

**A second address to the owners and agents of coal-mines : on destroying the fire and choke damp in confutation of two pamphlets, lately circulated in the neighbourhood of Newcastle / by Thomas Trotter.**

### **Contributors**

Trotter, Thomas, 1760-1832.

Dewar, Henry, -1823. Letter to Thomas Trotter, M.D.

Trotter, Thomas, 1760-1832. Proposal for destroying the fire and choak-damp of coal-mines.

### **Publication/Creation**

Newcastle : Printed by Edw. Walker ... : Sold by all the booksellers in Newcastle, Shields, Sunderland, and Durham; and by Longman, Hurst, Rees, and Orme, London, 1806.

### **Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/yn89ykry>

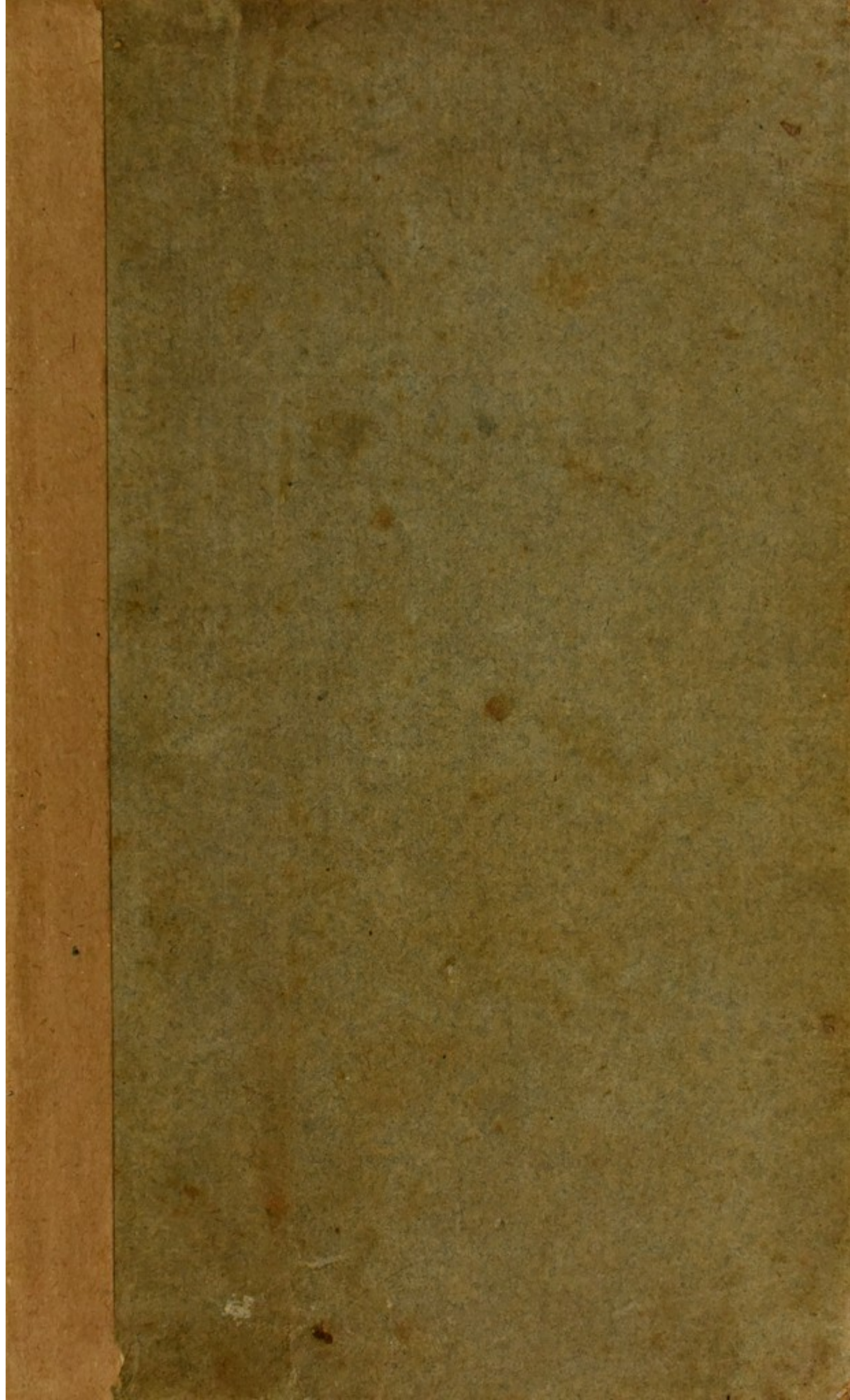
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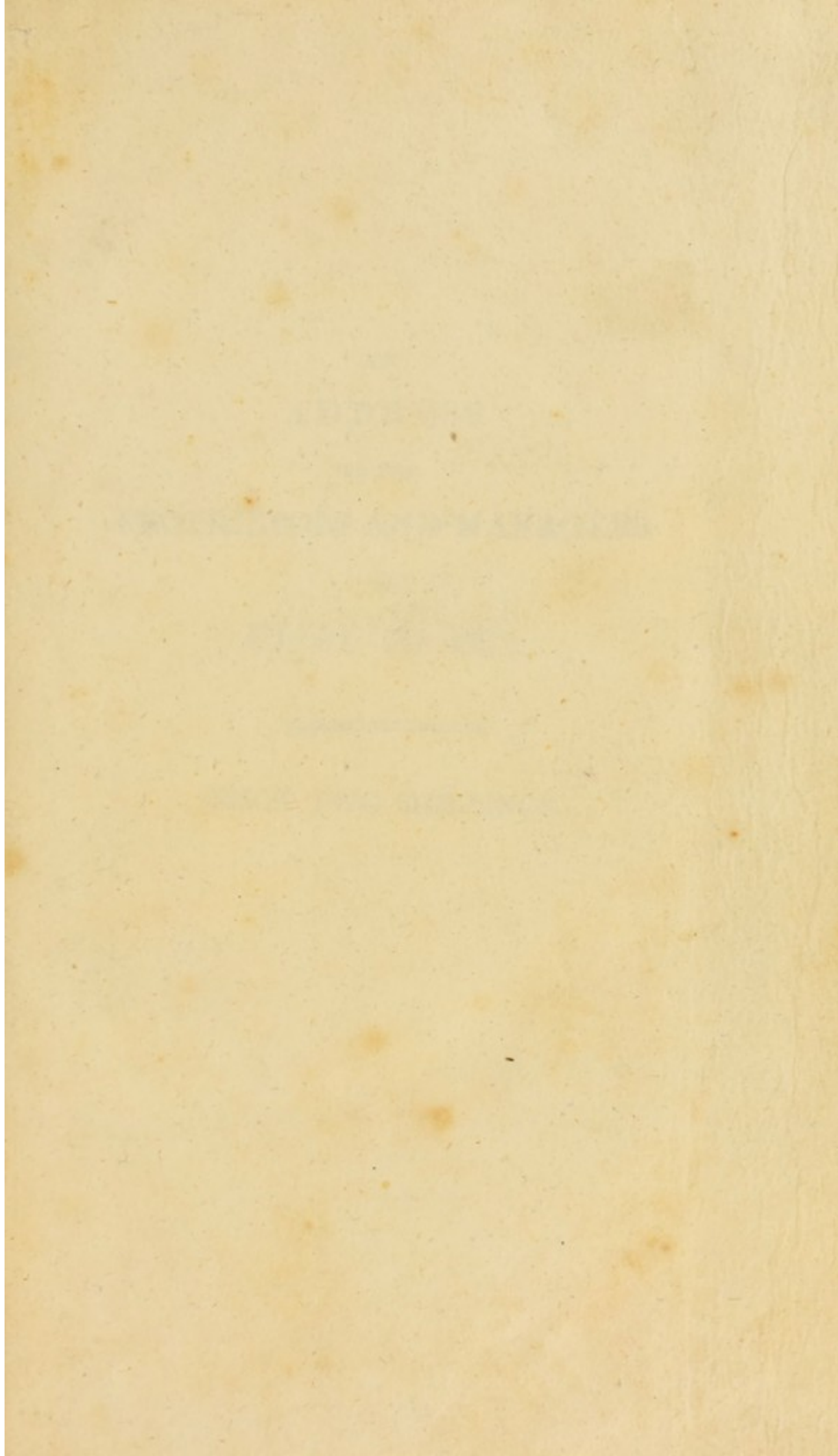


