letter will nevertheless produce, in spite of its defects, a wide circulation of my extraordinary convalescence, and sanguine expectations of a radical cure during the ensuing spring; which alone ought to incline every dyspeptic gastrite, in the interim, to find out where any expert homœopathist can be consulted, and to act accordingly. The leading theory of this new sect is, that the nosologies extant are crammed with the names of diseases which are in reality the mere symptoms of various morbid affections, all flowing from the self-same source, viz. a vicious taint, miasma, or foul humor in the constitution, which may prove, on examination, to be original, hereditary, acquired, or communicated to the system, where it may lie dormant, or be excited into action by other concomitants, for a shorter or longer period, by atmospheric changes and other collateral accidents; whence it assumes numberless types, under the names of erysipelas, cholera morbus, scrofula, gout, dyspepsy, scarlet fever, hypochondria, &c., too many for insertion in this place. The taint in question is termed *psora*, itch, *galle*, and is the production of the *acarus*, *ciron sarcoptes*, a species of parasitical mites or canker, whence the itch, ringworms, leprosy, *scabies*, and similar cutaneous

eruptions, are supposed to proceed ; and that these, or such *animalculissima*, are the centre points of very dissimilar evils in living bodies, which form the focus of their attacks. Be the existing miasma what it may, against it alone is the whole imperceptible battery of the homœopathic pharmacopœia and laboratory directed, in the minutest possible doses, and single articles at a time ; their ammunition being, with few exceptions, composed of one ingredient only, and each small shot rarely exceeding the bulk of a pin's-head ; nevertheless, the strongest holds of the enemy are, in the space required by the homœopathic art, carried by direct assault, through the medium of the nerves, and quite independent of the circuitous branches of the stomach and intestines, by which the allopathists commence and terminate the siege, till, driven by reiterated failures, they also stimulate the nervous fibres, instead of the lingual papillæ, on which the homœopathists lay the most of their efficient trains, in powders less than a pinch of snuff, and in pills, as formerly stated, still more diminutive. It escaped me to notice before, that the *pruritus*, both external and internal, which pestered me constantly, used to be uncommonly troublesome in the groins, the inside of the thighs, about the pubes, scrotum, and other privities ; and though the titillation of the stomach, inside and outside, towards the back, depended more on the ingestion of delicious viands, jellies, &c., it was equally insufferable, and thus prevented the use of wholesome, cooling, stewed or ripe fruits, to my great detriment in a variety of ways. The delay and difficulty in making water before any body

was a constant thorn in my side, and marred the enjoyment of many a solitary walk; because this discharge, which likewise excited a dorsal tickling, enough to make me conceive on these occasions some cancerous distemper of the kidneys, ureters, or bladder, was super-added to the catalogue of my too numerous woes.

My most melancholy sensations from solitude, while wandering among the hills, glens, and mountains near Vevey, were, fortunately for me, diverted by the gambols, among the snows and verdant spots of land which were alternately crossed, of a small very beautiful dog, called Azor, which was my inseparable companion, wherever I bent my devious way; and as it understood almost every thing but to speak articulately, I was seldom at a loss for some amusement. The little creature united to the innocent playful gentleness of a lambkin all the courage of a lion and the antic pranks of a kitten or a young monkey, as it would walk readily, at command, on its hind-legs only. When Azor got the start of me in mounting a precipice, he used to cast a significant glance downwards, with a movement of the head; as much as to say, "Come along, master! here are no dangers in the way:" and in like manner, on descending frozen or slippery declivities, the cunning elf was in the habit of looking to see how I managed to reach the bottom; and often yelped that there was nothing to fear, taking, at the same time, a smart curveting race on the adjoining meadow, to prove that all was safe at the bottom, which he had reached, and expected me to follow his example. I observed that my tiny associate could do



any thing but speak his own language like a human being: he nevertheless contrived, by the intonations of his bow-wows or wouf-woufs, to let me know all his wants, for food, water, admission, exit, &c. We knew his call for me to take a walk, to go to bed, or to romp about the room with him; and the sight of my wife or self dressing ourselves for a promenade, visit, &c. made him frisk about our feet, almost delirious with joy. He lay constantly at my feet, under the blankets, and gave the alarm the moment any stranger came near me; but the animal was too good natured to hurt either a fly or a mouse. It used to lie down, in every position, to be combed; and thrust its little head into every one's hand to have its handsome ears tickled, as long as he could persuade them, by looks and gestures, to continue this pleasant operation. The most singular part of my puny *guard-malade's* story is still to be told; viz. The moment he felt himself menaced with bile, he commenced a fit of abstinence from meat, milk, butter; in short, from every thing but a few crumbs of dry bread, with abundance of water: and on these attacks the cautious patient never omitted a dose or two of the grass that all dogs know as a mechanical aperient, which they either reject from their stomachs undigested, or it moves downwards in the same condition also. I could not help thinking that this instinctive prudence was greatly superior to man's rational precaution; and I blamed myself often, as a voracious dyspeptic, for despising the salutary practice of our wise little self-doctor, who seldom allowed his appetite to triumph over his better judg-

ment. We are indebted for our canine favourite to the brave and generous Neapolitan patriot, General William Pepe, with whom we have lived in the closest intimacy and friendship ever since his gallant but ill-fated effort to liberate his beloved country from the fangs of Austria and the galling yoke of the Holy Alliance. He has been often a cheering companion through the tedium of my tardy disorder ; which was frequently alleviated by his presence, and the information he communicated respecting the Neapolitan Revolutions and warfare for many years. The sketch that Pepe has printed and given of his own conduct will more than suffice to convince any candid mind, that for true courage, patriotic opinions, and disinterested devotion to the cause of freedom, very few individuals of this age can justly be compared to him. During the late alarming illness of Mrs. Borthwick Gilchrist, and my own inability then to render her the smallest assistance, this excellent man was more assiduous in his kind offices at her bed-side than any sister or brother of her own could have been ; and for this he merits the eternal gratitude of us both, who wish him a joyful return to his native land, when that shall be in due season restored to constitutional liberty, the only boon which the warm-hearted General now asks of Heaven for his enslaved and oppressed country.—The two little episodes above are given to shew, that “ a friend in need is a friend indeed ;” and that a living little dog is infinitely more precious to an unhappy patient than all the dead kings who ever

reigned on the face of the earth, though afterwards crowned with glory under the canopy of heaven.

A great deal has been everywhere said *pro* and *con* the use or abuse of white mustard-seed, as a very potent but salubrious anti-constipative: with me it has twice proved worse than useless; because, on the first occasion, it merely remained a dead heating load in the bowels, and came away with difficulty; in the second, when a tea-spoonful was swallowed before each meal, out of three every day for several weeks together, though for a fortnight it acted mechanically by passing away entirely indigested, and so far had the expected effect, yet this power was soon lost, and the seeds, accumulating, stuck fast among the small guts, where they were soaked and fermented into a species of decomposed concoction, and ejected a rancid bitter oil, with flatulency that plagued me with a most disgusting taste in the mouth, and belly-aches, during three or four subsequent weeks. This was the more to be lamented, as it retarded considerably the progress of my anticipated restoration to health, in some essential points, towards a complete recovery. There may exist some habits wherein white mustard-seed will be serviceable: it is nevertheless a very equivocal remedy at best, that should be cautiously admitted into the homœopathic practice. Honey was advised also as a safe laxative; yet it likewise missed the mark, produced severe gripes and a bilious feeling, which did not quit me for a good while, and determined me to relinquish so luxurious an addition to my bread; which,

as I refrain from butter, was no small sacrifice. It is a melancholy fact, that diet alone, even aided by adequate exercise, seldom acts aperiently in dyspeptic, nervous, hypochondriacal complaints; and without the assistance of the antibilious pills prepared by Mr. Shirtliff, chemist, No. 90, Chiswell Street, who is, I presume, the successor of a Mr. Crake, formerly of Finsbury-square, I must often have been exposed to very disastrous maladies: and no other kind ever having answered the purpose with such ease and safety, I can honestly recommend them to all those gastrites who have not commenced the homœopathic system, which excludes every thing compounded of this sort.

Among the endless train of grievances that accompanied every movement we made from one gloomy transition to another, nothing embittered my lonely moments so much as a consciousness that my breast was becoming daily more and more contracted, and a prey to the selfish dictates of envy, malevolence, distrust, invidiousness, discontent, apathy, hatred, impatience, litigiousness, timidity—in one word, to every ignoble feeling of the human heart. Against this unnatural perversity of my preceding more-amiable disposition all my efforts proved abortive, and left me a prey to the most dismal depression of spirits to which a poor soul could well be subjected, without some desperate experiment to emancipate myself from ceaseless tribulation, and give my broken heart at once the quietus even of a bare bodkin. One of the first ostensible signs of amelioration from the homœopathic prescriptions was a sudden change from despondency

to joyful hope, and from confirmed misanthropy to the most unbounded philanthropy, and a growing ambition rather to emulate the universally compassionate deeds of the renowned Howard than the fame of the greatest warriors, scholars, politicians, or patriots that ever drew the breath of life. The very belief that it was in my power to bring Hahnemann's name and new practice of physic into vogue over the whole world added fuel to the ardent flame of humanity; and has kept me in a continued paroxysm of feverish excitement ever since I perceived the possibility of doing such unlimited service to the present and future generations of men. I called to my recollection the story of a facetious doctor in Edinburgh, who, at a medical corporation dinner, among other toasts, commenced the first part of his thus, "May all the sick get well!"—on this there followed a general buzz of disapprobation, which the toaster dexterously converted to a burst of applause, by instantly adding, "And all the well get sick!" to the unanimous satisfaction of the company, where self was every thing, and all the rest of mankind merely food to feed upon. The desire uppermost in my bosom is, on the contrary, that every sincere homœopathist, like Hahnemann and his plain-dealing followers, may hereafter put pain, death, and disease to flight from at least ninety in one hundred of his patients; and, were it possible, that none of them might ever again droop or die by lingering perdition on a sick bed, as those of the allopathic practitioners are so apt to do, from immoderate quantities of medicines absurdly composed and ignorantly administered

according to the fashion of the day or the whim of the prescriber, without compass or helm to regulate his career, from the *début* to the *dénouement* of the catastrophe.

