

Tract: A Complete Collection of the Papers respecting the York Lunatic Asylum published originally in the York Newspapers during the Years 1813, 1814, and 1815. Nil Desperandum (Editor's Copy) (1816)

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PAPERS RESPECTING
THE
Bork Lunatic Asylum.



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A COMPLETE COLLECTION
OF
THE PAPERS RESPECTING
The York Lunatic Asylum,

PUBLISHED ORIGINALLY IN THE
YORK NEWSPAPERS,

During the Years 1813, 1814, and 1815.

NIL DESPERANDUM.

YORK:

PRINTED AT THE HERALD-OFFICE; AND TO BE HAD OF
WM. ALEXANDER, CASTLEGATE;
J. AND G. TODD; SPENCE AND BURDEKIN;
AND THE OTHER BOOKSELLERS IN YORK.

1816.

PREFACE.

THE YORK ASYLUM contest has attracted general attention, and is of more than local importance. It is discussed by our reviewers and reported by our Legislative committees. It affords a lesson to the fearful never to despair; and may teach other old Governors, as well as the old Governors of a lunatic receptacle, that if they will oppose reform, they must submit to revolution.

Mr. Jonathan Gray's very excellent History of this Institution, is now in every body's hands. A clear outline of past transactions will be seen in that work, but the picture wants a finish; the minor parts are to be filled up; and what with him was a narrative, is here a drama; here the parties speak for themselves, for the most part it will be allowed, *con amore* and from the heart.

In this, as in most human transactions, effects appear wholly disproportionate to their causes. By Dr. Burgh, Mr. Mason the poet, and Mr. Withers, the reform of the Asylum was formerly attempted, but attempted in vain: they were always overruled and not seldom insulted.—What strenuous efforts fruitlessly combined to accomplish, a little volume, in which the Asylum was scarcely mentioned, has at once achieved.—I hardly need name Mr. S. Tuke's account of the Retreat.—Had this interesting work opened the eyes of the old Governors, the wonder would have been less: Instead of opening, it closed their eyes; the more there was to be seen, the less they would see—the more there was to be done, the less they would do.

Mr. Tuke's work operating on a suspicious and irritable mind, produced the letters signed EVIGILATOR: the public attention became roused—doubts and surmises were started; either confident in right, or daring in wrong, a general challenge was given; that challenge was answered; with what results it is needless to add*.

The "Description of the Retreat" was unquestionably the prime cause, Mr. Higgins an able and efficient medium of the explosion, but it was the *torpedo* of EVIGILATOR himself, which blew up his own Asylum.

S. W. Nicoll

* The challenge was answered chiefly by Mr. Higgins, in a statement of several cases of gross neglect and abuse. The public, interested by the previous discussion, watched with anxiety the conduct of the Governors. Their decision on the first case, that of Vickars, on the mere assertion of the servants, (the parties accused,) excited a strong feeling of indignation.—There appeared but one means of obtaining justice in the remaining cases. A number of gentlemen determined to qualify as Governors and enter the Court, on the day which was fixed for their hearing.—The Court was taken by surprise—The reform of the Asylum was sealed by this step.

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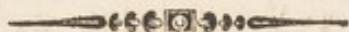
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Note.—The additional subscriptions, page 57 and 58, were published in the York Herald on the 9th of April, and the 23rd of September; the Report of the Quarterly Court on the 23rd of April; and the succeeding piece on the 20th of August.

COMPLETE COLLECTION, &c.



From the York Chronicle, Sept. 25, 1813.

Mr. EDITOR,

WHEN a vessel or a fort becomes the subject of attack, it matters not whether hostilities be carried on by storming, boarding, grape or shells, or by sapping, mining, catamaran, or torpedo. The intended effect is the same, and the same necessity exists for active defence. In like manner, when an attempt is made to injure the reputation and interests of any public body, or private individual, it is of little moment to the assailed party, whether the measure be accomplished by open libel, or masked insinuation. If no means of defence are employed, the mischief may be equal from either method; and it is therefore equally incumbent on the object of either species of attack, to notice and repel it.

The following brief statement will illustrate these remarks:

In an Account of the Quakers' Retreat for Lunatics, near York, published a short time ago, some highly indecorous and injurious insinuations were thrown out against other establishments for the same purpose, the intended application of which, no one could misunderstand; and which were as strikingly illiberal as they were grossly unfounded. To this attack it was not thought necessary to reply; but a **PRINTED HAND-BILL** having been recently received, which informs its readers in terms characteristic of similar productions, that the **PHYSICIAN** to the Quakers' Retreat, has formed an establishment for the reception of persons afflicted with insanity, "with a view to *introduce, on a small scale, the mild methods of treatment in use at that Institution,*" it would be an act of culpable supineness, to allow it to pass by without some degree of notice. It must be obvious to every one, that the words of this Advertisement (which may be considered in the light of a *torpedo*) were intended to impose a belief on its readers, that methods of treatment of an *opposite* description, were employed at the other Establishments for insane persons in York and its Vicinity; an insinuation in itself as disingenuous, and as totally destitute of foundation, as the *manner* of making it is perfectly unprofessional, and palpably incorrect.

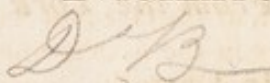
The object of this letter being merely to expose these proceedings, from a sense of duty to others, and of justice to the

Writer's self, all feelings of personal animosity are utterly disclaimed; at the same time, should any one be desirous of ascertaining your correspondent's name, which it is not thought necessary to obtrude upon the public, it may be easily known by inquiry at your Office.

I am, Mr. Editor, &c.

EVIGILATOR.

York, September 22, 1813.



From the York Chronicle of Sept. 30.

9th Month, 29, 1813.

IN your last week's paper you have inserted a Letter under the signature of Evigilator, in which is the following paragraph, viz.

"In an Account of the Quakers' Retreat for Lunatics near York, published a short time ago, some highly indecorous and injurious insinuations were thrown out against other Establishments for the same purpose, the intended application of which, no one could misunderstand, and which were as strikingly illiberal as they were grossly unfounded."

As the Author of the Book alluded to in the preceding paragraph, I must beg leave to say a few words in reply.

Your readers will, doubtless, have observed, that the very serious charges which Evigilator has exhibited against me, are not supported by any quotation, or even a reference to any particular passages in the Book in question. I might perhaps, therefore, have been satisfied with calling upon your correspondent to support his accusations by evidence, and have reserved the whole of my defence till I should learn the particular instances of my imputed fault.

I cannot, however, refrain, in the mean-time, from so far endeavouring to unprejudice the public as to declare, that the remarks which are made on the frequent inhuman treatment of insane persons, were not directed against any particular establishment. It is asserted, that this unhappy class of people are too often treated in a most injudicious and barbarous manner, and if Evigilator wishes for instances, I regret to say it is in my power to produce many. It is also asserted, that the general mode of treatment in the Retreat, is more mild than that of most other establishments of a similar kind. If Evigilator deny this, I must request him to point out many institutions in which the use of chains is entirely discarded, and in

which other modes of coercion are employed in an equally moderate degree, as is the case in the Retreat.*

It is neither affirmed nor insinuated in the work which has given so much offence, that bad practices exist in all establishments, or that there are not any institutions as well managed as the Retreat. Whence then has arisen this extreme tenderness in the mind of Evigilator? What would he think of a man, who should feel himself personally insulted by the maxim of the Grecian Sage, *the majority are wicked*?—and the abuses in the management of the insane are, I fear, hardly less notorious than the general depravity of mankind.

I confess myself at a loss to conceive for what purpose Evigilator has presented so warlike a front. I can assure him, that the attitude he has assumed is far from having had any discouraging effect upon me.

If any thing which is said in the Description of the Retreat, is calculated to *sap* or *undermine* that detestable system of treatment to which the insane are too frequently exposed, I shall sincerely rejoice: and I assure Evigilator, that, so far from being alarmed by the attack he has made upon me, I will at all times be ready to defend, according to the best of my ability, the cause of this unhappy class of my fellow-creatures.