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SENTERY, particularly as these diseases appeared  
in the British Campaign of Egypt in 1801.

2. DISSERTATIO MEDICA INAUGURALIS  
DE OPTHALMIA ÆGYPTI.



A  
SECOND ADDRESS

TO THE  
OWNERS AND AGENTS  
OF  
COAL-MINES;

ON  
DESTROYING

THE  
*FIRE AND CHOKE DAMP.*

IN CONFUTATION OF TWO PAMPHLETS, LATELY CIRCULATED IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF NEWCASTLE.

---

BY THOMAS TROTTER, M. D.

LATE PHYSICIAN TO HIS MAJESTY'S FLEET, &c. PHYSICIAN IN  
NEWCASTLE.

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"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy Neighbour."

---

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PRINTED BY EDW. WALKER, PILGRIM-STREET;  
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1806.

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## SECOND ADDRESS, &amp;c.

TO THE

OWNERS AND AGENTS OF

COAL MINES.

GENTLEMEN,

IN the month of October last, I did myself the honor of addressing you, on the subject of destroying the *fire and choak damp* of coal mines; to which I was induced by the following circumstance:—In the course of my attendance on a sick friend, I happened to pass the church-yard of Jarrow, at the time that *thirty-two* pitmen were committed to the grave, who had been killed at Hebburn colliery; who left wives and children, to the number of 105. Impressed with the solemnity of the scene, at my return home, I sat down to commit some thoughts to paper, on the prevention of these accidents; and I intended to communicate them to you through a Newcastle Newspaper. But when I came to inform the editor of the Tyne Mercury of my



intention, I learned that my essay was too long for such a channel of intelligence; and was urged to print it by itself, as likely to be acceptable to all concerned. Fully aware of the imperfection of my undertaking, after some hesitation, I at last consented, and 250 copies were thrown off, as being deemed sufficient for sale, and paying the expence of printing. A few were sent to Messrs Longman and Rees, my booksellers, in London, with a request to insert it in their catalogue, but by no means to incur any expence in publishing.

Such a field of observation being entirely unoccupied, and free to enquiry, it could not be deemed an improper subject for a physician in Newcastle; and if it should excite others better qualified than myself, from local knowledge, my labour could not be lost. A physician in actual practice, therefore, could not come before you in a questionable shape. I can have no doubt but you will do me the justice to say, that on the occasion, I did not intrude upon your privacy by any personal application; nor did I tamper with your workmen, as a



hot-headed projector, in order to give importance to my proposal. The whole was left to your discretion, to be tried or rejected as you might think proper.

The composition of my essay being wholly unpremeditated, and not intended as a treatise on the chemistry of coal-mines, I conceived it sufficient to preface my plan of prevention by a few general remarks, that might neither fatigue your patience in the perusal, nor disgust you by pedantic technical expressions. Had I suspected *a snake in the grass*, it might have been prudent to refresh my memory by looking over any modern chemical author; for it does not appear that any blunders were committed that could not be corrected by half-an-hour's reading. Having therefore attached no confidence to my proposal, beyond the conscious pleasure of wishing to ward off a severe affliction incident to your miners, which since that time has been repeated with accumulated horrors, I felt little disappointment that no experiments had been made by your directions. I have, however, been informed, that a respectable philoso-



pher\* in this town, always ready to serve the arts in his neighbourhood, has mentioned my work in his useful lectures, in terms of commendation; and it is some proof that my studies have been employed in the cause of humanity and virtue, though without the desired success.