In the true spirit of unlimited benevolence to every individual with whom I have ever had the smallest intercourse by word, deed, or correspondence, so as to give him or her the least offence, I cheerfully make this request, viz. that they will have magnanimity enough to forget and forgive any thing in my conduct or writings calculated to do them the most trifling injury in any point of view whatever; and, in return, I solemnly engage to be equally generous and forgiving to those who in my, perhaps mistaken, opinion may have been hostile to me. I have now reached that period of advanced life when a very few years can elapse before my eternal adieu to every thing on this side of the grave; where, so long as I may be doomed to sojourn, it shall be in peace, good-will, and charitable dealings with those whom I love to call friends; and fondly trust that I shall in future neither have nor make any foes, as every idea of this description is the furthest removed from my thoughts.

It may not be amiss to acknowledge, that whenever I attempted to amuse myself with a hand at whist, it was always followed by vertigo, agitation, and a restless night, which deprived me for ever from enjoying this innocent amusement, when the stake was so moderate as not to fall too heavily on my purse, too much impoverished by the length of apothecaries' bills, and the ceaseless demands for lodgings, board, and other way-charges.

To the vice of gambling I never was addicted; but I saw, with grief and surprise, that many invalids unite this mode of driving nails into their own coffins, to those previously rivetted by death, the doctor, or the disease itself: whence I am led to fear, that travelling, feasting, dancing, bathing, and gambling, on the Continent, while in quest of lost health, makes it worse to regain than if the valetudinarian had remained tranquil in some beautiful spot in his own country:—but on this theme I may enlarge in a Second Letter. One word, however, to the sempiternal chess-players, whom we meet everywhere: they are, for the most part, persons with long well-filled heads and ambitious hearts; which if they devoted to the further improvement of useful arts, sciences, inventions, &c., only half the time they squander in contests for victories “baseless as the fabric of a vision,” this sacrifice alone would liberate at least ten thousand profound thinkers on the globe for the service of their own times and generation, and compensate for the rather selfish and un-social species of warfare which two of a company carry on for hours together, to the annoyance and exclusion of all the rest from the charms of their conversation and intelligent minds. Men of this meditative stamp, in modern times, have perhaps, when their upper stories were somewhat disengaged, adverted to the ancient square-toes of former days, and the great ease that people’s feet then enjoyed; which would instinctively lead to the self-evident amelioration of late in the points of both boots and shoes, to the complete dismay of corn-cutters and chiropedists of all ranks,

who, were no fools left to keep the poor devils from starving, would be in a terrible plight.—*N'import!—fiat justitia, ruat cælum!*—Other doctors, even of a higher degree, may share a similar fate, if they madly persist in shutting their eyes to the light of reason, and their ears to the voice of truth, which I flatter myself will not long be the case.

To the critics who may justly condemn the confusion, tautology, repetitions, or puerilities, of this hasty production I shall submissively exclaim, “Strike! but hear me allege the best apology which, every thing considered, can well be urged in my defence of publishers’ crudities, greedily and speedily gathered up, chiefly to prevent anticipations by other hands busy on the same field with myself, at the calls of Providential nature and reason, personified in Hahnemann.”—I cannot patiently forego the honour of being the very first horse, hound, and horn, at starting for the chase of every beast or bird of prey still fattening on the spoils of the cholera, dyspepsy, gout, &c. of their tortured patients in Great Britain, when the very same game seems to be auspiciously pursued in other countries of Europe, among which it is neither the last nor the least to say nothing of her immense dependencies all over the globe.

Let us take the cholera morbus, singly, for an evident proof of the difference between the homœopathic and allopathic manner of subduing this formidable enemy to human life; and we shall find, from the last-published works on the Continent, that the first class of practitioners were consistent, and commonly fortunate in their practice; but, on the contrary, the allopathists had



no very settled mode of managing that dreadful plague, and frequently failed. Our own physicians were not much more uniform or lucky in their prescriptive directions than their Continental brethren, as they were equally benighted in the visible darkness of allopathy, while the cholera was raging through the United Kingdom; but it is to be hoped, that, before we have a second visit from this destructive monster, the intelligent Dr. Quin will have put the whole medical corps duly on their guard against it; and that doctors and their patients will be in perfect unison together, so long as this scourge shall reign in those realms. In all future dissections after the seat of choleric or other *virus*, our anatomists should employ the highest magnifying glasses procurable, and with these minutely explore the roots, trunks, branches, and ramifications of the blood-vessels, lacteals, lymphatics, including those of the whole nervous system, its ganglions, cerebral and medullary appendages, &c. It is possible enough, that in all of those quarters, in the liver, spleen, pancreas, lungs, heart, stomach, and other viscera, also *trillions* of invisible vitalities or parasitical *animalculissima* may yet be detected, adhering to or floating in the capillary filaments, tubes, &c. of the system, if the bodies be preserved warm, and scrupulously examined by sun-light, in the style of swarms of imperceptible vermin, which infest the stamina of vegetable life, and produce, sooner or later, diseases and destruction, not less deadly than animal disorders, or death itself. There exist etymological proofs, in the words canker, ringworm, herpes, hydatides, tinea, psora, cancer, chancre, &c. independent

of the conjecture that the itch, morpew, rot, and such distempers, depend on the animalcules peculiar to them, as the *acarus* before cited, and the mites in cheese, the verminations of the dry rot, &c., why, then, may we not yet discover such animated broods, hives, generations, or shoals, within the several component parts of all larger animal bodies, by the very means adopted by Leewenhoek and others, who affirm that the milt of a single cod-fish contains more animalcula than there are animals on the earth, and that the globules of their blood are too minute to be compared with a grain of sand, as this alone would contain a number beyond the reach of all computation; while in pepper, put into a glass of water, animalcula have been detected one thousand times less than a grain of sand? The discoveries daily made in certain liquids, secretions, humours, &c. of living *atomismæ*, exceed credibility; and I begin to suspect, that impalpable powders, in their progress to invisibility, will assume vitality, in appearance at least, and acquire a supernatural activity, when administered in the minutest atoms and quantities, totally incomprehensible to any but the enlightened genii of homœopathy, who are familiar with the powers that attenuation alone confers on their diminutive recipes. A grain of gold can be beaten into a leaf containing fifty square inches; and this may be readily divided into 500,000 parts, each of which is visible to the naked eye: the volatile corpuscles of a carnation are too fine to be observed by any other sense than that of smelling: whence it is as impossible to tell where materialism terminates, and immaterialism

begins, as it would be to mark the first mathematical point in the form of a circle; and so in a number of other things, where extremes may be supposed to meet, or to elude all sublunar research. The zoophytes are the connecting links between animal and vegetable vitality, and their natural history is quite miraculous; so is that of the madrepores and corallines, which lay the foundations of large rocks and huge islands in the South and other seas: nay, for aught that frail man can tell, those tiny beings assisted to lay the foundations of this cosmopolitan superstructure on which we poor mortals vegetate or exist: why then may not many other genera of vermin possess an equivalent power to undermine and destroy, unseen, unheard, unfelt, this frail microcosm of ours, which, compared with the globe, must be as evanescent from our vision and touch as the rays of light, or the flying odours of a delightful rose-garden? Homœopathic medicines, extreme, attenuated, and minimissimised, acquire a potency in the inverse ratio of their attenuation and diminution, on principles not easily conceived by vulgar practitioners, though not so very inexplicable as at the first glance would appear, because in this state only could they reach their destination: when carefully placed on the tongue, they dissolve there by the moisture of that member, when raised gently to the roof of the mouth previously well rinsed with a little tepid water only. This is, on the whole, a nice operation, and almost requires the assistance of a dexterous attendant: for that of swallowing a pill the bulk of a pin-head, a powder not so much as a very moderate pinch of snuff, and of

one or two drops of a liquid prescription, without any vehicle whatever, seems nearly inconceivable; and great pains must be taken to prevent the loss of a single atom of the medicine, sent right into the nervous system in the manner just described.—A familiar illustration of the whole process may be thus given. Suppose a merchant desires to consign one vessel of 300 tons, laden with refined loaf-sugar, for the Sandwich Islands, from London, by a canal or railway through the Isthmus of Darien; and another of 1000 tons, with a cargo of sugar-canes, to go round by Cape Horn, or even through the Straits of Magellan; which of the two would have the safest and shortest transit, and prove of the greatest value in the market?—Answer: The smallest of course, for reasons perfectly obvious. Let similar ships start from Bombay, freighted with the finest muslins and the coarsest raw cotton; the first to penetrate correspondent communications by the Isthmus of Suez into the Mediterranean Sea, for the port of London; and the second to make the circuitous voyage, even by the Cape of Good Hope;—whether would the condensed muslin or the gross raw material be the surest and safest speculation?—the former no doubt, on the identical maxim, that a pinhead-sized pill, dissolved between the tongue and palate, though composed of the 1000th fraction of a grain only, say of quinine, is found, by experience, infinitely more efficacious, when thus imbibed, than a large dose of Peruvian bark taken into the stomach in powder, or injected by the intestines. This view of homœopathic omnipotence, contrasted with the impotence of allopathic treatment, should in great

measure solve the mystery at once, now levelled to the meanest capacity, and prevent even the homœopathists from being amazed at the magical wonders which they hourly perform, especially if they can yet concede to my theory, that the *psoric* miasma or taint generates myriads of parasitical animalculissima, whose hot-beds may soon be detected, in cases of cholera morbus, &c. in peculiarly vital organs of the body, whence medicines equally active, if even not animated by trituration or concentration, alone can dislodge them. Had the brown continental rats, which have extirpated the aboriginal black race of those troublesome vermin in Britain, been fairly poisoned by their prey, the breed of both would at once have ceased to exist: an idea which may nevertheless hereafter be confirmed by the new practice of physic becoming gradually an object of national moment and investigation, by such individual microscopists as have long since detailed the exploits of the *animalcula infusoria*, termed *vorticella convallaria*, *racemosa*, *rotatoria*, &c., which last is remarkable for its strange power of restoration to life and motion, after being dried many months in a glass. This fact alone, corroborated also by thousands of others observable in vegetable infusions and liquids of all sorts, should induce sceptical readers not to ridicule prematurely every opinion, merely because it may look paradoxical. But I shall drop this subject, till I come to write my Second Letter.