One compliment I must pay Evigilator: he thinks that "it would be an act of culpable supineness" to do otherwise than he has done. Supineness is certainly the cause of most of the abuses in public establishments, and I ardently wish that the Governors and Officers in establishments for the care of deranged persons, may be as jealous of the *existence* of abuses, as your correspondent is of their *imputation*.

I have only to add, that I do not feel myself, or the institution which I have described, at all implicated in the remarks of Evigilator on the advertisement of the Physician to the Retreat.—I shall, therefore, leave these remarks to his own animadversions, and do not doubt your ready insertion of this reply to the severe charges exhibited against me.

S. TUKE.

* See Description of Retreat, p. 167.

From the York Chronicle of Sept. 30.

SIRS,

WHEN the Quakers' Retreat was first established, for the reception of insane patients, it was publicly avowed that the mildest methods of treatment would be adopted in that Institution. Professional men may surely be permitted to think

differently on this, or any other point of practice, without attaching censure to either party. I have experienced for more than ten years, the good effects of the system I found in practice at the Retreat; and had made up my mind to pursue the same plans, if my practice should ever be extended in that line of my profession.

I have now expended a considerable sum of money in the purchase of property, and providing accommodations for insane persons, I therefore judged it proper to give notice in the manner I have done, that my houses at Clifton were ready for the reception of patients. In doing this I did not suppose I could give offence to any one, or be considered as censuring, in the smallest degree, the treatment adopted at any other establishment in York or its Vicinity—Very few, I trust, will be found to think, with the person who signs himself Evigilator, that I have acted unprofessionally or incorrectly in publishing the notice alluded to, more especially as it relates to a *concern not wholly medical*. I think it right, however, now, that the notice should appear in your paper, and request you will insert it to-morrow.

I am your obedient Servant,

W. BELCOMBE.

York, 29th Sept. 1813.

(COPY.)

“At Clifton, near York, a private Establishment has been formed under the direction of the Physician to the Retreat, or Quakers’ Asylum, for the reception and cure of persons afflicted with nervous Complaints and Insanity, with a view to introduce, on a small scale, the mild methods of treatment in use at that Institution.”

From the York Chronicle of Sept. 30.

SIR,

Northallerton, Sept. 27th, 1813.

IT is customary with Travellers to call for the Papers, containing intelligence of the important events which now attract the attention of all the world. After my supper this evening, I indulged my usual appetite for news; and on two papers being brought to me, from a sort of instinctive partiality for Yorkshire, I seized the York Courant in preference to a London Paper, which was at the same time laid upon the table. The Editor’s summary account from the late Gazettes pleased me much; I there read, 1st dispatch—“*forced St. Cyr from a strongly entrenched camp.*” 2d dispatch—“*melancholy fact of Moreau having lost both his legs.*” 3d document—

"*Important Victory over Vandamme*; and 4thly—"a Gazette, containing the numerical account of cannon and prisoners taken in the various actions."

My heart was filled with exultation at these glorious achievements of our Allies—noting less than the humiliation of the Grand Tyrant and the repose of all the world filled my imagination: When casually casting my eye upon a column of the paper parallel to that which contained this gratifying intelligence, I found an account of further hostilities having been carried on by "*Storming*," "*Boarding*," "*Grape or Shells*," by "*Sapping*," "*Mining*," "*Catamaran*," or "*Torpedo*."—*Now!* thought I, for the fall of Dresden! And who is the gallant General that has employed all these means? On looking for the name and the date, I discovered, with astonishment, that "*York*" was the scene of these tremendous military operations.

In a fit of terror and surprise the paper fell from my hand—by an involuntary impulse I rang the bell; and on the waiter entering, anxiously enquired if he had heard that the City of York had been blown into the skies by some insidious Revolutionists. With equal surprise, but to my great joy, he answered—"No, Sir, all was well there to-day when the Coach left it." Recovering a little from my confusion, I took courage to examine this article a little more carefully, and found it was addressed to the *Editor* of the *York Courant*, and was occasioned by an alarm which one *Evigilator* had taken at a mere *Report* from the most un-warlike of all people, the inoffensive *Quakers*.

But that which seems to have produced the *stunning effect* upon the nerves of this poor gentleman, was some *wadding* discovered after the Report in the form, he says, of a "*Hand-Bill*." The ingredient which appears to have been most destructive of the quiet of this gentleman, is a *notice* in the Report, and in the Hand-Bill, that "*mild methods of treatment* are used in the Friends' *Retreat* for Lunatics, and are adopted also, by the Physician to that Retreat, in a private Establishment; and, though he seems to concede, that "*mild methods*" are the practice of both these places, yet he intimates the Conductors have no right to tell the world so.

Now this appears to me, Mr. Editor, to be a little unreasonable—and it is certainly more so, to infer from this *notice*, that any imputation is intended to be cast upon the practice of other Establishments.

Leaving this matter, however, to be settled by those whom it concerns, I cannot help here expressing a wish, that the mildest modes of treatment, may be adopted in every establishment for the reception of the insane, and that the objects of this most dreadful of Heaven's afflictions, may be delivered from the

treatment of the illiterate empiric, and placed under the care of those, who, by education and professional habits, are the most likely to treat them with skill and humanity.

My eyes inform me that the hour of rest has arrived; and not doubting, Mr. Editor, that I shall find in the due course of my journey, your ancient city, with its Asylum and Retreat, standing, just as they were, I subscribe myself,

Yours, &c.

VIATOR.

Wm. Matthews

From the York Chronicle of Oct. 7.

SIR,

THE letter of Evigilator, (or the officer on guard,) announces the commencement of hostilities in our own neighbourhood. I would therefore suggest to yourself and your brother Editors, that it might be an accommodation to yourselves and to the public, if you would insert the bulletins of the contending parties at those intervals when there happens to be no news from the Continent. By a little management, the *civil war* may even be prolonged till the armies in Germany have gone into winter quarters, when your readers will be able to give their undivided attention to the operations nearer home.

It would appear, from Evigilator's dispatch, as if the less strict amongst the Society of Friends, had not the same decided objection, as formerly, to every species of warfare. He intimates that though they will not attempt to take a place by storm, with the uproar of cannon, "grape and shells," yet they have recourse to the silent operation of *sapping*; and hence, no doubt, the appellation of *wet Quakers*, the origin of which was never before explained.—It is only fair, however, to observe, that Evigilator's charge of *sapping* is not yet substantiated by proofs.

It further appears from the medical part of his letter, that the mild system in the treatment of lunatics now in use at the Quakers' Retreat, is about to be introduced elsewhere; a circumstance which has justly excited the indignation of Evigilator. We all know the remarkable gravity and composure of the Friends, for the reception of whose lunatics the *Retreat* is exclusively designed. Now it by no means follows that the same severity may be necessary in the case of a mad Quaker, as in that of mad Churchmen, Papists, or Methodists; on the contrary, the mild system, though quite suitable in the case of the insane Quaker, might prove mischievous if applied to a lunatic of any other religious denomination.

May it not with reason be maintained, that the severer methods; which the public believe to be practised in some other institutions, are generally most likely to effect a cure? Mad patients are apt to be refractory and violent, and to require strong coercion. A sound drubbing is said to be of great service. The Emperors of Russia and Austria in vain tried *mild methods* with the first madman of the age; the latter even yielded up his fair daughter into the clutches of the savage, in hopes of taming him. Lately, however, they have adopted an opposite plan of treatment, and Buonaparte may be said to have been removed from the ——— to the ———.* The experiment has been made with some success of an exposure to a frightful climate; and the Emperors are now trying the effect of a constant exhibition of gunpowder, a specific which the Quakers are well known to hold in decided abhorrence; though it bids fairer to bring this infuriate to his senses than any of those *mild methods* which the Friends would recommend in preference.

In fact I suspect that if the advocates for the mild system of management, had so far prevailed as to prohibit the application of those very severe medicines, *powder* and *balls*, the great madman would long since have broken loose amongst us, and converted our happy Island into a bedlam. Should he, in spite of the remedies now applying, continue untractable, I trust he will never be able to find a *Retreat*, as I am cruel enough to wish him in some place of confinement where the use of *chains* is not yet exploded.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

A FRIEND TO HARSH METHODS.

* What a contrast between the abodes of stillness and silence, and the region of bombs and catamarans!