Notwithstanding the oblivion to which my labours were consigned in this district, the merits of my essay have been subjected to a fiery ordeal in a distant county, and have given birth to *two pamphlets* of most extraordinary complexion and character. That an ephemeral production, written on the spur of the moment, and intended for the circle of a provincial newspaper, should have called forth two authors to pour out their criticism to the length of 99 *pages*, is an event scarcely paralleled in the annals of philosophy. It has thus acquired a degree of importance which it never claimed for itself. The first of these publications bears the name of "*A friend to rational schemes of improvement.*" The other is

\* The Rev. W. Turner.



subscribed, "*Henry Dewar, M. D. one of the Physicians to the Manchester Infirmary.*"

They carry in their face the marks of being sister productions, *qualis decet esse sororum*: it is evident they have been written in concert, and most likely owe their birth to Manchester.

What were the motives of these authors it would be difficult to discover. I have been frequently asked, if this "*Henry Dewar*" is a person with whom I had any quarrel in the public service of the country, his remarks bear such signs of personal enmity and revenge? But it so happens, the name is utterly unknown to me; nay, there is even some suspicion that it is not a real signature. From the physicians of Manchester, I have often with others, received much solid instruction, particularly from the elegant pens of Doctors Percival and Ferrier; I have also enjoyed some agreeable hours in perusing the fine disquisitions on literature and the arts, that are to be found in the transactions of that society. But here is a falling off indeed, that discovers at once, both moral and intellectual



degeneracy ! As it is not held a law in authorship that every writer should defend his own works ; I address you a second time, for the purpose of convicting this malignant *Duumvirate* of wilful and deliberate *falsehood* !!!

It has been said that these productions were written at the instigation of certain persons in this town or near it. But I have no such belief ; and were it true, they must be unworthy of notice. Conscious of having given offence to none, nothing could justify a retort so flagrant and vindictive. It is creditable to the *press* of Newcastle, that this venom did not issue from it : it is honorable to the medical profession in the neighbourhood, that no man could be found vile enough to disturb the peace of his brother, in the performance of a benevolent duty. And I am sorry to see Mr Charnley's shop made the medium for circulating this mass of personal invective and injustice ; for he cannot be ignorant, that my attempt at saving the lives of the poor pitmen from those dreadful explosions, proceeded from the



most pure and disinterested intentions ; at a time too, when a fresh catalogue of deaths,\* has attracted the commiseration of the surrounding inhabitants. It now appears that near a hundred human beings, and double that number of horses, have been destroyed in the last nine months ! Are these accidents of such small account, that the man who attempts to prevent them is to be persecuted for his labour ?

Although I have said that these *pamphleteers* bear a family likeness, they have nevertheless, agreeably to a *preconcerted mode of attack*, come forward by different routes to the charge. The "*Friend to rational schemes*" only supplants conjecture with conjecture : he is a palpable sophist, but a gladiator in disguise, and descends into the *arena* but when he expects to find his combatant asleep. *Hic niger est, hunc tu Romane caveto.* To "*Henry Dewar*," the mean task seems to have been assigned to asperse me with low abuse. Such a task is indeed not ill adapted to his sensibility. But mark

\* Ten men and thirty horses at Killingworth, besides injuries to many more.



the libellous tendency of one of his paragraphs. "Your errors," says he, "are of sufficient magnitude to justify an explicit avowal of disapprobation from any reader who has at heart the *interests of humanity and science, and the respectability of our profession.*" This writer has been accustomed to measure the feelings of others by his own coarse sensations; and I am in hopes when you know me fully, you will view this sentence as flowing from a corrupted source, or the dictates of a gloomy misanthropy. I bless the HAND OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE that I have been raised to a station that exposes me to the rancorous hate of a mind so vindictive and wicked; for applause from such a quarter would be little short of infamy. "*Wo shall be unto thee when all men speak well of thee,*" (St Luke.) I am thus saved from this curse of the New Testament. I ought to be proud indeed in reading the paragraph. That man must have some hold of the affections of mankind who becomes the object of such unqualified and superlative abuse: he must have some right to the reputation of an



honest physician, whose studies could draw forth such unprecedented outrage ; for vice and insignificance find a smoother passage through the croud. Hail ! ye naval worthies of the age ! ye HOWES and NELSONS of the day ! one moment's reflection on your illustrious friendships, more than repays me for an eternity of such censure ! We here perceive the politeness which is due to a stranger ; the delicacy usually observed when speaking of character, alike held at defiance, and incapable of restraining the fury of a malicious temper. The whole expressions have no fellow in English medical language. This man betrays the disposition of a philosophical Bacchant ; a soul tormented with jealousy and spleen even to delirium ; at least his disquisitions appear to have been composed during the *Saturnalia*.\* No species of self-sufficiency is so disgusting, as when a weak and insolent critic affects the prerogative of dispensing or denying literary honours. In a style not more decorous, he goes on for 50 pages,

\* A festival at Rome, when the drunken slaves were accustomed to insult their superiors.



and then with unrivalled effrontery congratulates his *fine feeling*, that he has not had “*recourse to sly insinuation or low scurrility ! !*” It would be indecent to offer a comment on such pitiful effusions of ill-nature.

In my proposal, when speaking of purification in general terms, I have said, (p. 23) “Even this neighbourhood has lately heard contagion discussed in a new style, without much edification.” And in p. 32, I have used the following expressions: “Sordid and selfish indeed must be the tenor of life in that professional man, who can traverse the acres of this neighbourhood for daily bread, and not do one kind action gratis; or sometimes cast one sympathizing look below, to those industrious miners who toil amidst darkness and dangers, whose labor gives the first spring to that commerce which is the best nursery of our seamen, and which brings back to the shores of the Tyne and the Wear, wealth of incalculable magnitude.”