No sooner was Hahnemann's Organum put into my hands, than I immediately ordered a copy to be presented to my excellent friend Dr. Patterson, of Queen-

street, May Fair, with a promise to write him more fully about it; but I never yet have had leisure enough to do so, and perhaps shall not be more fortunate for some time. I intended to request him, after perusal, to lend the book to Dr. Julius of Richmond; because those two most liberal physicians kindly attended me, and were well acquainted with the history of my disease from its commencement, and much more able to judge of my obligations to homœopathy than any one, myself excepted, for the wonderful effects it has produced, in the recovery of my health, and restoration of all my intellectual faculties, with those concurrent sensations from which my soul has been so long estranged. The indulgent reader will instantly recognise the unfathomable wretchedness to which I have been subjected in my recent trance or delirium of existence, when informed, that, on crawling to bed, while my attentive and compassionate helpmate was adjusting the coverings and bidding me good-night, I have a thousand times wished to God that my eyes might never again behold the morning light, or that she might never again be troubled with my endless miseries and complaints. If the very prospect of emancipation from such a condition would then have commanded heartfelt gratitude to Providence, how greatly must my acknowledgments be enhanced to Hahnemann and Pechier, when already in the actual enjoyment of all the blessings I could yet reasonably anticipate from their homœopathic skill in curing so many diseases! and with what feelings, as a being endued with the ordinary impulses of humanity, could I sit still, and not at least make a grand effort

to rouse physic from its fatal lethargy, and disease from the gloomy couch of despair. This indigested chaos of information to the world at large may be compared to a shapeless heap of oriental oysters, collected in a hurry, for a future more leisurely investigation of the whole of the valuable pearls which the pile shall be found to contain; but which the divers are forbidden to disturb before a certain time, when every gem can be picked out, and arranged according to the respective qualities of each—an operation that, if applied to my precocious pamphlet, will not, I presume, be labour in vain: and I therefore, with sufficient self-complacency, leave it to its fate, and, Gentlemen, to your considerate protection in the mean time.

That the *dry-rot* in houses, ships, and similar buildings, insensibly destroys their timber-works, nobody will dispute, and that the *wet-rot* in sheep is not less deleterious to those innocent beasts; and although people will not admit the vermin creation as the chief instruments of such havoc, my suspicions are strong that this is really the case: nay, I go further, and will venture to suppose the superficial decompositions in polished stones, visible in many elegant mansions in Perth and other towns, everywhere exhibit, *cæteris paribus*, the self-same causes and effects, and that these operate with more or less activity in the vegetable, animal, and even in the mineral kingdoms. In the West Indies, the white ants, though they bear a greater resemblance to a barley-corn of soft suet or marrow, are nevertheless capable of quickly levelling the strongest edifices there with the ground, by attacking all their wooden founda-

tions, pillars, beams, joists, rafters, frame-work, &c., which they devour with surprising rapidity, and may therefore be discriminated as the *visible* wet-rot of that country; which is so far fortunate, that one remedy is always at hand, namely, arsenic, thus administered:— The principal nest is commonly situated in one corner of the roof, on the inside; and from it run, in every direction, numerous covered ways, which conceal the insects from the fowls and birds that incessantly feed upon them with the utmost avidity: into one of these passages a minute portion of finely-pulverised white arsenic is introduced by the point of a pen, and in a few days not one of the swarm, composed of many millions, is ever found, either dead or alive, to disturb the dismal silence of death and desolation over the whole deserted colony, which even, when left standing, is never replenished by kindred inhabitants. No one can tell how, when, where, and why, they vanished so completely, that not a single carcase is traceable, either at head-quarters, or its secret communications. The current supposition is, that a few of the white ants either ingest or imbibe the arsenic at the place of its insertion, and are immediately poisoned by it, leaving their bodies a prey to all the rest, who die, and are devoured in succession, till not one is left to tell the mournful tale of their extraordinary death, or still more wonderful burial. How diminutive must the portion of this ant's-bane have become, that killed the last of their race! In my opinion, it would not have kicked the beam, had it been weighed against one sun-beam, or even that emanation of a rushlight: then why marvel at the



palpable effects of the atomical doses of medicine in use among the homœopathists? and where would be the inconsistency in one of that sect imagining, as I do, the possibility of the chief nerves in the human body being subjected to a parallel invasion by invisible beings, resembling those that generate the itch, ring-worm, &c., or that are at present deemed the tiny authors of the cholera morbus, to eradicate which by direct contact the remedy is laid upon the lingual papillary ramifications of nerves, instead of being directed circuitously against the noxious animalculisima by the stomach, *rectum*, &c.? The mildew, canker, blight, blast, &c., that corrode plants, paper, cloth, and many other substances, destroying their vegetation, texture, and material existence—the morpew which disfigures the face—the herpes, tetter, cancer, scrofula, chancre, &c., in my eyes, are, one and all, an imperceptible conglomeration of nits, living atoms, animalcula, or vermin of various kinds, which, when hatched and matured, cause more serious diseases than any other known agent in nature: and they are as likely to lodge or breed among the nerves as any where else; which, being the sensitive main-stays, rigging, and filaments between the body and soul, who can wonder at a nervous hypochondriac's unfathomable complaints of blue devils and diaboluculi, of every hue and size, teasing his spirit into fits of hysterics, falling-sickness, or some such diabolical distempers, that in the dark ages were attributed to witchcraft and sorcery? Among the puny tribes of such demons incarnate, only conceive a rope-dancing monkey, in miniature, among

them, and the irritation which his wild freaks and gambols, from one sinew to another, must excite over the whole sensitive system, till the imp be judiciously exorcised by a homœopathic *pilulissima*, or a pinch of impalpable powder *à la mode de Hahnemann*; whose prescriptions are as efficient, in numerous internal attacks of the acute or chronic species, as the external application of sulphur is to the itch; or a skilful gardener's fumigations, irrigations, and dustings with tobacco, and such antidotes, to mildews, which paralyze vegetable life in its trunks, branches, twigs, leaves, and innermost vitals, and eventually extinguish their *vis vitæ*, unless the blight be seasonably arrested in its baneful progress, by killing the living seeds of it at once in their retreat.—One reason for the salubrity of tobacco, in certain climates, may be its deadly influence on animalcula, either in the body or out of it; and camphor, of late, so useful in cholera, is a noted destroyer of moths, paper-worms, and similar entities.

My mind has been lately so absorbed in these meditations, among the intellectual threads, strings, fibres, hairs, cores, and cobwebs of our separate organs of the senses and soul, that my sleep is frequently suspended for hours together by these reveries on the *modus operandi* of Hahnemann's magical panaceas; but instead of such waking moments being penable, as formerly, they seem lighter than the airy castles I have been building ever since I perused his admirable works, which promise so great a share of good to the woeful sufferers on sick beds, and to their distracted medical friends and attendants, when about

to give up their cure in absolute despair. During the height of my nervous dyspepsy, when I seldom could slumber or sleep, the horror of my situation was beyond sufferance; and the only means left me to struggle from night till morning, through endless hours, was to count leisurely from one to a thousand, or to hum slowly over the most familiar songs; like, "Where are you going to, my pretty maid?" "Scots, wha hae wi' Wallace bled! Scots, wham Bruce hath often led!" &c. in the hope of procuring those naps which I was afraid of forcing by opium, on account of its constipative qualities; and it is but fair to add, that these harmless devices occasionally succeeded to procure me the fleeting enjoyment of unconsciousness of my own existence, then so intolerable, that while I felt a cowardly desire to live, my everlasting wish to die was perhaps still more dastardly; but this is a prominent symptom of hypochondria, which kept me down with a vengeance, and conquers often the stoutest hearts in Christendom. When one considers the unaccountable and supernatural symptoms that mark all hypochondriac nervous dyspeptic cases from other maladies, with some which are common to these also, there can be little hesitation to attribute these to some strange affection of the nerves, depending on a lodgment of *verminissimæ* hitherto undiscovered, but which, if the anatomical subjects be preserved in a blood-heat temperature, I am almost certain will be detected alive, by the highest magnifying glasses procurable. The intolerable itching or pruriency that frequently seized me in the back, the ribs, the inside of the stomach, &c., especially after

swallowing any delicious food, sweet beverage, &c. could have proceeded from nothing so probable as the atomies, to which I allude, choking up the branches or minute ramifications of the nerves, which may for years torment, and finally destroy, the dyspeptic, unless dislodged or annihilated by their proper antidotes. In the West Indies, forty or fifty years since, whole plantations of canes were completely extirpated by some vegetable mildew or blight, which forced many planters to supplant the canes with coffee or other tropic productions; but I imagine they at last found out the remedy, and applied it auspiciously. The itch and other cutaneous affections are cured by sulphur, mercury, &c.; the cholera morbus yields often to camphor, which, as well as the former medicaments, are known to destroy the minute vermin which infest books, papers, &c. as noted some pages before; nor have I the smallest doubt that the *tinea*, *morbus pediculosus*, and complaints of that frightful description, would soon vanish before these and various homœopathic prescriptions, properly administered. *Psora* is a Greek word for a minute creature; and *tinea*, in Latin, has a similar sense like those already enumerated; to which we may yet be authorised to join *itch*, *yuk*, *yook*, names well known in Scotland, perhaps from a German or Roman root meaning "to eat," "gnaw," in the shape of a living mathematical point. Our *sore* comes from *psora*; and there they term a scabbed head a *sair head*. *Demanger*, in French, means "to eat away," "to itch," "to tickle;" and *demangéaison*, "itching," "*cacoëthes*," &c.