From the *York Chronicle* of Oct. 7.

York, Oct. 6, 1813.

MR. EDITOR,

HAD any doubts remained on my mind of the accuracy of the allegations brought forward in my first letter, they would have been entirely removed by the replies which have been made to it.—The charges I advanced, so far from having been disproved by evidence, or repelled by argument, not only remain entirely uncontroverted, but have gathered fresh strength from the very means employed for their refutation.

Mr. Tuke's letter, which is penned like his book, with considerable subtlety, and is strongly characterised by a spirit of

equivocation, is so replete with pretensions to superior philanthropy, unfounded claims to the use of a milder and more humane system of treatment than is employed in other establishments for the insane, and with injurious insinuations against lunatic institutions in general, (not excepting or exempting *any*, though accused particularly of defaming *one*;) that I apprehend I should be furnished with a sufficient justification of the character I have given of his remarks, by referring to this production alone. I shall, however, add one quotation from his work, among the various passages it contains of a similar tendency: "If it should be thought to afford "satisfactory evidence in favour of a more mild system of "treatment than has been generally adopted; if it should also "prove, which I flatter myself it will, the practicability of introducing such a system into establishments for the insane poor, "whose situation has, in general, been too pitiable for words "to describe, I shall esteem myself peculiarly happy in this "publication."—*Preface*, p. vii.

It is here distinctly stated, that the practicability of introducing a system of mild treatment into these establishments still remains to be proved, which is a direct assertion that such a system has not yet been introduced into *any* establishment of the kind; a sufficient proof that it was the author's intention to *include* a neighbouring institution in his sweeping censure, and fully justifying the assertion I have already made, "that his remarks were as strikingly illiberal as they were grossly unfounded."

Having exposed his insinuations as far as was necessary for my purpose, I shall now take my leave of Mr. Tuke. As I have not the requisite degree of assurance to make a public proclamation of the superiority of an institution to which I profess myself to belong, and am, I trust, incapable of casting either direct or indirect aspersions on an establishment with which I have no connection; and as I have not yet acquired a sufficient share of *modesty*, to intimate to the public that I have monopolized the possession of humanity and active benevolence, we cannot be considered as entering the lists upon equal terms. It is therefore my present intention, without the occurrence of very strong reasons to the contrary, not to enter into any further controversy on the subject.

With respect to the Physician to the Quakers' Retreat, had his Advertisement, however unprofessional in itself, been free from the intimation with which it concludes, I should never have brought it into public notice, and am now very unwilling to press him further on the subject than necessity absolutely demands; but as he has since brought forward a public defence of advertising, I am compelled to trouble you with a few additional remarks.

The previous expenditure of a sum of money, as an excuse for the breach of a professional rule, is, I apprehend, perfectly inadmissible. The venders of quack medicines, who have also expended considerable sums of money in their laboratories and the apparatus of their trade, may give this reason for advertising with perfect propriety. Persons of this description, by adopting such measures, neither take an unfair advantage of any *particular* competitor, nor do any *general* injury to the respectability of their brethren; but a Physician who has recourse to similar practices, renders himself justly chargeable with *both*.

It may be alleged that there is a difference between ordinary practice, and the peculiar line of insanity; but if it be allowable for a regular practitioner to advertise for patients labouring under nervous disorders and insanity, can any reason be assigned why he should not advertise for patients of every description? and this being once admitted, what becomes of the respectability of the profession? Where would be the existing barrier between the man of integrity and science, and the knavish and ignorant empiric? What man of education would enter into a profession which would at once cease to be that of a gentleman? and what man of respectability, already embarked in it, would not feel ashamed to belong to it?

As some difference of opinion, however, may possibly exist upon this subject, among those who are entirely unacquainted with professional matters, I beg leave to refer such of your readers as feel at all interested in the subject, to any of the Members of either the *legal* or the *medical* profession. On a professional point, they may be considered to be the fairest and most competent judges, and I shall be indeed mistaken if they do not unanimously concur in reprobating a practice, which has hitherto been confined to the Empiric and Impostor.

I am Sir, &c.

EVIGILATOR.

From the York Chronicle of Oct. 7.

To the Physician to the Retreat.

MY DEAR SIR,

Liverpool, Oct. 4, 1813.

IN my late perusal of the York Papers, I have been much gratified by your *acute* reply to the letter of Evigilator, and by the ingenuity with which you have contrived, under cover of an answer to his charges, to introduce a copy of your own hand-bill, and, at the same time, *so ably* to defend our invaluable privilege of advertising for patients.

I likewise highly approve of your insinuation that there exists a difference of opinion amongst medical practitioners with regard to the treatment of insanity. You cannot take too much pains to impress upon the public a belief that the practice of mild methods is entirely confined to yourself; the belief will easily gain currency amongst that class of the community by whom we thrive: and I trust your exertions will be crowned with the success they deserve.

Continue to call your *hand-bills*—NOTICES. It sounds better, and is less liable to criticism. I think some of your old *bills* were better executed; that in particular with the Latin quotation—"Venienti occurrere morbo," which was very much in my own style, and I have no doubt succeeded admirably.

I am afraid, you will have powerful rivals in your present line, in Messrs. DELAHAYDE and Co. but let them boast of their *sudden cures*; *protracted measures* will answer your purpose better.

I need not suggest to you to let no opportunity escape of dragging your name before the public.—By the way, that last edition of the Scarborough Guide was a *capital hit*.

I have no very particular news to send you respecting our friends. DIXON is getting on famously by the sale of his Anti-bilious Pills; and Messrs. CURRIE and Co. are sweeping all before them. There is, however, room enough for us all, and I trust we shall eventually succeed in exterminating the *Regulars*.

I send you six dozen bottles of my BALSAMIC TINCTURE, which I will thank you to dispose of on my account. You will find them quite as saleable as *Well's GOUT MEDICINE*, and equally efficacious. I shall, of course, allow a handsome percentage.

Poor Turpin's IMPERIAL ITCH OINTMENT, I am sorry to inform you does not take. *Apropos* of ointments, how have you succeeded with your OINTMENT FOR THE EYES? If you will send me a few score boxes, I think I can dispose of them for you to advantage, among the Guinea Captains. Don't forget to wrap up each box in a copy of your hand-bill.

I had almost forgotten to mention, that the attempts to substitute the word *notice* for *hand-bill* are too often repeated, both in your letter and Viator's, which may lead censorious people to imagine that you have either been laying your heads very close together, or are absolutely one and the same person, and the brilliant wit with which Viator's letter abounds, will give considerable colour to the latter supposition.

Should any thing bring you into these parts, I need not say that I shall meet you with the welcome of a Brother.

In the mean time, believe me,

Most faithfully yours,

S. BRODUM.

S. Brodum

From the York Chronicle of Oct. 14.

Chester, Oct. 11th, 1813.

SIRS,

I was the widow of the late celebrated Dr. Brodum, whose memory is still as *Balm and Ointment* to my breast. So happy was I in the married state, that I could not rest till I had formed another union.—Judge, Sir, what must be the feelings of dear Dr. Loudhum and myself upon seeing your paper made the vehicle of a scandalous libel, in the form of an old letter of my late dear husband's, but now pretended to have been written only the other day to a Physician in York. The following facts which I request the favor of you to publish, will clear me from the imputation of bigamy, and explain the real history of my late husband's letter.

It is now several years since Dr. Samuel Brodum or *Broadhum*, my much esteemed earlier choice, was attacked by a fatal disorder. *Exhilarating Cordials* only seemed to hasten his dissolution, and I attended his funeral. If desired, I can send you a copy of the *pre-scription* on his monument.—I need not tell you the Doctor was a liberal and untrammelled practitioner. He despised the narrow bigotry of the regular faculty, whom he thought unworthy of his notice; but, whenever any of them ventured to break the shackles of custom and to advertise medicines, Dr. Brodum was ready to hail them as brethren. No sooner, therefore, had the great Hunter announced his *Discovery of the Brazils*, than Dr. Brodum hastened to write him a letter of congratulation: the letter led to an intimacy; and my dear Brodum and myself had the pleasure of making an excursion to York, to visit the Doctor, and pay our respects to *Bacchus*.