By a perversion of an author's sentiments, not commonly employed by liberal minds,



the paragraphs just quoted, are said to be an attack on the "*posthumous reputation*" of a physician lately deceased. Nay, "*Henry Dewar*" is polite enough to acknowledge, "If you had not indulged in that unnecessary and highly unmerited reflection on his public labors, it is probable that you would not have been favoured with the preceding observations." What a loss the world might have sustained had my words not been misconstrued! That is to say, this *immaculate production* might have still slept in the brain of its author, and rotted like a weed by Lethe's strand. Fortunate delivery! Rejoice ye heavens, and be glad O earth! *To triumphe!* But I *solemnly deny* to have had any person in view in either of these sentences: and I boldly say, that none but men who are adepts at misrepresentation, and for a hellish purpose, could ever have drawn the conclusion. They have thus hyæna-like, the foulest beast of prey, not been satisfied with carrion above ground, but have despoiled the sepulchre to glut their voracious maws. It may be now hoped they will permit the



the ashes of their friend to rest in quiet, after this sacrifice of truth and discretion to his manes!

The true inference that ought to be made of the first quoted sentence, is, that the popular discussion of contagion, which happened at Newcastle four years ago, had so alarmed the minds of the inhabitants concerning infectious fevers, that when a *typhus* appeared in 1803, it excited a dread equal to the plague itself. And it may be still in memory, that but for the active measures taken by Thomas Smith, esq. who was then mayor, to quiet the fears of the neighbourhood, *the trade of the port must have been suspended for a time.* Now what had an allusion to this subject to do with a "Collection of papers on infection," or the "posthumous reputation" of any physician. I was in Newcastle during a great part of this dispute, and it is well known I never interfered, directly or indirectly, with it. And with respect to the other sentence, the very worst that could be said of it, is, that it was a *poetic flight* of a man who sometimes attempted to write



verfes, but was incapable of writing good ones. Laurence Sterne obferves, when a perfon wifhes to do his neighbour an ill turn, he can pick up ftraws fufficient under any hedge for the purpofe : and fo it has happened with me. Some gentlemen here, who heard of the objectionable paffages, had the curiofity to read my propofal, for the purpofe of finding them out ; but really could fix on no paragraph that bore fuch an interpretation. I may therefore, with confidence, give it as the opinion of this neighbourhood, that *no fuch meaning* has ever been entertained of any part of my effay. Thefe authors muft find it difficult to juftify themfelves in the eyes of good men ; a falfehood, it thus appears, had given birth to their publications, and fcandal has been the vehicle with which they have ferved them up.

But another topic equally foreign to the difcuffion, is alfo introduced by the "*Friend of rational fchemes.*" This man fays in p. 32, " Though I have no fhare *perfonally* or *remotely* in the *local politics* of Newcastle, &c." To what the author alludes I am at a lofs



to determine. What does he mean by the "politics of Newcastle?" I am acquainted with no "politics" here, but attachment to the king and constitution of the country. But as this writer bears the family name of a certain description of persons, who are remarkable for introducing the subject of politics into every debate, I the less wonder at the mention of it here. If I mistake not, his pen has been *dipped in gall*, on other matters of controversy beside the purification of your subterraneous demesnes. Perhaps also he may carry in his pocket a *new constitution* for the coal-mines; such a one as will teach you how to dig coal, instead of selling it. But you will naturally suspect every thing that comes from these "*age of reason men*;" *Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*, lest they communicate the family disease. If, however, in these harmless paragraphs of mine, I have stumbled upon the counter-sign of the *illuminati*, I am as innocent of having done it by design, as the infant that now sports round my chair. Such men I well know, are very apt to treat with contempt every thing that relates to corpo-

rations and establishments ; but no sectarians are more gregarious than themselves ; and when an affront, real or supposed, is offered to one of their order, *hinc illæ lachrymæ*, the whole corps fly to arms, and a thousand poisoned arrows are discharged in the dark at the aggressor.

Topics of philosophy have seldom been published without the proper names of the authors ; and I may be blamed for replying to an anonymous writer. But it ought to be remembered, that the assassin who points his stileto in the night is more dangerous than the open murderer. This man might have claimed the credit of modesty, had truth and benevolence guided his pen ; but under the mask of concealment he could better decry my proposal, and assert, what is false, that I had meddled with the posthumous reputation of his friend. Good nature and a charitable spirit are excellent ingredients in all the duties of life ; but they become peculiarly requisite, when we act as inquisitors on the conduct of our neighbours. If therefore bad passions mix themselves with our animad-



versions on the faults of others, we deservedly incur the contempt and ridicule of the liberal and intelligent part of the community. How far the officious criticism of the *Duumvirate* comes within this remark I leave to themselves :

Let those teach others who themselves excel ;  
And censure freely who have written well.—POPE.

The biographers of any man, must be driven to miserable shifts, who employ injustice and detraction against living characters, as vehicles for the panegyrics of their departed friends. Such fame is not to be forced upon mankind ; a good and lasting name is only to be purchased by personal dignity and virtue. It would have been generous in these redoubtable champions to have defended their client, when they saw him incapable of defending himself, though then in his usual health. I mean when he was *publicly* called upon, before a tribunal of science. To appear in arms when no hostility is intended, is worthy only of literary bullies. But I am not to be frightened from independence of

opinion, or scared from my purpose, because every doughty pedant will exclaim, *nil de mortuis nisi bonum*. In the whole contest, I never had any personal resentments to gratify; far less now; but I fully expect every honest physician to approve the conduct that openly resists tyranny, ignorance, and littleness of mind, whenever they convert the practice of medicine into an *inquisition*, or put innocence to the *torture* on a sick bed. These authors know to what I allude; *verbum sat est*. To have secured the good will of a *certain character*, by servility and tameness of spirit, was a task of too passive obedience for me. I love the exercise of my profession as much as any man living; but I have long ago resolved to make no dishonourable concessions to obtain its emoluments.