Gentlemen, at starting with this candid Address to

you, I assumed the panoply of Law and Gospel, in the hope of thereby securing a favourable reception, with a patient perusal of these sheets; but that none of you may suppose me guilty of imposing on your indulgence under false colours, it becomes at last my duty to draw towards a close, with my confession of faith, or my medical, political, and religious creed, independent of every hostile or selfish affection against any living soul, on the plea of politics, physic, or piety; in the whole of which I conceive every individual has a right peaceably to declare his sentiments, and that no one ought to persecute or injure another merely because his opinions happen to differ *in toto*, or in certain points only, from the herd of society. From all that I have yet been able to read, hear, or see, concerning Hahnemann's homœopathic doctrines of physic, my conviction is deep and sincere, that they are very reasonable, just, and more consonant with the nature of things, experience, and facts, than those systems of medical practice that have hitherto enjoyed their days of triumph over the common sense of all nations, since the times of Æsculapius, Chiron, and even of Apollo the divine physician himself, or of Hippocrates and Galen, &c. I moreover am convinced, that, in general, the maxims of Hahnemann will shortly be confirmed by numbers of the most intelligent persons in the Old and New World; and I feel the greatest anxiety to give them all the facility of dissemination within my limited reach, in the station of a convert to and admirer of a plan that certainly has preserved myself, and has of course made me a radical medical reformer, or, in other

words, if you like them better, a revolutionary practitioner, and pupil of the venerable Hahnemann. From Cartwright, the veteran Father of radical reform, and the champion of all its principles unimpaired, I imbibed, above twenty years ago, his entire *credenda*, and, through good and bad report, have professed them openly ever since, with a strong bias at present, I must confess, towards republics like that of the United States of America, and presidents as much as possible resembling Jackson, one of the several excellent successors of the great and glorious Washington, whose footsteps will be followed, in the lapse of another century, so universally in the civilised portions of the Continent, that not a prince nor a peer will remain unreformed in any community, to domineer over their fellow citizens; far less an absolute potentate, to rule with a rod of iron the peasantry, plebeians, populace, or people of his country, wherein *grex* and *lex* will stand firmly on their own legs, without one useless stilt of a *rex* to support them. Far be it from me yet to preach or anticipate the practice of such predictions: old Father Time will do that better for future generations than I can; and to the hands of so infallible a *performer* the radical *reformers* may leave this prophetic vision to the *conformers* with the remaining abuses of the *deformers* of sound constitutions, whose *formers* were *bona fide* upright men, and true to the genuine interests of their native lands. The prospects of regenerated physic and honest policy are drawing apace on the intellectual horizon, and fast ascending to the zenith of their perfection, to redeem the lives, minds, and liberties of mankind from the

cruel fangs of lingering disease, immature death, and heartless despotism, with the additional stigma of bearing patiently the degrading epithets of *abject objects* of compassion on sick beds, and treated as the servile slaves or priest-ridden *subjects* of a Church and State in which they have no interest whatever. As to my belief in futurity, and all its consequences, being a *loyal* citizen, it must be that of the Christian *religion*; which, as the very word implies, binds us all fast, in soul and body, to the latest edition of the faith of our progenitors, as by law established; which certainly was intended to teach us to do all the good in our power to our brother mortals, with the least possible evil to the meanest among them, on the score of country, colour, confession, condition, or caste, in the true spirit of heavenly charity, which inclines me to live in peaceful concord with every one: and I sincerely pray them to cultivate similar dispositions with me, whatever may be our sentiments or tenets on all the themes discussed in this lengthy *Epistle*, which has insensibly attained an extent that was not contemplated: it has, of course, thus far encroached upon the *Second*, and contains many remarks out of their intended place.

My convalescence having been protracted above six weeks, by the administration of the white-mustard seed, and the rapid changes of weather at this season of the year, is the main-spring of some apparent inconsistencies, now too late to rectify as I could wish. For some weeks after having abstained from that pernicious remedy, I was annoyed with a constant secretion in the mouth, of an oily, rancid, acrimonious saliva, at the same time thin

and bitter, which, proceeding from the slowly decomposing grains in the whole of the alimentary canal, produced flatulent gripes, so severe, that during the night I was compelled to apply hot-water bottles to the abdomen, before they put it in my power to enjoy one or two hours of tolerable rest. This unforeseen loss of sleep, for many nights in succession, has certainly procrastinated my perfect recovery, and, conjoined with the want of my former excellent appetite, has thrown a damp on my sanguine hopes of immediate restoration to health; but, as the majority of the other symptoms of my malady are slowly, one after another, disappearing, I shall no longer doubt the efficacy of the homœopathic prescriptions at last. It will probably be surmised, that the *cure de raisin*, the change of air, the daily exercise out of doors, with the impetus given to my mental energies by Hahnemann's Organum, alone will solve the prodigy of my extraordinary amendment, independent of homœopathy; and, in candour, I must admit that those coincidences have powerfully co-operated for my relief; though it may fairly be asserted, that the natives of the country almost laugh at foreigners attributing salutary consequences to the feasting upon grapes, beyond their acknowledged nutritive effects, and their total want of ascenscent tendency or aperient qualities to produce either acidity in the stomach or dysenteric commotions in the bowels. My own intuitive convictions of Hahnemann's honesty, benevolence, and sound judgment, have done every thing for me, aided by a very rigid adherence to his prescribed regimen, to wearing flannels and warm clothing, to



avoid all exposure to cold, humidity, and atmospheric vicissitudes of all sorts, the use of tobacco in every shape and form, ardent or vinous liquors, spices, cordials, tea, coffee; in short, whatever could heat the humors, agitate the nerves, or interfere with the efficacy of the homœopathic treatment in any point of view; besides observing a well-regulated moderation in the enjoyment of those comforts that the new system does not prohibit—and, in my apprehension of such restrictions, they are by no means too rigorous; on the contrary, I would advise no homœopathist to take any patient in hand who will not or cannot comply with the whole of the dietetic ordinances peculiar to this regenerated practice of physic; because, both parties may be miserably deceived; but, what is worse, this noble science might thus sink into contempt by such mutual deception, whence the practitioner can lose his pains and professional fame, and the patient his money, time, and ultimate chance of recovery by some other plan.

The habits of certain individuals are so accustomed to particular indulgences, that abstinence from them creates a *disease* of itself; and this alone will counteract every endeavour to subdue the other. Under such circumstances, the homœopathist should promise nothing beyond a conditional success, and, if possible, should persuade the invalid to diminish the *quantum* of his favourite *penchant*, so gradually, that it might in a moderate space of time be annihilated, without the smallest inconvenience to the *amateur* of snuff, brandy, sauces, pickles, *ragouts*, and similar poisons, to valetudinarians of both sexes, all ages, and every rank of life,

from the king to the cobbler. On a principle of the same nature, no incurable disorder ought to be rashly undertaken, by a prudent homœopathist, without a previous caveat, to all concerned, that the case being desperate, the hope of benefit from homœopathy, in preference to allopathy, was too slender to lean upon; nevertheless, the unfortunate sufferer might take the possible chance in his favour, as he could hardly fare worse by the former than by the latter procedure: and no compassionate physician should ever consign those who consult him to absolute despair, whatever he may confide to the honour of their relatives. One of the most arduous tasks which the homœopathists have imposed upon themselves is that pharmacy which is inseparable from their present situation in the medical profession, and their conscientious determination to execute each process, in the preparation of remedies, with their own hands or under their own immediate inspection, till a new class of confidential and responsible medicamentators be formed on homœopathic grounds, exempt from the prejudices and antipathies of their allopathic medicinal associates, by adopting those predilections most congenial with the Hahnemannian reformation of the healing art; which, I feel confident, will yet become the usage, if not the law, of the land, in the United Kingdom, and the complete circle of her dependencies.. Another duty, equally indispensable for every faithful homœopathist, is that of forming an accurate statement of each applicant's constitution and case, from his birth to the moment of his complaint; including such information about his own

history, and that of his parents and relations, as may lead to a just diagnostic and prognostic at once: and this document should be carefully preserved, and consulted as occasions may require. This is likewise a delicate and laborious office; which might be greatly curtailed, by having large blank printed forms, that any intelligent individual could fill up at leisure, alone, or with his doctor's assistance, who would, of course, have all the necessary and customary queries properly printed in the blank forms proposed, to be numbered 1, 2, 3, &c., for insertion in his medical journal of every case, regularly kept, and posted in the usual manner.