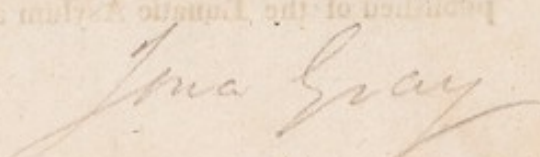
It now appears that this complimentary letter from a contemporary and friend, which should have appeared in its proper place in the long expected *Life and posthumous Writings*, has come forth into the world in a garbled state; and I cannot but think the friends of *both* the deceased Doctors will join with me in regretting, that it should have been permitted to appear.

I write in Dr. Loudhum's absence, who desired me to say, he had been sent for either to the Palace or the Deanery. He attends "persons of condition only."

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your Afflicted Servant,

LOUISA LOUDHUM.



From the York Chronicle of Oct. 14.

I PERCEIVE by the last Chronicle, that Evigilator is not satisfied with the vindication of myself from the charges which he has thought proper to produce against me. But as he has expressed an intention to withdraw from the controversy, unless circumstances should urge him to continue it; and as the points in dispute have been clearly exhibited, I shall not press my opponent much further, but, for the present, content myself with a few additional observations on the subject.

I will not follow Evigilator in the track of personal abuse. Happily, my cause does not require it, and it would ill become me to forget that truth, of which my inquiries into the experience and practice of the Retreat have so often reminded me,

"Soft speech
Is, to distemper'd wrath, medicinal."

Evigilator has asserted, that, if other proof were wanted, my own vindication would be sufficient to justify his charges against me, but not willing to rest himself on this ground, he has produced a quotation from the preface to the "Description of the Retreat," which he appears to think is conclusive evidence in support of his assertions.—The quotation is from page vii. and is as follows: "If it should be thought to afford satisfactory evidence in favour of a more mild system of treatment than has been generally adopted; if it should also prove, which I flatter myself it will, the practicability of introducing such a system into establishments for the insane poor, whose situation has, in general, been too pitiable for words to describe, I shall esteem myself peculiarly happy in this publication."

Here we are completely at issue; and I readily commit myself to the judgment of the public, whether the manner of my vindication, or the terms in which I have expressed myself in the quotation just mentioned, can justly subject me to the charge of *defaming any particular Institution*.

I will only say in regard to *myself*, that I have no personal interest whatever to induce me to extol the Retreat, nor could I derive the smallest possible advantage from the depreciating Evigilator's, or any other Establishment; and not having filled any office in the institution I have described, by which the credit of its management could in any degree be imputed to myself, I had really no opportunity to evince that *modesty* on which Evigilator has so kindly *complimented* me.

That my own judgment in favour of the mild methods used at the Retreat may appear to have a warrantable foundation, I shall close this defence with an extract from an account lately published of the Lunatic Asylum at Edinburgh, which, I am

authorized to state, comes from the pen of Dr. Duncan, sen. who visited the Retreat in the year 1812, after having seen most of the Institutions of a similar nature in Britain.

"That the government of the insane requires a certain degree of restraint, both for the safety of the individual and of others, no one can doubt; but very different opinions have been entertained with regard to the utmost degree of coercion which is necessary in any case. Now, however, this point may be considered as in some degree settled by experience; the fraternity denominated Quakers, have demonstrated, beyond contradiction, the very great advantage resulting from a mode of treatment, in cases of insanity, much more mild than was before introduced into almost any lunatic asylum either at home or abroad.

"That fraternity have established in the neighbourhood of the City of York, *The Retreat*, as they term it, a building appropriated to deranged members of their own community. In the management of this institution, they have set an example which claims the imitation and deserves the thanks of every sect and every nation. For, without much hazard of contradiction from those acquainted with the subject, it may be asserted, that the Retreat at York, is at this moment the best regulated establishment in Europe, either for the recovery of the insane, or for their comfort where they are in an incurable state."

S. TUKE.

10th Mo. 13th, 1813.

From the York Courant of Oct. 11.

York, Oct. 9, 1813.

SIR,

OBSERVING that in two letters lately published under the signature of Evigilator, a charge is brought against the Physician to the Quakers' Retreat, of unprofessional conduct in circulating a hand-bill relative to a private Establishment of his own, at Clifton, it occurred to me that this charge should be determined by the practice of the Medical Profession in similar instances. I therefore have inquired whether any other private Establishments for Lunatics have been opened by regular Professional Men in this neighbourhood, and what was the method adopted. I learn that a similar Establishment was opened by two York Physicians about Twenty Years ago, and that it was announced by Public Advertisement.

So far the example appears in favour of the Physician to the Retreat. But then it must be conceded to Evigilator, that *one* of the Physicians alluded to, might possibly not be entitled to the

appellation of a regular Practitioner; as he had a few months before advertised himself to be the Inventor of a new Purgative Medicine, with the usual information to the public where the genuine sort might be procured, and a caution against counterfeits. Evigilator may also be allowed to doubt how far it was correct in the other Physician to form a professional connexion with the *Inventor of the genuine Brazil Salts*; or to lend his name to an advertisement of a House for Lunatics, in which appears the expression "gentle usage,"—another term for "mild methods;" which latter words are so offensive to Evigilator, that they occasioned his attack on the Clifton handbill.

On the part of the Physician to the Retreat, it may therefore be contended, that in this instance of an Establishment similar to his own, the two Physicians had recourse to advertising. Evigilator, on the other hand, will expose the quackery of the Brazil salts, will deny the Inventor to have been a regular Practitioner, and will infer that the method adopted by the present physician to the Retreat cannot be strictly professional, since it so nearly resembles that of the late physician to the Asylum. After all, the public will judge between both.

Whether the "House of Retirement" founded by means so objectionable in the opinion of Evigilator, still continues in existence, or whether like the Salts from Brazil, it *has had its day*, I have not taken pains to inquire, since it is not material to the purpose. The document itself, which I shall now lay before your Readers, seems entitled to some notice in this controversy.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

SPECTATOR.

(COPY.)

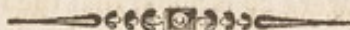
HOUSE OF RETIREMENT,

FOR PERSONS OF CONDITION ONLY.

A Family of character and respectability have finished and furnished a genteel House in the neighbourhood of the City of York, for the reception of a few persons who may have the misfortune to labour under a recent or continued derangement of mind. All the inconveniences complained of in houses of private confinement, will, in this place, be carefully avoided; and the friends of the patients will have the satisfaction to see neatness, cleanliness, and GENTLE USAGE, properly combined. It is proposed that the patients shall be waited on by their own attendants, and, if required, may dine in their own apartments. The terms will not be unreasonably extended; and as separate charges are always inconvenient, a quarter's payment will include lodging, board, servants' wages, tea, coal, candle, me-

dicines, medical attendance, and all other expenses, wine and washing excepted.

Letters explaining the age, state of mind, and continuance of the malady, may be addressed to *Dr. Hunter* or *Dr. Beckwith*, Physicians in York, from whom the friends of the patients will receive every necessary information.



From the York Chronicle of Oct. 14.

MR. EDITOR,

York, Oct. 13, 1813.

THE cause of advertising is not yet abandoned, and the *Courant* of Monday contains an expiring effort, to defend the improprieties of the living by disturbing the ashes of the dead.

On this occasion, it seems only necessary to remark, that *Evigilator* is by no means responsible for the actions of any other man, whether living or dead; and that the arguments he has advanced on the subject of advertising, not only remain uncontroverted, but are, it is believed, incontrovertible.

No one, I presume, will imagine with *SPECTATOR*, that examples of deviation from a professional rule, either destroy the existence of the rule itself, or render it less binding on the members of the profession.

The inconsistency and the impolicy of the writer who labours to degrade the name, under the authority of which he is at the same time seeking to shelter his cause, and the indecorum of speaking tauntingly of one who is no more, are points in *Spectator's* letter to which it is now, perhaps, unimportant to draw the attention of the public, as they are doubtless, by this time, abundantly weary of the controversy.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

OBSERVATOR.



From the York Herald of Oct. 16.