With respect to the points of chemical philosophy *sub judice*, my adversaries have proved nothing but their own malevolence and incapacity. The "*Friend to rational schemes of improvement*," attempts to throw discredit on my account of the *fire and choke damp* in coal-mines, but offers no



certain history of their composition; and after quoting and haranguing much, retires with the ignominious confession in his mouth, (p. 38,) that "*it is to be regretted no accurate analysis has hitherto been accomplished of the gas which constitutes fire-damp.*" Yet all chemical authors agree that it is *hydrogenous gas*; because though some portion of sulphur or carbon, may be mixed with it, yet hydrogenous gas is the *medium* or *solvent* which suspends them, and to which the explosion is owing. Where the sulphur is in large proportion it cannot explode, it only burns slowly with a blue flame; but the carbonaceous matter does not seem to lessen the explosion.

It is produced as an argument against my antidote, that it would convert *fire-damp* into *choke-damp*. But this must also be the case at present, as the effect of the natural explosions; which is not proved by competent authority. I have nowhere said that the *fire-damp* is identical with *hydrogenous gas*, as this author contends. To say that it is generated in these mines, "*probably in great purity,*" implies no

such meaning; and it behoved this controversialist to show, what are the precise ingredients in it, before he makes such confident assertions.

From all accounts it is agreed, that no measurement has yet been made of any volume of extricated *fire-damp* in a coal-mine. And to attempt to calculate on the mathematical certainty of its bulk, bespeaks rashness, not demonstration. All the reasoning therefore which this writer employs about the expence, is extravagant and inadmissible, for he has not made a *single experiment*! There can be no necessity for going further with the employment of the *superfaturated acid*, than to render the *hydrogenous* vapor incapable of explosion, so that the workmen might have time to retreat. It is probable a small sum might accomplish this desirable end.

The author is pleased to mention my *ignorance* of Mr Chenevix's chemical nomenclature. In truth, gentlemen, my object was to employ terms such as could make my subject most familiar to you. It would not have cost me much time, surely, to



learn ten or twelve phrases, which include all the substances spoken of in my essay. The mistake which I have made, on the comparative gravity between hydrogenous gas, and carbonic acid gas, and atmospheric air, is a mere lapse of memory ; not having consulted a single author on that, or any part of the subject, so that little merit can redound to any critic. But this writer excels in hyperbole. He speaks of the muriatic acid required for the process, being capable of rendering the water of a mine so acid, that no machinery could remove it. Now all this is mere calculation and conjecture ; he has not proved it by any trial. As well might it be argued, that the coal-trade should be stopt, because good fires consume the pure portion of the atmosphere. When he dreads the film being taken from his reasoning, he tries to frighten you by the prospect of expences : on the whole this *incognito* discovers the talents of a subtle disputant.

Having finished his remarks on the incompetency of my antidote, he takes a bolder flight ; and in p. 24 and 25, with a

levity bordering on impiety, impeaches Omnipotence itself. Does he mean by these inductions to fix bounds to improvement? Has the hand of the Deity left off working? Or has that power that bestows on the human mind its faculties and capacities ceased to exist? This man speaks as if nature was growing wearied and worn out, "*lassa et effæta*," and unfit to produce any thing more. Has this declaimer never been informed, that *gun-powder*, which can remove mountains of rock, and change the very face of the moral world, as recently done in Europe, is the invention of chemistry? You, gentlemen, are daily beholding the powers of the steam engine, which are a chemical process. And chemistry too has furnished us with the *iron-rod* that snatches the bolt from the thunder, in the very moment of threatening desolation. And yet this "sciolist in philosophy," tells you, that the instruments of "chemistry are of all those with which we are furnished, *of most limited power!*" If he is too cold-blooded himself to feel for the destruction of your workmen, it ill be-



comes him to insult the inquiries of others for their relief.

In exculpating myself as a physician, for having recommended to your attention, *a preventive*, that has called forth so savage an opposition, I must beg leave to inform you, that it is a maxim, as old as the profession itself, *anceps remedium melius quam nullum*; a doubtful remedy is better than none. My proposition is justified by a fact established in chemistry, that the muriatic acid, when highly supersaturated with oxygen, is capable of giving it out when in the state of vapour, to hydrogen gas; and thus combining with it, to render it incombustible. Now, this fact is admitted by both my opponents. By "*the friend of rational schemes*," in p. 15—18: and by "*Henry Dewar*," in p. 22. Neither the artful sophistry of the one writer, nor the vulgar malignity of the other, has been able to disprove it. While therefore in the present condition of mining, such severe disasters are frequently occurring, it is at least commendable to provoke inquiry on so important a subject; and from the signal discoveries which inge-



nious men have made in different ages of the world, there is no reason to despair but time may unfold an ample remedy.

That a scheme of such magnitude was to be brought to immediate perfection, is beyond the usual lot of human inventions. That it was to escape opposition, was as little to be expected: but to meet persecution was never foreseen. A train of fair experiments, and a dispassionate discussion, were all that I contended for. It does not disparage a physician that he is not a perfect chemist: chemistry, long ago, has been said to be a valuable handmaid to medicine, but a dangerous mistress. Even with all its improvements this is still the case. But after what you have seen delivered by these authors, in this medley of philosophy and slander, of criticism and invective, you will scarcely believe, that the *antidote*, which I recommended for trial, is *no other*, than what has been introduced lately, into a thousand sick chambers in Europe, as a *corrector* of contagion; and at this moment a French and English physician are contending for the credit of the discovery.



Now as it has never been held "ludicrous," to subdue a reigning pestilence, infesting a large district of country, by a parcel of pipkins emitting the vapours of the muriatic acid, supersaturated with oxygen; why is it to be so in the caverns of a mine against *hydrogenous gas*? But I contend further, that it is more rational to employ it against the *fire-damp* of a coalpit, because that process is supported by experimental chemistry; while its action on *contagion* rests on some fanciful theory of contagious matter, incapable of proof, or demonstration. If, therefore, a trial is found impracticable from local causes, that cannot invalidate the justness of the principle from which it was proposed.