Having been unable to discover any traces, in the homœopathic works that have yet fallen under my observation, of my subsequent lucubrations, I shall submit them, with due respect, Gentlemen, to you and the public; who will, no doubt, recollect the incredible facts related by the most respectable microscopists of this and the preceding centuries, relative to the *monstra horrenda* discoverable in the liquids and solids of every substance in the three kingdoms of Natural History; and also on the probability or possibility that these gorgons and chimæras dire will keep pace, in shape, size, and number, with the progressive march of optics in all their wonderful branches, which may one day discover *animalculissima* in various impalpable powders, which will hardly be more prodigious than the *eel-vibrio* of sour paste, which is viviparous, and frequently produces a tribe of young. When the parent *vibrio* has been cut up, more than a hundred of them have been observed to issue alive from the wound. A mite, which to the ancients

was the *ne plus ultra* of animal minuters, may be deemed an elephant when compared with the verminisimæ that have been already detected by the moderns; who when they examine the *monas termo* by the utmost microscopic powers, can barely distinguish a moving point with an ostensible diameter. The homœopathists consider that a peculiar *miasma*, *virus*, or *venom*, is the *primum mobile* of numerous distempers, and they reckon the *psora* or itch as the most conspicuous; that it is either a hereditary, habitual, or communicated taint in the humors, which must be eradicated or destroyed before the sufferer can be radically cured of his chronic or acute complaints, often the mere symptoms of the primary evil, which, according to my hypothesis, consists of millions of invisible creatures, that burrow in the most vital organs of animal, vegetable, and even mineral existence, till they either deteriorate, torment, or demolish them at last. To reach such imps, lodged securely among the minutest recesses of the nervous system, lymphatics, lacteals, &c., the direct channel, from the nervous papillæ of the tongue, is evidently the best; and the smaller and more attenuated their antidotes are made, the chance of penetration to the seat of the animalised focus of cholera morbus, &c. is so much the greater; and an ultimate extirpation of these morbid blights becomes more practicable after we can give a good guess at their position, nature, origin, and extent. Should it be hereafter demonstrated, that concussion, trituration, and the most diminutive sub-division of coherent atoms can *vivify* them also into higher curative virtues, the science of medicine may verify, in its rational

practice, the efficacy of the common adage, by setting one atomical thief to catch another of the same stamp, which would produce a double illustration of *similia similibus curantur*; and if, as may providentially be the fact, the imaginary banes and antidotes, in their respective metamorphoses, should be induced to annihilate each other, the homœopathists might glory in their profound sagacity; while their patients would gladly shout *Io Pœan!* after every one of their triumphs. On principles formerly explained, I am even sanguine enough to conceive the idea, that animal calculi, and petrifications of every species, when reduced to impalpable powder, with or without any chemical operation, will be found potent remedies against the very disorders that generate such concretions; or, at all events, they may become, after repeated trials, worthy of a place in the homœopathic pharmacopœia, if they have not long ago had that honour; like the precious pearls of the East, which were once in high medicinal repute; but whether deservedly or not, is more than I can venture to affirm here, from a direct or indirect knowledge of facts. That the coral, however, has been so promoted, I believe, though still ignorant of its powers as a drug, in homœopathic practice. This apparently equivocal vegetable is the notorious production of a marine *polypus*, *medusa*, or *madrepore*, scarcely perceptible by the naked eye, nevertheless the magnipotent founder of islets, isles, mountains, and rocks, amid the boisterous elements in which they are destined to reside; yet many seas are growing annually more difficult to navigate, from being encumbered with the superhuman habita-

tions of beings almost too small for perception; to say nothing of Australasia and Polynesia in the Pacific Ocean, where a vast continent and innumerable large islands rear their lofty heads to the sky, on no other basis than the solid coralline labours of zoophytes, or plant animals, such as the *gorgonia*, *hydra*, &c. Now that we see what miracles can be performed in cosmography by calcareous mites, may we not inductively conclude that similar prodigies can spring from correlative progenitors in microcosmography, that is to say, in the body of man, where a great variety of calculi, petrifications, concretions, hypertrophia, interstitial deposits, moles, tubercles, hydatids, and all morbid growths of the same species, are constantly perceived, but seldom, if ever, acknowledged as animalcular depositions? though in the vegetable world they exist in sufficient abundance, and in the large class of cutaneous disorders their vivific origin has long been admitted, as I have formerly stated *en passant*; a hypothetical idea, which is receiving no small countenance from a recent vague conjecture that the cholera morbus itself is generated by *animalculissima*: and from certain remarkable symptoms of this horrific distemper or plague, I fancy the notion is tolerably correct, and might be corroborated by a critical attention to the different pests that Moses brought from God upon the land of Egypt, where the Children of Israel were forcibly detained in bondage, contrary to the promise of Pharaoh to liberate them at a certain time — frogs, lice, flies, murrain, ashes and dust, which became boils: hail produced a pestilence, preceded by thunder and lightning, which

destroyed vegetable life in grass, barley, &c. :—locusts came next, in such swarms that even the trees were destroyed, and the whole land was covered with those ravenous caterpillars, the precursors of tangible darkness, and a conspicuous mortality among the first-born children and cattle of every Egyptian family. Such terrible visitations of vermin, as the concomitants of contagious and epidemic distempers among men and beasts, would probably have been oftener noticed in history, had they always been as perceptible as the seeming *dust* and *ashes* mentioned above from the Bible, which asserts that they produced boils; as the *psora*, *bestiola*, is supposed to cause the blotches of the itch; and the *tinea*, a grub, is equally suspected of creating that loathsome eruption on the heads of children, termed the scab, which is frequently cured with great difficulty, and, when repelled incautiously, is occasionally fatal. The *psora* is an internal taint, stain, or infection, from which few persons are entirely exempt; but it may perhaps be avoided, or mitigated in its virulence, by foster-lactation, which, though a great deal may be urged *pro et con*, must in many instances be adopted, either for the mother's or child's sake: it is, in fact, a regeneration *quæ lactat, mater magis, quam quæ genuit*, and may thus eradicate the *psoric virus* completely: whence one might account for the beautiful healthy appearance of rich people's offspring, who can afford to procure wholesome, respectable nurses, and keep them under their own inspection, for that purpose: but, alas! how seldom do these foster-children retain the natural advantages of their happy lot, in consequence of their

first salubrious nutriment! Their preposterous diet, for years afterwards, not only undoes the salutary effects of previous lactation; but, from the pies, pastry, and other indigestible viands they are encouraged to gorge, upon too many feast and festival days, a new source for *psora* is created, that sooner or later exhibits its malignant properties, in scrofulous, gouty, hypochondriac, dyspeptic, and such complaints, including the *tic-douloureux*, against which homœopathy is armed *cap-à-pie* with antidotes.

Those homœopathists, with Hahnemann at their head, who have hitherto been amazed at their own unaccountable success with one single medicine in the minutest possible doses for the cure of desperate complaints, will probably find in these pages a solution of the enigma, when they reflect on the lingual papillæ having nerves as slender as the finest filaments in a little spider's web; and that these, in common with other nervous ramifications, have each a concurrent sheath, filled with a cerebral or medullary matter, in which, through every branch, the *psoric* animalculissima may nestle undisturbed by circuitous *specifics*, even in the largest doses; while highly-attenuated *ones*, however diminutive, may operate directly on those sensitive organs that unite the spiritual and substantial atoms of man together, by a medium which, in its progress towards a more intimate union, eludes the most powerful microscopic pursuits.

Whenever I cast a retrospective survey on the nameless sensations running over every fibre of my frame since it has been affected with nervous dyspepsy,



nothing seems, to my mind, so plausible as the existence of swarms of animalcules in the most vital parts of our microcosm, which worry us into fits of *monomania* for its perdition; and it grieves me to add, that these supernatural instigations too often succeed, in spite of the struggles which the noblest souls are wont to make in self-defence and preservation. If homœopathy shall help to gain this victory alone, it will be a boon which ages of gratitude may attempt in vain to repay; and I feel a sort of confident inspiration in the fortunate results of Hahnemann's predictions, as well as in my own; nor is it quite impossible for my deferential conjectures to reflect some faint light on the luminary itself, that conveyed reason and truth from his Organum into my warm heart and head, at the very first glance. I have found the mode of taking the homœopathic powders out of papers so inconvenient, from a servant's liability to spill or take up some portion of them on his thumb or fingers, that I would recommend that they should severally be preserved in well-dried little glass tubes, properly corked; as in this manner every invalid could very commodiously help himself, without the loss of one atom, which in these minute doses is worthy of sedulous preservation. The eyes of imagination pierce much further than the most potent microscopic vision, that ever will be invented by man, can possibly accomplish: with them, a philosopher can feast upon meditation among the tombs of the mighty dead: with them, he can examine the ground-plots of the earth and the bottom of the ocean, with all the astonishing creatures of the deep, which no optical glasses shall

ever desery; nay, he can plunge headlong to the lowest pits of hell, where Satan is believed to preside in diabolical splendor, as the Evil One, who delights in nothing but atrocious deeds. On the other hand, the speculator is able to soar, on eagle's wings, over the highest pinnacles of the snowy clouds, or repose on the imaginary laps of their spotless valleys: he may even scale the celestial dome of the empyrean, and contemplate the ineffable glories of the Most High, seated on his throne of grace and mercy, in the very centre of the universe, round which the music of the spheres performs an eternal concert of grateful praise and reverential orisons.