SIR,

ALTHOUGH no medical man, I have read with considerable attention, the correspondence that has lately occupied your pages, on the subject of the treatment of insane persons. To me the controversy appears, too much like many others, to consist only of charge and exculpation between the parties at variance, when it ought to assume a more important form, as having a relation to the interests of the public at large. The proper management of Lunatics is no mere private concern of

Messrs. Tuke and Belcombe, or of Evigilator and his associate Dr. Brodum; but is closely connected with the welfare of society, whether men are members of the general community, or belong particularly to the fraternity of Friends. What provoked Evigilator at first to attack the calm statements of the writer who describes the Retreat, or the harmless advertisement of the Physician to that Institution, it is not easy to say; but it seems as if he were conscious, that the readers of the work just now referred to, would necessarily be led to compare the Retreat with the Asylum, and to draw conclusions by no means favourable to the latter.

Had his prudence been equal to his zeal, he would have allowed his feelings to operate in silence. He has contributed to extend that comparison, which it would have been wise to prevent; and to draw the public attention to the state and treatment of insane persons in general. After entering the field of controversy with so many formidable weapons, it seems cowardly in Evigilator to sound a retreat so early. He had expected perhaps, like another modern warrior, to overawe and outflank his adversary at first onset; but finding the friends of mildness and peace not only maintain their post, but show a strong *corps de reserve*, he has deemed it prudent to march off the ground, and to propose an armistice.

Steering clear of the conflict on both sides, I beg leave, in behalf of myself and my fellow men, all of whom are liable to that tremendous malady, which requires seclusion from society, to propose to Evigilator the following remarks and queries. In answering them, he may as well lay aside his mask, as the public can no longer be deceived by his assumed signature, but are well aware of his being fully qualified to give *official* information on the subject in question.

1. Having read the account of the Retreat soon after its publication, and feeling no such impression from it as that made on the mind of Evigilator, I feel curious to know what other passages in the book, besides that already quoted, struck him as bearing upon the Asylum in an invidious sense?

2. After perusing in the same work the *modes of coercion* employed, the inquiry naturally suggested itself, What are the modes used in the Asylum? And to speak more definitively, Are the patients ever confined *with chains*? And if not, How long has this practice been discarded?

3. The manner of receiving patients at first admission into the Retreat, is described in p. 146. and in other passages. May I inquire what is the mode of treating a newly arrived patient at the Asylum?—Whether they are shut up in a room of seclusion—or if any methods are employed on the part of the keeper or others to intimidate the patient?

4. Are the general principles, in regard to the excitement of fear, the same as at the Retreat, or of a more violent kind?

5. Has there, in the average of any year, been the same small degree of coercion employed in the Asylum, that is stated to be the case in the description of the Retreat?

6. Query—What may be the average number of deaths in a year, month, or week? And what may be the proximate cause of dissolution, generally stated?

7. What are the powers and practices of Governors of the Asylum, in regard to occasional inspection of the condition of the patients? And are Female Visitors ever appointed or permitted to inquire into the state of patients of their own sex?

Evigilator, I have no doubt, can answer these questions without considering himself called on like the Ghost in Hamlet, "to unlock the secrets of his prison-house," or to produce the terrific effects which that phantom's disclosure might create. I merely request him to remember this, that whatever he may conceive, it is no private individual concern which he has thus boldly brought before the public bar; but a matter of general interest, and deeply involving, not only the character of the Institutions in question, but the comfort, cure, and welfare of numerous individuals, obnoxious to the awful visitation of Mental Malady.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

CIVIS.

From the York Courant of Oct. 18.

SIR,

THE Office of a Reformer is not only one of the most thankless, but in some cases, one of the most hopeless. The hopeless instances are those, in which the parties requiring Reformation, are powerful and affluent, and strongly entrenched behind prescriptive usages and official forms. A man of a public and generous spirit, however, will not be deterred by the appearance of such obstacles, from attempting to improve Institutional arrangements, and meliorate the condition of certain classes of men. I know no description of Institutions, which is looked on with more general jealousy, than those set apart for the reception of insane persons, whether on a public or private plan.

It has long and frequently been suggested, that every establishment of this nature should be occasionally inspected, *without notice given*, by one or more Magistrates, Justices, or Clergymen, appointed for this end, in order to check, and as far as possible prevent those abuses, which too readily occur

in the management of the unhappy patients; partly arising from the supposed secrecy, with which such abuses are committed; partly from the incapacity of the patients to give due and credible information of them; and partly from the imagined necessity of unkind usage, as occasioned by the irregular conduct of the Lunatic.

Without presuming to act the part of a Father in the Pope-dom of Insanity, or to equal the benevolent zeal of Howard in exploring prisons of a different kind, I beg leave to bring anew before the public attention, some observations made by a Worthy Individual of this City, about four years ago, on the state of the Lunatic Asylum of York. I think it must appear to any one who candidly peruses them, that this Institution has been greatly perverted from its original destination, as is manifest from the following abridged statement:—

1. That it was originally limited to the reception of *Poor Lunatics*, who had no other support “but what a needy parent could bestow, or a thrifty parish officer provide.”
2. That these *Poor Lunatics* were to be received *from the County of York* only.
3. That though an opening was left for the admission of patients *in moderate circumstances*, the latter were not intended to be admitted to the exclusion of more needy and helpless applicants.
4. The funds intended for the relief of indigent patients, were appropriated to the *extension of the Buildings*; and yet these Buildings when completed, were fitted up for the reception of *affluent patients*.
5. These affluent patients were brought, not from different parts of *Yorkshire only*, but from all quarters of the kingdom; thus making the Asylum of York a receptacle for Insane persons from every County in Britain, instead of limiting it to our own extensive County.
6. A proposal made in the year 1778, that the Physician's Fees, from the number of opulent inmates, should be commuted for, by a fixed salary of £200 a year, was not adopted—thus rendering it the interest of the Physician to exclude indigent Lunatics, and to receive affluent ones.
7. A Fund for the maintenance of *Poor Patients* only, called Lupton's Fund, which was to accumulate till the Archbishop of York for the time being, should think it considerable enough to be brought into use, remained, in 1809, suspended on that determination. Its Annual Income then was understood to be £170 a year. The Governors, it seems, have never encouraged this Fund *as a Body*, and very few of them have assisted it individually, and the subscribers to it to the amount of £20 or upwards, (the sum requisite to constitute a Governor) were

voted to be ineligible in that capacity, on the assumption of their having subscribed not generally, but for a limited purpose.

8. The proportion of *indigent* patients admitted into the Asylum, was computed in 1809 to be *One Ninth* of the whole, which proves how completely the original intention of the Institution has been departed from.

The Author of the Observations judiciously suggests,

1. That Subscriptions should be solicited for an extension of Lupton's Fund.

2. A speedy or gradual diminution of affluent patients.

3. That the Asylum should become the subject of mutual arrangement between the Governors and the Magistrates of the County.

4. That the House should have the benefit of an enlarged medical attendance, as in the case of the County Hospital, and he also infers, from the returns made to the House of Commons, that the Asylum, even on its present enlarged scale, would scarcely be found adequate to the reception of the Lunatic Parish Paupers of this County alone.

Now I beg leave to inquire, whether this Gentleman's suggestions, which evidently have no other object in view, than the restoration of the Asylum to its original purpose, and the procuring of accommodation and medical aid to the Insane *Poor*, have ever received sufficient attention?—also, whose province and duty it is, to examine into and rectify these things?

When we advert to the facts above stated, there appear substantial reasons why Evigilator should stand forth as the Champion of the York Asylum; but if he will look into the Domestic and pecuniary Economy, as well as into the official management and inspection of its rival, "the Retreat," he will probably find, that there is *there* one main and sole object in view; namely, the comfort and recovery of the Patients of all conditions, without any reference to the emoluments of private individuals.

Some persons may think the controversy on this subject has been unduly extended. I am by no means of this opinion. At any rate we all know who started it. But the truth is, that if the public attention, too often attracted by trifles, can be thoroughly drawn to the condition and treatment of a large, and I fear an increasing portion of their fellow creatures, immured in Hospitals of this description, results might follow, which, however they would baffle the designs of the mercenary, would gladden the heart of the philanthropist, and effect an important revolution in the circumstances of the victims of insanity.

I am, &c.