But, gentlemen, you are also now to decide, how far the reproaches of these writers have been called forth, by a generous and manly interference for the safety of your servants and property, and how far they have sprung from the sordid motive of persecuting my writings and reputation. You observe one of the party so lost to the dictates of ingenuous shame, as to confess,



that he only appeared in the cause for the sake of revenge. In defending myself against an attack that has no example in medical discussions, you will allow that it is my duty, to dispute every inch of ground, with men who have attempted to despoil me of the rank I hold in my profession. \*

\* A Letter from Admiral Earl Howe, K. G. on resigning  
the command of the fleet.

*Grafton Street, May 7th, 1797.*

SIR,

It will always be matter of grateful reflection to me, that I was the means of nominating you to your present station. And I may justly congratulate yourself and the country, on the important changes which have taken place in the ships and hospitals by your advice and exertions; and the zeal and activity which have been spread throughout the service by your example. I am further to thank you for the communication of your work on the diseases of seamen, which I found on my table when I came to town. I do not think the retirement of a weak invalid like myself can effect your appointment, from which on all occasions I received such effectual co-operation. Inducing every sentiment of gratitude and esteem.

I remain,

SIR,

Your most faithful Servant,

(Signed) HOWE.

To Dr Trotter.



Although I have served upwards of twenty years in his majesty's navy, which include all the best of my days, and the half of that

From Admiral Sir R. Curtis, Bart. formerly captain of the fleet to Earl Howe.

*Gatcombe, 28th June, 1803.*

MY DEAR TROTTER,

I have read with equal pleasure, and the most satisfactory information, your last respectable work, and hope that every admiral and commander in the service will not only study that production, but all your others; and by so doing they will bid fair to have healthy ship's companies, the greatest of all blessings to the officer, and the most important object to the state. I freely declare that I think your labours for the preservation of the health of the seamen of the British fleet, were more essentially beneficial to the nation, than the most brilliant victory that was ever obtained.

I remain with great truth,

My dear Trotter,

Your sincere and faithful friend,

(Signed) ROGER CURTIS.

To Dr Trotter.

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NELSON and BRONTE.

*Merton, Jan. 7th, 1803.*

DEAR SIR,

I am much obliged by your letter of the 4th, informing me of your third volume, which I shall peruse with great pleasure. I know but little of what has passed at the admiralty;

time in the first medical appointment, you will not impute it as a discredit to me, that I have still to look to the practice of a physi-

and I shall be sorry to hear you have been neglected, after the very great obligations the naval service is under to you. I am sure I can never repay your kind attention to me at Plymouth.

With every good wish, I am, dear Sir,

Your friend and obedient servant,

NELSON and BRONTE.

To Dr Trotter.

---

Rear-Admiral Sir J. Saumarez, Bart. K. B.

“ I am sorry that your zeal and meritorious exertions, through which the lives of so many valuable men have been preserved, should not have met with due remuneration. You have however the consciousness of having contributed in an essential degree to the advantages the nation has attained over the fleets of its enemies, which to a mind like yours is superior to every consideration.”

---

Rear-Admiral Thornbrough.

“ I ever did, and ever shall think, that you have been shamefully neglected, convinced as I am that no man ever did half so much for the naval service of the country.”

---

Professor Hufeland, Archiater to the King of Prussia.

“ It is well known how much we are indebted to the



cian for the support of old age. You have seen enough in the present period to convince you, that a meritorious public life is

“ ENGLISH MEDICINA NAUTICA, for many improvements  
“ in our art. The present work is a new demonstration of it;  
“ and it unquestionably classes among the best productions of  
“ modern English medical literature, &c.”

Preface to Dr Werner's translation of MED. NAUT. translated  
by Mr Bell, late Pupil to Mr Abbs, of Newcastle.

---

The late Dr Currie, of Liverpool.

“ I admire the spirited manner in which you deliver  
“ your opinions, and truly lament the opposition, which your  
“ benevolent and patriotic proposals seem so often to have  
“ received. Yet you have effected a great deal, and you have  
“ smoothed the path to your successors.”

---

Dedication of Dr Luby's Thesis, Edin. 1803.

Thomæ Trotter, M. D.

&c. &c. &c.

VIR SPECTATISSIME,

In eligendo cui hanc dissertationem sacram esse vellem,  
diu harere nequivi; *tibi quomvis omnino ignotus*, accipias quaeso,  
hocce testimonium observantiæ et culturæ, quas conatus vestri  
felices ad artem salutiferam promovendam, quas integritas tua  
incorrupta, in munere honorabili et perquam difficili fungendo,  
quasque cura vestra paterna medicos erga ingeniosos, in classi  
regali occupatos, mihi in animo infigunt.

not to be measured entirely, by the quantum of a nation's money that is carried into retirement: my dependence on my profession will at least be a certificate that my department has not been polluted by speculation.

You perceive what a malignant glance this combined authorship darts at all my literary labours. Those labours I suppose are like most human productions, and have their failings. But I should pay a bad compliment to the authorities which I am compelled to bring forward, were I to

#### INSCRIPTION

On a service of *tea-plate* presented to Dr Trotter, by the surgeons of the fleet, at the conclusion of the late war; *signed by seventy names.*

DOCTORI THOMÆ TROTTER  
CLASSIS REGIÆ MEDICO PRIMARIO;  
MULTA DE PATRIA BENE MERENTI;  
HOC MUNUSCULUM,  
PIGNUS OBSERVANTIÆ SUMMÆ,  
CHIRURGI NAVALES  
LUBENTISSIME OFFERUNT:  
ET PUBLICÆ SALUTIS, ET PRIVATÆ AMICITIÆ  
TESTIMONIUM SACRUM ESSE  
VOLUERE.

1802.

*Five hundred more of similar testimonies are much at "Henry Dewar's" service.*



doubt of their having done much public and private good. They have been handsomely received by all that is respectable in medicine in this country, and have been translated into all the languages of the continent. And I console myself still more, when I reflect that the various arrangements for the health of seamen are ingrafted on the fine discipline of our ships, interwoven with the forms of our officers, and thereby entailed on their successors as a permanent good to the nation. These proofs not having been put in my possession for the immediate purpose, will plead the stronger in my behalf: and what may appear like *egotism*, will be forgiven, when slander of such magnitude has ventured to claim public attention.