One may well observe, in the language of Scripture, that we are fearfully and wonderfully constructed; but how much more marvellous is the creation of breathing beings not larger than a mathematical point, yet indued with the principles of vitality in greater or less perfection, according to their several necessities, during the short or protracted span of existence! Ridicule has been called the touchstone of truth; and the *risum teneatis, amici*, is too often brought forward as the unanswerable argument which is alone required to refute a new doctrine or hypothesis, however consistent both may be with evident inductions and their relative facts. I cannot help looking upon a horse (hoarse?) laugh, an insidious smile, a sly sneer, or an apish grin, as the appropriate arms and armour of ignorance and folly combined; being more handy than ratiocination, yet not so vulgar as abuse, or so ignoble as vituperative calumny—weapons that none but knaves would stoop to employ, or men rendered

desperate in defence of lucrative darkness and craft. The satire on two of our celebrated naturalists, who were made to dispute on the identity of fleas and lobsters, was a grand treat to those noodles who can do little beyond eating, and hunting for sport on any field; far less on the boundless grounds of natural history, which, if consulted, would inform them that the muscles of a flea's legs are so magnipotent in proportion to those of an elephant, that this huge beast, if equally strong in those elastic organs for a leap, would be nearly fit for bounding over the moon at one jump. In the human body there are not above 400 muscles, while in that of a large caterpillar 4000 have been discovered. Could a horse draw as heavy a weight, in the ratio of its size, as a flea, the potency of steam would be in less repute than at present; nor will the assertion, appear very incredible, that if the antediluvian mammoth had possessed the same vocal prowess, in the scale of its bulk, as that which the cricket exerts, thunder in those days beyond the Flood would have been liker the rattle of a war-drum than of the awful *Jupiter Tonans*, or of even that angel who "rides on the whirlwind and directs the storm" of celestial thunder, lightning, hail, and rain. Where is the entity that can, like the flea, spring 200 times its own length? and what other beast can boast of having 25,000 diminutive lenses in its head, but the *libellula* or dragon-fly? In short, the strength and vigour of minute animals greatly exceeds their corporeal *magnitude*, and increases according to the rate of its diminution; not unlike the same efficiency perceptible in the extremely-reduced doses of homœopathic

recipes, on which their virtues increase as their quantities are lessened; far below those of the allopathic practitioners, most of whom, when converted to the new mode of treating diseases, are apt to disbelieve its principles, and thus may counteract their auspicious results by administering double or triple the *quantum sufficit*, when they commence *secundum artem homœopathicam*: but they seldom continue to act long under this baneful delusion, whence the danger of injuring their patients alone immediately disengages them, and they become more prudent, and confident ever after in the potentiality of globules like pin-heads, and of powders less than a pinch of snuff. These minutiae have been frequently reiterated, to put my friendly readers on their guard against accidents, which otherwise might intervene to disconcert them on their *debut* in this regenerated department of their profession: and I here again refer them to the homœopathic authors, whose works are rather tardily becoming familiar enough both in London and Paris, but better late than never, that all the other European capitals may not eclipse, by their advanced progress in homœopathy, the two most civilised cities in the world; which ought rather to shed a gracious light on the metropolis of a barbarous or despotic state, than to receive so humane a lesson from such a quarter as St. Petersburg, Vienna, Berlin, or Naples, where Hahnemann's *Organum*, &c. have been received with open arms, and the cholera morbus has been cured and prevented much more prosperously by the means he and his followers recommend, than by the remedies in use among the French

or British physicians; which may be verified by consulting the intelligent Dr. Quin's Pamphlet on that subject, who is at present in London, and one of the most expert and zealous of all Hahnemann's scholars; on whose honour, veracity, and medical talents, Dr. Quin relies with implicit confidence; which makes me sincerely pray that his impaired health may be quickly renovated, and his valuable life long preserved, for the honour of the healing art, and the general welfare of the sick and afflicted in every clime.

Let me, in the true spirit of fraternal kindness, humbly entreat the incredulous and sceptical portion of my readers to peruse a chapter or two in natural history, on zoophytes, animalcules, worms, insects, fishes, amphibious creatures, and reptiles, that they may thence learn so many prodigies in the construction and peculiarities of the lowest beings in the animal kingdom as will reconcile their minds to the miracles of homœopathy, and the eccentric theories on which I have attempted to vindicate its precepts and practice to the utmost of my ability. Should future experiments or experience, however, demonstrate their futility, my labour cannot be altogether in vain; because it may set wiser heads than mine in search of the truth: and though this is affirmed to be at the bottom of a well, some profound diver may reach it, and prove whether the cholera morbus, &c. are caused by animalculisima or not. If the question be decided affirmatively, the *modus curandi* will become much more simple; if negatively, the sufferer's chance to escape will neither be better nor worse from a failure in this purely spe-

culative branch of homœopathy, by no means essential to its practical success. On worms, the naturalists have remarked that the majority are the inhabitants of living animal bodies, whose introduction is one of those inscrutable mysteries which will put the most intellectual investigation at defiance for ever:—I contend only for the fact, without asking why, or how, it exists. The intestinal *vermes* are said to have no nerves: worms, in common, have circulating vessels, but no heart; some even want heads, and enjoy no other sense than taste and touch: they are all very tenacious of life, and portions of their bodies that have been destroyed will afterwards be reproduced. The *polypus* connects the vegetable and animal tribes in an extraordinary manner, and seldom possesses locomotive faculties. The species of the hydra are multiplied by vegetation; one or two, or even more young ones, emerging gradually from the sides of the parent plant: and these young are frequently again prolific, so that it is not uncommon to see two or three generations at once on the same *polypus*: it may be cut, in all directions, into the most minute divisions; and not only the parent stock will remain uninjured, but every section will become a perfect distinct animal, which even when turned inside out suffers no material injury; for in this state, even, it will begin soon to take food, and execute all its animal functions; and when one is introduced by the tail into another's body, the two heads unite, and form but one individual. The hard *polypi* have been discussed before, as coralline *madrepores*: some of them are, nevertheless, more of a *medusa* or sea-blubber.

Those animalcules found in various liquids, or such fluids as have had animal or vegetable substances infused into them, are principally to be perceived through the aid of microscopes: the ancients, therefore, were totally unacquainted with this class of beings, many of which are most beautiful, viz. the *vorticella convallaria*, a transparent, elegant, campanulous animalcule, with a long tail or stem. The *racemosa* is still handsomer; and several small ramifications can be observed issuing from a single stem, each terminating by an apparent flower like that of a *convolvulus*: the whole is in the highest degree translucent, and the alternate contraction and expansion of the seeming flowers forms a highly curious and interesting spectacle. Next in order is the *trichoda sol*, a globe or ball with long diverging rays, which give it the appearance of a sun of the size of a small pin's head: it may be torn in pieces by needles or other instruments, and in the space of a single hour each piece will be apparently complete, and perfectly globular, like the original animalcule. The transmigrations of the insect tribes, through the *larva*, *chrysalis*, and *imago* forms, is another phænomenon in zoology, not less marvellous than what I have stated among the zoophytes; to which may be subjoined the periodical casting off their skins, till they attain the full size of their respective species. I recollect once in Bengal having found a cockroach in the very act of casting its skin; and having placed it under an inverted glass, the creature came out of its brown envelope with a cream-coloured coat, leaving the old one beside itself on the table; but in the morning,

having been a captive the whole night, this superfluous case had been all devoured, and the insect was changing fast to a new glossy chesnut hue, and was immediately delivered by me from its nocturnal limbo, where it certainly had managed to feast so far on its former self. The vast quantity of eggs found in the finny race is perhaps, amidst several other prodigies, the greatest, if true—that in a carp, 200,000 *ova* have been reckoned; and in a sturgeon, weighing 160 pounds, the enormous number of 1,467,500 of eggs. A large class in zoology comprises the amphibia, who can suspend respiration at pleasure, are able to bear a change of element with impunity, and endure a very protracted abstinence without any inconvenience, besides possessing the power of reproduction of new feet, tails, &c. when these have been accidentally destroyed, and the still stranger faculty of continuing to exert many of the animal functions even when deprived of the head itself, so very tenacious are they of vitality, under all circumstances connected with its final extinction. When the frog is in the tadpole state, before losing its tail, the circulation of the arterious and venous blood may be clearly seen, through a good microscope.

It would be endless to dive deeper here into the boundless wilderness and ocean of zoology, the serious contemplation of which alone might become the prolific womb of a thousand useful inventions; for I have long shrewdly suspected that mankind have acquired infinitely more knowledge, with all our boasted wisdom, from the brute creation than we ever taught them. Birds, beavers, and a variety of other beasts, began to



build long before the savage man had a roof to shelter his head from the pitiless storm; spiders, and still smaller vermin, set the example of weaving, spinning, netting, &c., previous to the existence of a single rational weaver or spinster on the globe; a tiny *nautilus* set his sails and plied his slender oars, and steered his frail bark over stormy seas, at a period when sailors were still unborn; now last, not least, do not we owe the very elements of human literature to the animal creation, which among them have, either individually or collectively, a distinct utterance of our whole alphabet, by some supernatural instinct, which nobody can well explain? yet I must candidly confess, that our reason has made the most of this and every thing else, when not debased by political crafts of the worst kind. Animals attain *per saltem* all the perfection requisite for their comfortable existence and self-preservation; while their lords and masters are impeded by the sordid laws of civil society, at every step they should otherwise venture to take, in a similar career. Nature herself is somewhat capricious in zoological arrangements; whence we see flying fish, swimming birds, aërial mice, foxes, squirrels &c., aquatic rats, horses and dogs, with a long string of *contraria contrariis* on one side; but on the other, a large collection of *similia similibus* will likewise be perceptible in dogs, jackals, foxes, wolves, lions, &c., in ducks, geese, swans, rats, mice, cats, tigers, horses, asses, and so on, till we arrive at apes, monkeys, ourang-outangs, black, brown, fair and white men, all subjected by inexorable fate to the rude hands of diseases and death, which we, the most rational of beings,

seem to invoke on our own miserable bodies, from heaven and earth. Can any one article of exalted luxury be more cruel and abominable than the far-famed geese distempered *livers* of France, carried to a monstrous size by a disgusting process, which should make a man's—far more a Christian's—soul sicken with disgust, whatever a Tudoric, Teutonic, or a Bourbonic sapient pig in gluttony might say to the contrary? Let those illustrious epicures enjoy their excrementitious morbid dishes at their leisure; for they can generate nought but dirt, disease, depravity, and despotism in their bowels, brains, and vital organs, to accelerate their own destruction, *in terrorem* of intemperance, for the public good. The vile mass so greedily gobbled up, with pastry and other poisons to boot, may be, after all, an animalcular *hepatic* deposit, so completely indigestible, that dyspepsy, hypochondria, gout, and such *psoric* disorders, must be the inevitable result. Should this horrific picture of hoggish excess deter honest citizens from its commission in future, my grand aim will thus be fulfilled, and homœopathy will be saved much unnecessary trouble, by the timely prevention, rather than by the cure, of chronic complaints. Many sages have stated, that Time destroys all things, not with tusks of his own, but with the almost invisible teeth or serrated jaws of different animals, which with tubes for suction, augers, gimlets, and borers, pierce and corrode in different ways the several matters that are thus exposed to perish by the slow mechanical operations of millions of puny entities, always at work for their own subsistence and other secret purposes of