TROPHIMUS,

J. W. Weir

From the York Chronicle of Oct. 21.

MR. EDITOR,

York, Oct. 20, 1813.

THE double controversy which has lately occupied a portion of your columns, appeared to have drawn to a close, and there did not seem to be any sufficient reason for continuing to obtrude it on the notice of the public. A person, however, with the signature of *CIVIS*, has had the modest assurance to present himself on the stage, and in the language and authoritative tone of a schoolmaster, to catechise the Physician to the York Lunatic Asylum, respecting the management and internal economy of that Establishment—the method of treating the patients—the conduct of the Governors, &c. &c.

Another writer calling himself *TROPHIMUS*, has also entered the arena, professing to be influenced by disinterested philanthropy, but evidently impelled by the same motives with his predecessor.

Though the extreme presumption and folly of these persons in attacking a public body, for the purpose of injuring and undermining a private individual, are too glaring and apparent to require pointing out, and might, perhaps, be most properly left to the contempt to which they are so justly entitled; yet, as a Governor of the Asylum, and for the sake of undeceiving the public, I shall so far notice their malignant and slanderous insinuations, as to assert that they are *perfectly and utterly false*.

If the writers are actuated by honest motives, instead of shooting their poisoned arrows in the dark, it is evidently their duty to come forward *in their own persons*, and prove by evidence what they have dared to intimate by insinuation. I now call upon them to do so; and I confidently assure them, that if they will produce a specific charge, at a meeting of the Governors, either of cruelty, violence, harshness, unnecessary coercion, or improper treatment of any sort or kind, or *will even lay before them any just ground for believing* that such practices exist in the Asylum, the Governors will institute a strict inquiry into all the circumstances connected with the charge, and if it be proved, will not only redress the grievance, but will degrade or dismiss *any* officer or servant who may have betrayed his trust, and broken the strict rules laid down for his observance.

If after the above distinct summons, they choose to come forward in the manner I have pointed out, they will at least have an opportunity of proving that their motives are pure, and such as they represent them; but if on the contrary they

refuse to declare themselves, they will stand fully convicted of *the basest cowardice and the most malignant falsehood.*

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A GOVERNOR OF THE ASYLUM.

From the York Chronicle of Oct. 21.

SIR,

York, Oct. 20, 1818.

THE letters of CIVIS and TROPHIMUS are evidently written to operate a diversion in favour of the beaten army—to efface the recollection of their late signal defeat—and to revenge the vanquished, by attacking the victor on fresh ground.

The angry tone of mortification, and the artful stratagem of changing the ground of controversy, would seem to point out that the new combatants are not *quite* unconnected with the preceding disputes; there are, however, no certain means of deciding, whether they are fresh volunteers in the cause of mischief, or belong to the old corps of *Sappers and Miners.*

But whether they belong to the above, or to a well-known regiment of *Guards*, their onset gives every assurance that they will follow the example of their predecessor *Spectator*, who, as it will be recollected, brought disgrace upon the cause he was seeking to support; the stigma he endeavoured to affix upon the memory of another, speedily recoiling on his own head.

“Thus the small jet, which hasty hands unlock,
“Spirits in the Gard’ners eyes, who turns the cock.”

Some difference of sentiment, however, is said to prevail upon this point, and many are of opinion that the Governors of the Asylum, on attentively perusing their letters, will vote themselves perfectly incompetent to manage the concerns of that Institution, and place it under the direction of *Messrs. Trophimus and Civis.*

One of these eloquent authors, *himself* writing under an assumed title, and who professes to have read the correspondence with *considerable attention*, calls upon EVIGILATOR to *take off his mask*, and also informs him that his opponents have not only *maintained their post*, but have shown so *strong* a ‘corps de reserve,’ as to have fairly driven him out of the field. On these remarks I refrain from any comments, as poor CIVIS has thrown out an intimation that he is himself subject to visitations of the malady on which he is writing; and I am certain the public will make every allowance for the melancholy state of fatuity to which it has reduced him.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

IRRISOR.

From the York Herald of Oct. 23.

IT really appears time to bring the long protracted controversy, unwisely raised by Evigilator, to a conclusion, which, as he declines answering the Queries proposed by Civis, there seems no use in continuing. His evasion of these Queries, and the attempt, by a Governor of the Asylum, to convert them into insinuations and charges, may suit his cause better than they will satisfy the public mind. Private maltreatment is not the subject of these Queries, and therefore the Governor's challenge is misapplied. It is to the system which is supposed to be less mild than that which is practised at the Retreat, that the Queries of Civis relate, and not to any particular case.

Both the Governor and Irrisor assume a high tone, which they may consider as the best disguise of a bad cause. Like a modern warrior of *declining fame*, they claim victory where others consider them defeated. Their self-gratulations will add nothing either to their own credit, or that of their cause. The Asylum has been wrested from its original design; the poor are in a great measure excluded; and the Institution, it is understood, is committed to the care of a Physician and Apothecary, without the interference of any committee or visitors in the internal management. Thus instead of being a public charity, it has become a source of private emolument, and "*hinc illæ lachrymæ.*"

Let the Governors of the Asylum turn their attention to this important subject, and seriously consider whether they are acting the part of good Stewards of the trust reposed in them. It is to them only that the Public can look for a Reformation, and without their interference all altercation is fruitless.

NON-IRRISOR.



From the York Herald of Oct. 30.

SIR,

I WAS not much surprised, on receiving your last paper, to find, that Evigilator had judged it inconvenient to give an answer to the few Queries, which on a former occasion I took the liberty to put to him. He is not accustomed to be so *closely* interrogated, especially on subjects so vital. It seems, however, he has retired from the contest, and is now only anxious to avoid the inquisitorial *battery* that is opened against him.

The irritable manner of the "Governor," certainly betrays considerable soreness; he writes like one, whose whole authority is at stake, and with so great an unruliness of temper, as to force from one the melancholy exclamation, would that men might learn to *govern themselves*. He is, however, quite unwarranted in speaking of charges of mal-treatment, none of which I have ever made, nor indeed would it be easy, as he very well knows, for a stranger to make them, from the guarded secrecy observed at the Asylum. It is not, however, to this point, that my Queries were chiefly directed; it is to the general system of management, which has something exclusive and monopolizing in it, both as it respects the description of Patients admitted, and the permission of the public inspection.

I sincerely wish that my Queries had been replied to, for the following reason, *inter alia*, because I apprehend, there is no Institution of the kind in Britain, besides the York Asylum, where there is apparently, so little guard against the serious abuses to which all such Institutions are liable, both as it regards the economy of the funds, and the comfort of the inmates. I could produce regulations, which, if acted upon, are, on these heads, completely satisfactory.—It will be sufficient here to quote respecting one of these, that independently of other judicious arrangements, it is appointed, "that a House Committee, should meet weekly, or oftener, if necessary, and be authorized to admit or discharge patients, to determine the amount of weekly payments, demandable from the respective patients—to superintend the condition of the house and furniture—to hire, dismiss, and pay the assistants and menial servants—to inspect, and allow or reject weekly bills—to pay all demands, not exceeding ten pounds, which cannot be reserved for the consideration of the quarterly meetings—to enforce the observance of the rules and orders—to *hear and decide complaints—to correct abuses*—and to transact such incidental and ordinary business as may claim immediate attention." Now I beg leave to ask the Governor, whether any similar regulation exists in the Asylum?—and if not, whether I have not produced just grounds for surmising, if not "for believing, that improper practices" may "exist in that establishment."

Some barrier against abuses is provided in many institutions, by the appointment of several medical attendants; but when an establishment is under the sole management of one Physician empowered to take fees of the affluent, unlicensed and unvisited, and not subjected to the legal regulations respecting private mad-houses, is it not probable that notwithstanding the care of the Legislature to prevent frauds and cruelties in such places, the York Lunatic Asylum itself being, as a *public* Institution, exempted from the restrictions of those Acts of Parliament which apply to private mad-houses, may in future at

least, if not now, become liable to mal-practices; and when we consider the great proportion of affluent patients said to be accommodated in the Asylum, we are almost justified in designating the institution, as was long ago done by a learned Precentor,—“The Lunatic Hotel for persons of condition only.”