It assuredly belongs to you, gentlemen, to encourage every investigation that is undertaken on proper ground to save your people from disaster; and as far as I am personally concerned, you cannot be indifferent to the manner in which I have been assailed in trying to do you a favour. After having contributed to save the naval



heroes of the country, it was an easy transition to direct my studies to the safety of your pitmen. For, if it can be demonstrated that ten thousand British seamen have been saved to the state, in every year of war, since 1794, by measures and doctrines of health, which originated with me, your property and commerce have been not a little increased and secured by my public professional duties. Besides the vigour and activity which all naval operations derive from these improvements, the ships of our merchants have seldom suffered of late for want of hands to navigate them. Long cruizes are not found in the present day, to render fleets sickly. Without new aids to health, it would have been impracticable for ships to keep the sea for four or five months; far less, for them to fight a heavy artillery as now done with such effect. I must therefore beg to observe, that you are bound by the ties of gratitude, to consider my cause as your own, and to treat with indignation the attempt which has been made to do me an injury.

The audacity of forcing medical men, or



medical opinions on society cannot be sufficiently reprobated. It is the privilege of families only, to select their own physician, surgeon, or apothecary. It can never be held delicate in medical gentlemen to thrust one another upon a patient; some sinister purpose is always to be suspected; it is a collusion to all intents and purposes. When a family has made the choice of its own physician and apothecary, it guarantees the integrity of the profession, and exonerates all advisers from a painful responsibility, should any untoward circumstance follow. It is not difficult to discover some plot of this kind among these late transactions in this vicinity.

Some of my well-wishers may perhaps think that such names as now appear in my favour, are superfluous against the authors of these pamphlets. But let me remind them, that regular battalions are frequently called out to scour a country of banditti; and though laurels may be denied in quelling a mob, the public safety is not less the care of a vigilant police. My friends have never thought

themselves better employed than when they shield me from oppression and insult. An enlightened and hospitable neighbourhood will always consecrate the retreat of the veteran who has fought or studied for his country in the hour of danger. And I trust they will not less regard the cottage of the physician who has contributed a share to the destruction of our enemies, and who carries to his retirement the good wishes of the whole navy. If then as a servant of the public I am intitled to a quiet habitation among you for the remainder of my days, let me also hope, that as a private gentleman I may look for your esteem.—Permit me now to consign my calumniators to the punishment of their own reflections. And I have the honor to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your devoted humble servant,

T. TROTTER.

*Newcastle on Tyne, July 27, 1806.*

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P. S. From the hope which I entertain that some of your number may have the



curiosity to direct a few experiments to be made in your premises, I am induced to recommend also a trial of the vapors of the *nitrous acid*. Saltpetre, put into a heated pipkin is decomposed by the acid of Vitriol; and the fumes rise up in a thick cloud, and attract the hydrogenous gas (fire-damp) that comes in their way, and annihilate it. This acid very easily parts with its *oxygen*, and is not liable to some objections which have been made against the oxy-muriatic gas. It was my intention at one time, to recommend this process in preference to the other, for they both act on the same principle.

T. T.

*F I N I S.*

NEWCASTLE:  
PRINTED BY EDW. WALKER.

[Ann]  
7  
A REPLY

TO

DR. TROTTER'S SECOND PAMPHLET,

RESPECTING

THE MEANS OF DESTROYING

THE

*FIRE-DAMP;*

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"AN ADDRESS TO THE PROPRIETORS AND  
MANAGERS OF COAL MINES."

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LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, 72, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YARD,

AND

E. CHARNLEY & SON, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

1806.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.



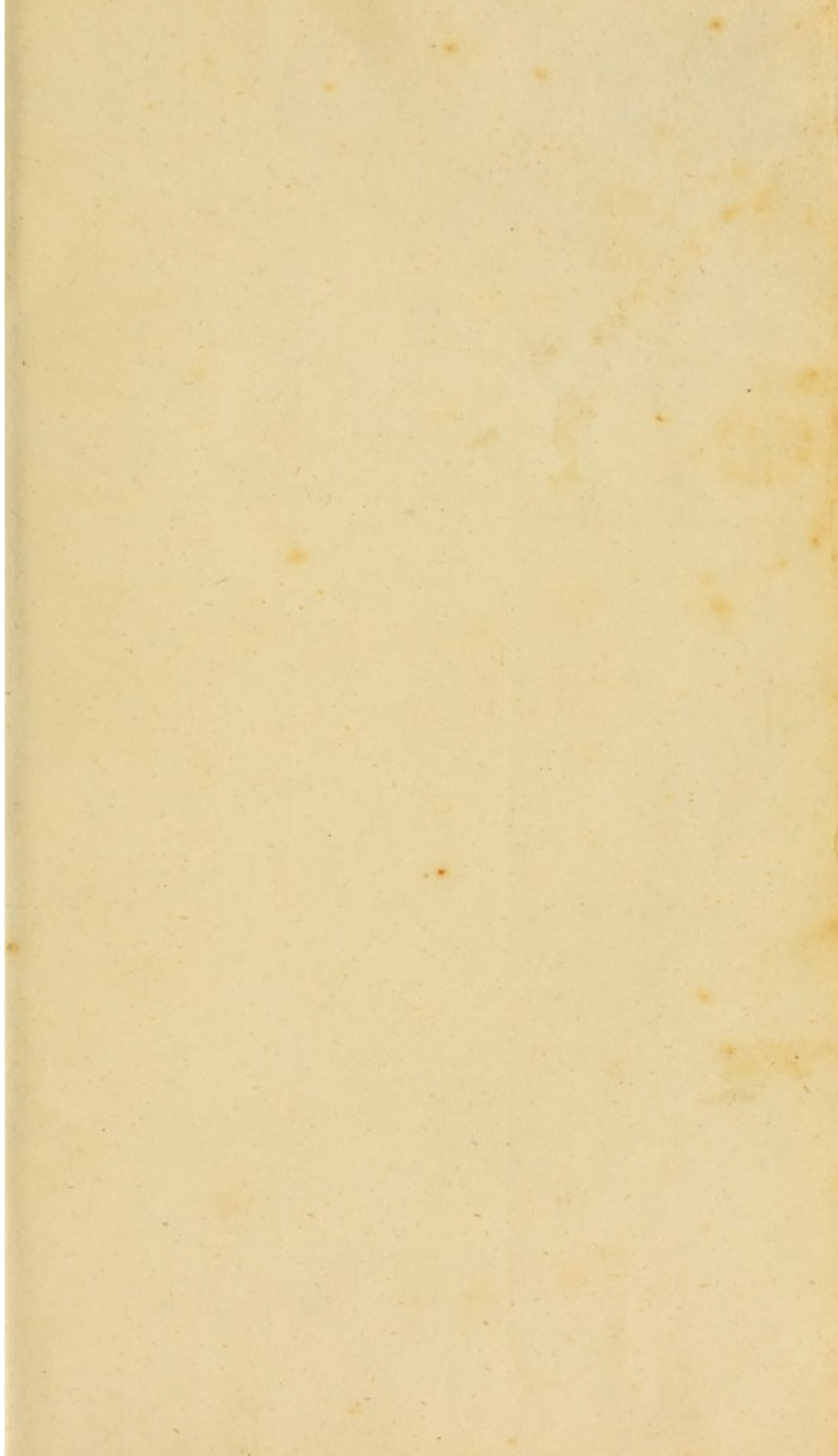
power, but from the explanation of the latter  
 it has necessarily extended to a greater  
 than was at first expected, which tends to  
 another point in the present time.—The an-  
 thor will be very happy to give any infor-  
 mation in his power to such as may wish for it,  
 on the subjects here treated of.