nature, not only concealed from the eyes of men, but imperceptible hitherto by the best microscopes. Had the whole animal organs and secretions ever been as diligently examined as those of the sexual humors have been by Leewenhoek and others, while the whole body was preserved in a proper temperature for that purpose, it is not impossible that wonders equally great would have long since been detected; and if improvements continue progressive in the magnifying powers of glasses, mankind may yet clearly see the minutest ramifications of the nerves beset with animalculissima; nay, on the *retina* of the eye itself a tarantula in miniature, or some minuter spider, may be found skipping among its diminutive fibres, and in living subjects causing those troublesome spectral illusions denominated *muscæ volitantes*, which depend, in my opinion, more on simple nervous excitement from the pestiferous *elves* or sylphs which infest those organs, than upon gastric or mere intestinal irritation; but whether those infernal *devilkins* be blue, black, or brown, is beyond my ken, although tormented with them for two years past, and kept in the dumps by their diabolical pranks among the optic nerves and the whole congeries of those *sine-qua-nons* that preserve the clock-works or incomprehensible machinery in animal beings, and retain the intellectual and material component parts of man and beast in close and mutual contact and connexion for reciprocal salvation. The nerves may, inductively, be deemed the enigmatical main or hair springs of animated organism, as the active or passive communicators of electric fire, steam, fluid, or gas,

between the body, soul, and principle of vitality; somewhat similar to the spring of a watch, or any other complicated machine, whose motions are deteriorated in part, or totally destroyed, according to the degree of mischief inflicted upon their supposed *primum mobile*, the innate *vis movendi* whereof may be lessened and annihilated by invisible clogs in our microcosm, that, I conceive, are neither more nor less than the animalised atoms which have been held constantly up to view in these sheets. They are probably generated by foul air, indolence, and gross living of all sorts, including every description of beverage hurtful to the constitution, and the whole of those excesses in the flesh or spirit that can in any way affect its welfare. The wheels of any engine will turn languidly upon their axle long after the primordial agent has been debilitated by friction, accidents, or age alone; but the moment the links or chains which bind it to the subordinate rollers become disjointed or broken, immediate stoppage ensues, and the instrument ceases to perform its office till the injury be rectified, if this can be effected by mechanical dexterity. Now, we all know too well, and many of us to our cost, in pluck, person, and purse, that nervous affections tease some people to death, during a tedious very equivocal state of suspense between this world and the next; whereas the division or the bursting of an artery or a vein, the rupture of an essential *viscus*, or their total obstruction, suddenly deprives the most robust of all ages of life, by a painful exit, it is true, but still not half so tremendous as the dying daily by unperceived inches, with the internal consciousness

that, sooner or later, the existing malady must accelerate its fatal steps, which drive or lead the panic-struck patient to the grave, after being in purgatory, while alive, from ten to twenty, thirty, or even half a century of years.

One cheering sign of my eventual recovery at present consists in the successive disappearance of minor symptoms of dyspepsy, along with the *musca volitantes* which homœopathy is in the very act of charming from my visual orbs into the delightful Lake of Geneva, whence I trust in God and Hahnemann that they never will return, to haunt me with spectres of devils, ghosts, and such unhallowed things. His infallible powders have, through the direct interposition of the lingual nerves, or their anastomoses, reached the optical web of my sight, and conjured thence a swarm of entities that were perhaps engendered in the meshes of that invaluable organ, whence the soul herself looks abroad upon creation, and where she often may almost be seen with heaven in her eyes and tender feelings, from their silent tears.

When we reflect that the generative dust of vegetables is wafted by the air to impregnate others at a considerable distance or nearly in contact with them, we may readily imagine not only the minuteness of its particles, but the mysterious nature of their composition, if animated also like the sexual liquid emissaries on the momentous duties of procreation, or similar to the *dust* quoted from the Bible as the cause of a *living plague* brought down upon Egypt. Poisons, in general, operate through the alimentary canal; and were it not for the

intestinal ganglions and inosculation of nerves which abound in that long passage, it is likely enough that they would not be half so mortal as they commonly are, when very potent antidotes or expulsive medicines have not been seasonably employed to arrest their deleterious consequences on the sufferers; who will, in many instances, escape also by the mucous humour in the bowels, or the quantity of oily mucilaginous draughts hastily swallowed to sheathe the stomach, &c. from their deadly influence *en passant* to the *rectum*, by which likewise emollient aperient injections may be thrown up with singular benefit. How far poison may derange health, if absorbed entirely as venom and *virus* are, or whether it can prove evidently fatal if given thus in imperceptible doses, I will not yet venture to say; nor, on the contrary, to what extent these last, if taken by the stomach or *rectum*, would be destructive; though, when admitted through bites, incisions, punctures, &c., by the nerves, lymphatics, &c., nothing can well be more alarmingly noxious to the animal economy, or more likely to extinguish all its functions for ever. Whether homœopathy will attempt to introduce means or preparations from venom and virus, as prophylactics and curatives, in imitation of vaccination, and, on its own dogma, *similia similibus curantur*, is what I must not pretend to advance, till the whole subject has been completely sifted; but the probability is, that in due time trials will be instituted, to see how far this scheme might be a practical and safe enterprise on a grand scale. That several heroic philanthropists have ventured their precious lives in this

humane department of medicine is notorious ; but the beneficial results, if any, are as yet very ambiguous. Some bold speculator or theorist among Hahnemann's numerous adherents will, no doubt, become ambitious of prosecuting the experimental processes connected with the contagious and infectious virulence even of the canine rabies, besides proving the medicinal properties of uric calculi, gall-stones, arthritic chalk, ambergris, or such morbid depositions in animal organs, wherever they are found. Under the title of *bezoars*, they were anciently in great repute, and extolled as specifics in many dangerous disorders : they have, however, fallen into total disuse, unless latterly revived by the homœopathists on surer grounds than simple predilection in favour of their antiquity in the schools of Hippocrates, Galen, Avicenna, &c. There is ocular testimony that the hardest woods do not resist the sharp teeth or borers of some impalpable beings ; and if the word *honey-combed*, applied to cast cannon, be in the least synonymous with *worm-eaten*, one might hazard the notion that metals even succumb to the corrosive fangs of age, years, and weather, which engender myriads of atomical consumers, not only on the surface but in the very core of minerals, metals, flints, rocks, and solids of every kind : and, as formerly hinted, I continue to fancy the hardest of them all, the diamond itself, when reduced to imperceptible particles of dust by trituration *ad infinitum*, assumes volatile vitality, and, in this state of tenuity, might pervade the minutest ramifications of the lymphatics, nerves, and the nervous tunics even, which French anatomists call

*nevrilemme*, that is, *nerve-sheath*, where the malignant blue-devils, in the most dwarfish forms of *psoric* vermin, nestle, quite out of the reach of all the allopathic complicated and preposterous prescriptions levelled in vain against those nervous intruders, since the days of *Æsculapius*, by the two alimentary apertures, instead of the nearer, more congenial route followed by all the homœopathists with commensurate advantage. Optical contrivances are progressing, with such strides, that I hope to hear of all acids, alkalis, gases, liquors, elements, sulphates, &c., whatever may be their chemical denominations, exhibiting a large proportion of living matter in their composition; and that the rosy bloom of precipitations from morbid urine, as sandy and nebulous sediments, in a word, every variegated colour in secretory phænomena, will display more animation than has ever yet been conceded to them by the ancient or modern philosophers. When I discover, after a series of frosty days, myriads of winged creatures called into existence by a few warm blinks even of a wintry sun, all dancing after their invisible prey, I cannot help conceiving that living matter occupies all space, either in an active or a passive form: whence I conclude, that the cohesive diamond is, like many other creatures, in a torpid or sleeping condition, till called into life by infinite trituration, or divisibility by artificial means, to which the very nature of things is doomed by fate to submit; whence life, death, rest, motion, &c., are mere unavoidable changes of being.

In the flatulent colics which persecuted me for weeks after the white-mustard seed was discontinued,



a stone bottle filled with boiling water proved the safest remedy; and contrivances of this description might be made for the separate parts of the body, in the shape of a boot for the legs, and so on for the arms, back, &c., on the principle of hot-water plates for culinary uses, which, in cold countries, are looked on deservedly as great comforts for every individual's particular conveniency at dinner, &c. The topical dry fomentations here recommended would save many people from colds, and other evils connected with wet cataplasms, warm baths, &c., without being less efficacious in the dispersion of tumors, pains, aches, &c. Cutaneous frictions with flannel, flesh-brushes, the hands, or those manipulations termed *massage* in French, and *shampooing* in the East Indies, have all their several beneficial effects, and are not forbidden by the best homœopathists, on dyspeptics: they at least had the appearance of being occasionally favourable to me; and I would recommend them accordingly, as well as warm bathing, by way of clearing the pores of the skin: and hence, from the body's purity, the mind receives a secret sympathetic aid; the whole nervous filaments may thus be tranquillised for a while, which is one of the first steps on the tedious and dreary paths of recovery, that ought never to be wholly neglected. The mouth and teeth, likewise, are objects worthy of due care, not only to preserve the breath as sweet as possible, but to obviate the accumulation of tartar or gum pustules, which often tease valetudinarians and bed-ridden patients during the whole course of their illness, and thus derange the whole interior of that important