In making these and similar remarks and inquiries, I deliberately declare that I am not actuated by a spirit of impertinent curiosity, still less by a malignant disposition, as the Governor charitably supposes. I do it from a conviction that something is due to the public and to former subscribers, on the score of information respecting the management of the Asylum, and the treatment of the insane, and that it would no way deteriorate the interests of that Institution, if some explicit communication were made, not merely in answer to my own questions, but those of Trophimus, of whom no other notice has been taken, except an insinuation respecting his motives, but who has plainly felt, nearly as I do, on this important subject.

Notwithstanding the intimation of Non-Irrisor that it is time to bring the controversy to a close, I cannot feel satisfied without offering these remarks to the public, but if it should be thought necessary to repeat the appeal which has now been made to the justice and humanity of the Governors of the Asylum, or to give any further information respecting its management, it may probably be best done through some other medium than the columns of a newspaper.

I shall therefore, Mr Editor, take my leave of you for the present, trusting that the impression which the public mind has received will not subside, until the objects for which it has been excited, be fully effected,

CIVIS.

From the York Chronicle of Nov. 4.

“Nec Deus inversit nihi dignus vindice nodus inciderit.”

HORACE.

“Nor let a God in person stand display’d,

“Unless the mighty strife demand his aid.”

FRANCIS.

MR. EDITOR,

LEST you should imagine that “the wordy war” which still continues to rage with unabated fury between Messieurs the two sons of Æsculapius and their adherents, will be interminable, I take up my pen to inform you and all other peaceable and well-disposed persons, that there will shortly be a cessation of hostilities; and that each individual Hero of the

conflicting bands laying aside his Catamarans, his Bombs, his Shells, and his Proscriptions, will return to his Simples, his Compounds, and his Prescriptions.—The manner in which this “devoutly to be wished for” pacification will be effected, may perhaps raise the doubts of the sceptical; I will, however, tell it you anon, first taking permission to observe, that the pending controversy is of far greater moment to us all, than may possibly be imagined by many, since according to our immortal Bard, we men of England are all mad! This too, the aforesaid sceptical folk may affect to deny; but for my part, when I look abroad in the world and note the complexion of the times, and see how we mortals are all engaged, I am vastly inclined to give full credence to the inspiration of Shakespear’s genius, and to think with him that in very truth we are all mad.

With this view then, of men and things, you will readily believe, Mr. Editor, that I have regarded with no little interest, the passing controversy respecting the treatment of us poor unfortunate maniacs. In fact, so nearly and so deeply has the matter affected me, that it has engaged my every thought and attention—so much so, that meditating the other evening on the subject, I fell into a profound reverie, which somewhat oddly, though most happily, terminated in the following vision or waking dream:—

“Methought I stood upon the near shore of the Stygian Lake, observant of the motley crew whom old Charon was busily employed in transporting to their long last homes. A short respite from his labours being afforded the old man, he was gladly availing himself of the opportunity to rest upon his oars; but the pause was momentary, for just as he was beginning to nod, a stentorian voice from the distant shore, in accents of thunder, exclaimed, “Old Charon, tack about, ply hitherward thine oar, and land us three on the slippery shores of yonder world;” astounded and indignant at the strange demand, the surly veteran, with intonations of deepest rage thus replied, “And who are ye, rebellious, that thus with insulting mockery, beard the Fates, and seek to return whither no soul e’er returned before—and what your purpose?” And now with direful sounds, that shook the wide extended shores, and in one eddying maze whirled the blackened waters, was Charon answered, “insensate brute! knowest thou not the voice of Æsculapius? We, with our premiers, Hippocrates and Galen, to earth are bound—to old Brigantium, there, as arbitrators, to settle and to adjust a dire affray of late arisen among our degenerate sons.”

This hearing and not daring to question the stern command, the trembling boatman quick obeyed, and with full might and main applying himself to his oars, in a trice disappeared in the murky distance. Shortly I saw him returning with three grave and reverend personages on board, attired in suits of laced

Pompadour with full bottomed wigs and constellation-headed canes. By way of Episode I should here observe, that at this time I heard another person in a minor key, calling out to Charon to be taken in and landed with the three Doctors on mother earth. From the yea and nay peculiarity of the dialect of this fourth personage, I conjectured him to be no other than the redoubted William Penn, of quaking notoriety, and his errand, I trow, was sharply to have rebuked those of his disputatious descendants who had engaged in the mortal fray of the Doctors. Old Charon however, flatly refused compliance with his request, and with a sneer observed, "Thou gavest me not a *sous* for thy passage from earth, stay where thou art, I wot there be noise enough without thee!"

As the boat approached this terrestrial globe, I could distinctly hear the words "Advertize!" "Hand-bill!!" "De-gradating!!!" pronounced in a tone of indignation by one of the trio, whom I fancied to be Æsculapius himself, from the decisive manner in which he spoke.—After a short pause I heard from another voice—but in the chastened and subdued accents of conscious inferiority, the terms "peculiar circumstances"—"Difference"—"Non Compos"—"Other Patients"—To this, however, the first speaker seemed in no-wise to assent, for in a still more indignant and decisive tone he said, "Brother, no circumstances can justify ———."

These detached fragments were all I heard, for not a syllable could I for the life o'me catch about "Harsh Measures," or "Mild Methods," though in truth, these were the points concerning which I was most fain to have had some intelligence; nor could I gather that the third personage absolutely *said* any thing, though from certain courteous *hums* and *haas*, that he mumbled forth, it appeared to me that he chimed in with Æsculapius."

And here abruptly closed my vision, in the accomplishment of which, Mr. Editor, I would have you to know, that not only I, but all the old women of my acquaintance have full confidence, especially as it fell upon my entranced brain

—"In deep of night whea Dreams they say are true."

By the by, I had almost forgotten to mention that as my dream did not hold out till the sacred trio had landed, it is not in my power to inform you how they will travel.—Whether as aeronauts, or in a chaise and four, or how otherwise; but this you may rely on, that ere long they will make their appearance either at Micklegate, or Bootham-Bar, the two principal Roman entrances to your once far famed City, now again about to be brought into note, nay to be immortalized by "The Battle of the Doctors."

Bat, Mr. Editor, 'tis time to have done, as I mean this letter to be a sort of herald or precursor, to announce the coming of

the mighty Trio, and as I expect them anon, there is no time to furbish up my narrative; so you must even take it as it will be found, a plain homespun matter of fact statement—without any of your kickshaws of rhetoric, which, as Saint Cobbett has it, are only meant to gull and to deceive,—With cordial congratulations at the coming Peace,

I am, &c.

MISO-EMPIRICUS.

P. S. May we not have an Illumination when the Doctors shall have shaken Hands, and definitive articles of Peace be signed?

York, October 13, 1813.

From the York Chronicle of Nov. 4.

MR. EDITOR,

THE Creature in the Herald who styles himself a Friend to Harsh Measures, should be informed that there is no such Being in existence as a *mad* Papist. The rest of his paragraph concerns me not, tho' I cannot help apprehending that if he and the other paper warriors don't take care of themselves, the little Black Gentleman with an odd Name will soon have hold of them.

Sir, Yours,

A NON-DESCRIPT.

From the York Chronicle of Nov. 11.

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

IN consequence of the Reports which have been circulated, and the Accusations which have been made against the York Lunatic Asylum, I think it right to apprize the Public, that the next Quarterly Court, or Meeting of the Governors, will be held at the Asylum, on Thursday the Second of December, at Twelve o'Clock, and if any Persons whatsoever, have any thing to allege against the management or treatment of the Patients, they are requested to take that opportunity of bringing forward their charges.

CHARLES BEST,

Physician to the Asylum,

York, Nov. 10, 1813.

From the York Chronicle of Nov. 18.

HONESTUS presents his compliments to *Ecigilator*, and will be obliged to him to say under what description of military apparatus the *Advertisement* signed by the Physician to the Asylum is to be classed?—Whether it be intended to act as *Bomb*, or *Mine*, *Catamaran*, or *Torpedo*?

But perhaps *Ecigilator* may consider this method which the Physician to the Asylum has taken of *Advertising himself* as only a *Ruse de Guerre*—or that disdaining the unfair mode of *bush-fighting* adopted by *Brodum*, he is trying his skill at a *coup de main*.