FINIS

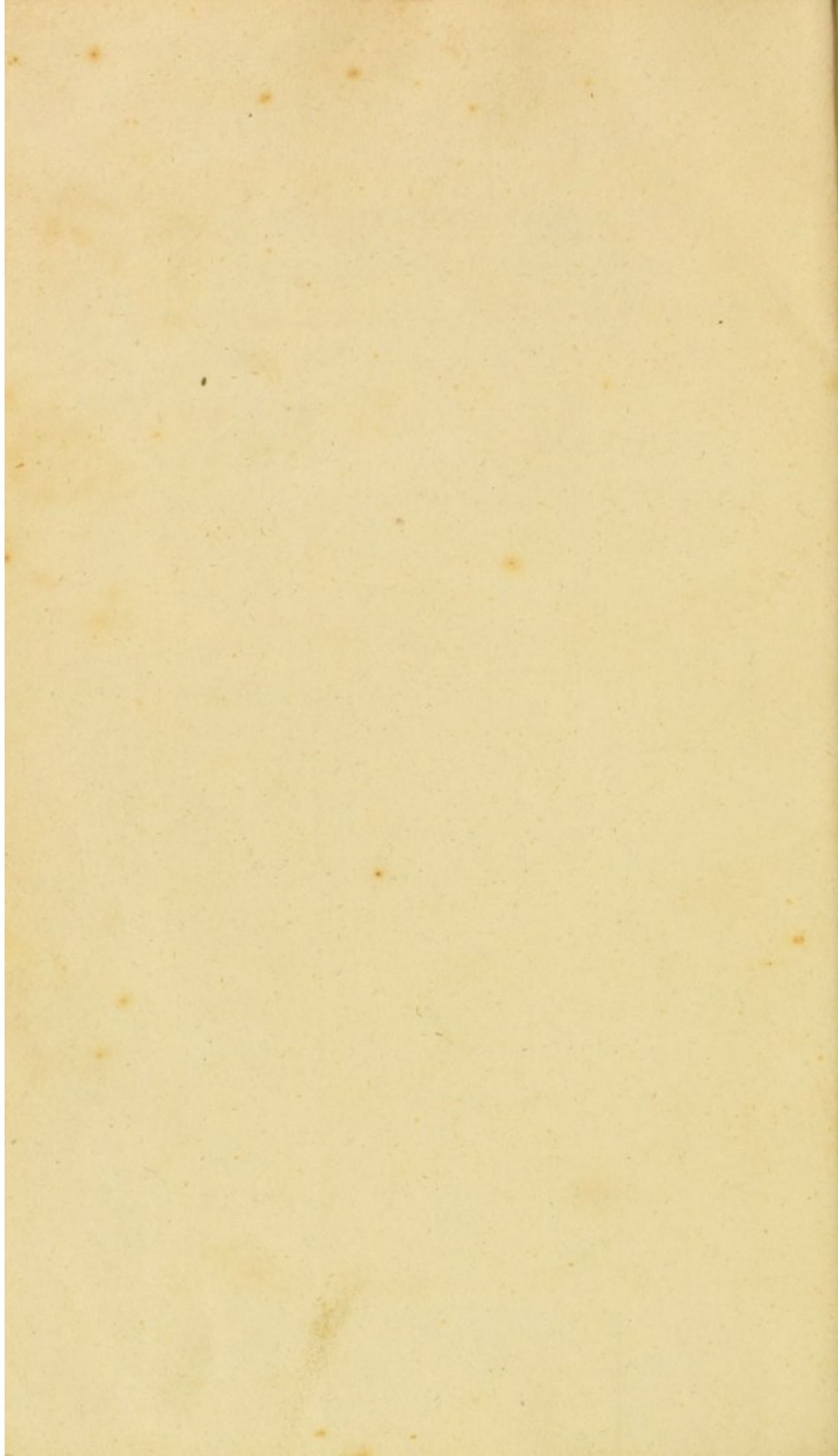
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Printed by J. B. [illegible] [illegible]

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