organ to convalescence, by fostering the multiplied bad tastes, from which the sick persons have to bear many very unpleasant sensations, not easily described to, nor conceived by, people in sound health. After each meal, every morning and evening, also, a slight washing, gargling, or rinsing the tongue and throat, is a most cleanly and wholesome office, that soon becomes habitual, and should seldom be omitted by those who are determined to lend homœopathic remedies every aid in their power to boot. On the same principle, as the new practice of physic disclaims the use of aperients nearly *in toto*, which at first is rather detrimental when obstinate costiveness has become a predominant sign of the primary disorder, it is absolutely requisite to recur to clysters as the only and safest substitutes, every second day at farthest; otherwise a baneful accumulation of fæces is apt to throw the whole animal economy out of order, and may afterwards be attended with very serious derangements in the alimentary canal and other viscera intimately connected with its various functions; but to avoid the mischiefs of too warm or too stimulating injections, only a proper quantity of water, moderately heated, should be employed, and never repeated at the same time, unless unavoidable, by the first essay proving altogether abortive. The very best of the latest contrivances that I have yet seen for this troublesome operation fall so far short of perfection, as to fatigue a feeble invalid unnecessarily; and he is, moreover, exposed to catch cold, with a relapse into other distressing symptoms which are commonly superadded to this accident, and

thereby aggravate the whole disease, already intolerable, by a constipation which naturally produces *hernia*, and renders a bad-enough complication still worse. Here, again, the rupture-bandages will admit of great melioration; and, notwithstanding the numerous efforts recently made in this branch of the profession, the whole extant, which have fallen under my notice, are too cumbersome and unhandy for constant application: besides this, they press inconveniently on the adjacent parts, which, in long journeys, are obnoxious to inflammation, and sometimes to subsequent gangrenes, that terminate in death; to say nothing on the obstructions which clumsy trusses may cause to alvine and urinary excretions, when awkwardly worn in hunting or violent exercises of any sort.

Writers in different æras and climates have stated the sudden fall of dusty showers, independent of those which accompany distant volcanic eruptions, of different colours; and that some of these drizzling fogs, especially when they showered upon snow, resembled minute reddish animalculæ, which, had they been scrutinised by an expert microscopist, would have proved as much living beings as the mites of a rotten cheese or tooth, or the swarms of *lice* that issue from an unfortunate wretch labouring under the lousy distemper, in whom their *nits* must not be more obvious than the *psoric* worms and similar entities, or even the conjectural broods with which I have colonised the nervous sheaths and capillary tubes, that preserve a direct communication between the substantial and the spiritual energies of animation in all

its multifarious forms. The infinities of numbers, quantities, sizes, motions, space, matter, existences, &c. are utterly undefinable with adequate precision in their progressive degrees, from entities to non-entities, from visibles to invisibles, from perceptibles to imperceptibles, from conceivable to inconceivable, from mathematical points to the universal whole, even with all the mighty assistance which the ablest artist could furnish; for although the extremes of many things, classes, and states, in the three natural kingdoms, frequently meet, still their intermediate links glide so imperceptibly into one another, that nobody can well fix his eye, finger, or mind, upon the actual origins or ends of any given object, any more than can be done with a circle, real or imaginary. A thousand, aye millions of prodigies in nature and art may become quite familiar to our successors, some hundreds of years hence; who will then, of course, marvel as much at our ignorance of matters revealed to them through intervenient discoveries, as we do now at our ancient forefathers' unconsciousness of any animals smaller than a mite, and of other innumerable objects infinitely more momentous to their health, happiness, and comfortable existence. The rapid transition from death to life, in mortifying masses, must often have struck the most thoughtless observer of the decompositions which may be noticed wherever we direct our sight, particularly during sultry weather in the torrid zone, where to perish by gangrene is, in other words, to become alive or *resuscitated*, in myriads of separate forms, from the most lovely parts of animal creations, to their ordure

in its filthiest stages to putrescent annihilation. A maggotty man is a person whose brains are supposed full of maggots or white devils in his head quarters: an individual among the *Scots*, with a bee in his bonnet, may be reckoned a fellow having a black, brown, yellow, or red demon, if not a hive of them, in his upper story, which drive him half mad; a hypochondriac possessed of glowworms in his guts, called muligrubs, has, in fact, a store-house crammed with grey imps, which throw him into a brown study or the fidgets, as he may happen to be at the time more or less morbidly nervous: he who is said to be hair- or hare-brained may have capillary *anguillulae*, viz. *eel-vibrios*, in his pate, like those of a similar species which live in *acid paste*; or a kind of March-hares in embryo may be snugly lodged upon the *dura mater*, as so many minute bugbears, capable of rendering those people possessed of them equally capricious as a wild kid on the top of a high rock.

In days of yore, we have holy testimony that not only human but irrational beings were haunted by incarnate spirits, that required a sapient exorcist to dislodge them from their victims, into the Red Sea, or some more appropriate place for their reception, such as the famous herd of swine mentioned in Scripture. Persons labouring under extraordinary maladies, during the dark ages, were supposed to have been bewitched by miserable old and poor magicians of both genders; and these last were generally, on mere suspicion, condemned to suffer the most cruel executions, by the divine right of judges to order them as by laws

established, of which our own evangelical faith formed then, and at present also, a sacred parcel or part; though they cannot now avenge the torments of hypochondriacs, demoniacs, dyspeptics, &c. upon innocent individuals, because Satan's invisible world has long since been unmasked, and will speedily be demolished entirely by homœopathy, in the hands of Hahnemann and his enlightened pupils, all over the globe.

It has before been noted, that the etymology of diseases may lead to their origin: thus grubs, maggots, worms, tick, tic, tac, tique, chique, *tinea*, *psora*, &c. are the component particles of mulligrubs, ringworms, tic-douloureux, and so on: among them, the West-Indian chiger or *jiger* is the most conspicuous, as a dwarf flea not one-tenth the size of the common domestic race, but infinitely more mischievous: this tormenting elf buries itself in the sole of the foot, and in every one of the toes, where it penetrates with an itchy pain like the gentle prick of a fine needle, continues a day or two at rest, forming, however, a small bag where it deposits thousands of eggs, which, if not cautiously extracted by the point of a small penknife, causes the part affected to swell and inflame to a painful degree, which, bursting, discharges an immense breed of young ones, which soon afterwards invade the whole foot, and render the poor negro unable to rest at night or work in the day, till at last he becomes a useless member of society, and often continues incurable during a long life, from the mines, trenches, and countermines that this diminutive flea works through the fleshy portions of both the feet. *Tac*, in French, means the rot; *tic*,

a bad habit; *tique, chique*, the insect in question, of which the reader has doubtless concluded that he has already seen more than enough. One set of intestinal worms, from being always found in the substance of other living animals, are designated, by the French naturalists, *entozoaires*, divided into several classes and species, whose singular conformations and places of abode are the real causes of their exact classification by Cuvier, Dumeril, &c. who enumerate some strange phænomena peculiar to each subdivision, composed of *ascarides, dragonnea, crinon, tenia*, and *helminthes vesiculaire*. These last are never found but in vesicles, sacs, or *cysts*, among the purulent or caseous matters which they contain, but the others may be met with in a variety of situations; sometimes between the teguments and interstices of the liver, spleen, or other vital organs, perhaps within the cerebral sheaths of the nerves themselves. Certain symptoms denote the presence of these animalcules, more or less developed, according to constitutional circumstances. The most ordinary are, a disgust for some aliments, excessive but irregular voracity, hiccough, troublesome salivations, nausea, gaseous eructations of a peculiarly sour odour, sometimes even acid rejections from the stomach, rumbling noise in the bowels, colics, looseness, tenesmus, a species of tympanic swelling of the abdomen with very little if any real pain, a teasing ringing in the ears, prurience in the nostrils, a small dry cough, the countenance livid, the eyes surrounded with black and blue marks, grinding of the teeth during sleep, &c. &c. Several of these symptoms are common to

wormy children; there are others among them equally so to dyspeptics; which goes far to shew how similar causes produce similar effects; and that these may frequently be living creatures, instead either of gastric secretions or crudities in the *primæ viæ*, particularly when the nerves are in a highly-morbid state of irritability. Without wishing to contest the palm of victory on this theme with the phrenologists, it is possible that the strange and unaccountable propensities evinced by certain persons to steal, to murder, or to be guilty of other enormities, may be owing to the existence of *psoric* nits and mites in their vitals; which may also be the source whence clammy, musty, dusty, fishy, metally, excrementitious, and such abominable tastes, that are in fact inexplicable, affect the tongues and mouths of dyspeptic patients, so as to make them lothe, not only their victuals, but their lives, *pro tempore*. When the nerves or muscles are the habitations of noxious vermin, many convulsive affections will be the consequence; namely, *St. Vitus's dance*, the *tic-douloureux*, *risus sardonius*, epilepsy, &c.—a maggot of mine, at which scoffers may try to laugh me to scorn, till they advert to the prodigies of daily occurrence in the surgical art, not less incomprehensible. I have been assured by a gentleman of honour and veracity, that, last year, an eminent surgeon of London extracted from an inflamed tumor on the shoulder of an invalid a huge living centipede; but how, why, when, or whence this venomous reptile got there, no one could tell. In every age and place, innovators, reformers, regenerators, theorists, and similar well-wishers of their fellow



men, have been laughed at by fools, knaves, and ignoramuses of all sorts and sizes; nay, lashed, imprisoned, or legitimately murdered, by Church and State, or by despots who comprise both in their own ferocious bellies: the examples are too numerous and notorious for detail in this Address.

Gentlemen! A writer in raptures with a *Nostrum*, even which has all but completely cured him of a horrible complaint, may almost be pardoned for a rhapsody such as this; and which he respectfully terminates with the trite quotation—"Si quid novisti rectius istis, candidus imperti; si non his, utere mecum;"—while signing,

Your benevolent and obedient servant,

JOHN BORTHWICK GILCHRIST.