Honestus would request *Ecigilator* to recommend to his friend, if he is really serious, to call a *special meeting* of the Subscribers to the *Asylum* and *Lupton's fund*, for the purpose of taking into consideration, not the misconduct or inattention of the *Physician*, but the total impracticability of his affording proper attention to 150 Patients; not to accuse him of taking exorbitant *fees* from the Patients, but to discuss the glaring impropriety of his being allowed to take *any fees*; not to censure the individual behaviour of the *Servants*, nor merely to inquire into the *internal economy* of the House, but to reconsider the general mode of *management*, the gross misapplication of the *funds*, and the perversion of the ORIGINAL design of the Subscribers, in converting that which should have been an *Asylum* for the *Poor*, into an *Hotel* for the *Rich*.

As *Ecigilator* is such a sworn enemy to *quackery*, he may also prevail upon his friend to throw open the Apothecary's shop, that a just inquiry may be made whether the *nostrums* of his PREDECESSOR now exist there; or if in the rage for strict regularity, the patients have been deprived of these invaluable blessings, confided, it is understood, with so much care, by the *Inventor* to his *Pupil*.—These, and many other topics, may be discussed at this *special meeting*, no doubt much to the satisfaction of the Physician to the Asylum.

From the York Chronicle of Nov. 18.

EVIGILATOR appears determined not to meet his opponents on their own ground. He at first appealed to the *public*, on the subject of the York Asylum; but he now finds it more convenient to retire to his capitol, and magnanimously dares any one to fight him within his own walls. In your last paper,

He appears with his own signature, and challenges any one to produce charges of mismanagement or maltreatment of the patients, at the next Quarterly Court, to be held at the Asylum on the 2d of December.

This is certainly a manœuvre worthy of a General so well versed in *military tactics*. He knows very well that the Institution has not been publicly and expressly charged with maltreating the patients; and that even on the supposition of this being the case, it would be almost impossible for any one out of the House, to bring home the charge with incontrovertible evidence.

The real subjects of complaint are, briefly, that the Institution has been perverted from its original intention; that the means of preventing, detecting, and correcting abuses, which are provided in most other similar establishments, are not found provided for in the present economy of the York Asylum; and that a greater degree of responsibility is vested in the Physician, than ought to be reposed in any man, however honourable.

Let not, therefore, the Governors be misled from the real subject of investigation; but let them revert to the first principles of their Institution: let them restore it to its original foundation: let them establish rules and regulations for the prevention of abuses, similar to those which are generally provided in such establishments. Then, and not till then, the suspicions of the public will vanish; and a confidence will be felt, that, if any cases of mismanagement or improper treatment should occur, they will be detected, be considered with impartiality, and be decided upon with a due regard to justice, humanity, and the real interests of the Institution.

I remain, &c.

MONITOR.

It will be observed, that the charges against the Asylum in the previous papers are chiefly presumptive: the means of preventing and detecting abuses were said not to be provided, and therefore it was at least highly probable that abuses did exist. The general impression on the public mind for many years past, confirmed this presumption; such, however, is the difficulty of substantiating particular charges of ill treatment of lunatics, and the reluctance which is generally felt to expose the instances of this disease, that there seemed but little probability of the Doctor's challenge to produce allegations against the treatment of the patients on the 2d of December being accepted.—At this juncture, the following statement appeared in the York Herald.

From the York Herald of Nov. 27.

Mr. EDITOR,

THE following statement would have appeared in the *Courant* of November 8, if the Editor had not shown it before it was published, without my knowledge, to Dr. Best; who came over to me at Doncaster, on November 6. I was induced to suspend its publication till this time on the Doctor's request, and on his promising to publish the Advertisement which appeared in the *Papers*, calling a Meeting of the Governors on December 2.

When I first wrote the statement for the press, I had never seen the letters which have lately been published in the *York Papers* respecting the Asylum; nor did I know the name of any one of the Governors or Persons connected with the Institution; but I did not think it proper to conceal the facts publicly sworn to before me; more particularly as Vicars was ordered by me to be sent to the Asylum against his friends' consent, who were afraid that he should receive ill usage there. I examined W. Vicars, in company with a friend, on the 5th of November, and in consequence of a statement given to me by Dr. Best, I examined his body very carefully again on the 8th: he appeared at that time to have a great many yellowish black marks upon him, which had it not been for the statement of the Doctor, I should not have had the least doubt were the effects of bruises. Whenever I have seen him he has been perfectly quiet, except in the case of the assault on the old woman, who had given him very great provocation.

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

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

I remain, Sir, your humble Servant,

GODFREY HIGGINS,

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

Skellow-Grange, near Ferrybridge,

Nov. 20th, 1813.

STATEMENT.

A FEW days previous to the 17th April, 1813, complaint was made to me by an old woman, that William Vicars, of Fishlake, had assaulted her, &c. in consequence of which I granted a warrant to apprehend him, and upon his being brought up, I found he was insane. He being a Pauper, I ordered the Overseer of the Poor, Thomas Leach, to take proper measures for conveying him to the Asylum at York; to which place he was taken on the 17th of last April; and from which he was brought away on the 18th of last October. When I saw Vicars before he went, he appeared in good bodily health, no ways weak or emaciated.

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

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

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

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

Bill paid by the OVERSEER.

York, July 5th, 1813.

B.

WM. VICARS,

Bought of JOHN HODGSON,

	£.	s.	d.
4½ yds Dark Cloth, 3s. 9d.	0	16	11
2½ yds Stout Cord, 3s. 9d.	0	9	5
4½ yds ditto Cotton, 1s. 2d.	0	5	3
Pocketing for 3 Coats	0	1	10
8½ doz. Buttons, 8d.	0	2	4
	1	15	9

Bill paid by the OVERSEER.

C.	Mr. VICKERS.	£.	s.	d.
Shirts mended		0	1	6
7½ yds Cloth		0	13	9
2 Shirts made		0	2	9
2 pair Stockings		0	6	0
		1	4	0

Bill paid by the OVERSEER.

D.	The Overseers of Fishlake, Dr.			
To the Governors of the York Lunatic Asylum, Oct. 13, 1813.				
Board, &c. of Wm. Vicars, 4 weeks 3 days, 9s.		1	19	9
Letter 1s. 9d. Shaving 5d. Stamp 2d.		0	2	4
Paid Short		0	0	6
Received, Geo. Surr,		2	2	7
Allowing deposit		1	1	0
		1	1	7

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

CHARLES MAPLES, Surgeon.

From the York Herald of Nov. 27.

SIR,

I AM informed, by a letter from Mr. Higgins, of Skellow, near Doncaster, dated Nov. 23, that his statement, relative to the supposed mal-treatment of a patient in the Lunatic Asylum, will be published this week. I am not informed whether the counter-statement, which I put into his hands three weeks ago, will appear at the same time, but conceiving that any explanation or defence on my part would be altogether premature

and incorrect, before the matter has been fully investigated by the Governors of the Asylum, I shall for the present content myself with requesting the public to suspend their judgment, and desiring you to insert the following letter.

I am, Sir, &c.

York, Nov. 26, 1813.

C. BEST.

Copy of a Letter, sent to Mr. Higgins, on the 21st Instant,

SIR,

York, Nov. 20, 1813.

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

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

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

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

I have further to request, that the deposition of the Apothecary at Thorne be taken on oath, before it is brought forward as an authentic document. The publication of this paper in its present form, before the matter has been fully investigated, will hardly, I think, be considered as a fair proceeding, by any candid or unprejudiced person. So far from tending to promote the ends of justice and truth, which are the only legitimate objects in every similar inquiry, it is evidently calculated to counteract and defeat them. It is intended to produce an impression on the minds of its readers, that the situation in which Wm. Vickars was removed from York, was the result of neglect and improper treatment at the Asylum, and not, as I apprehend will be fully proved by evidence, the unavoidable consequence of the lamentable and dangerous illness under which he had recently laboured, and from which he was but then in an early stage of convalescence. It is also calculated to disseminate a belief, that the Asylum at large and its inmates, are kept in a state of uncleanness and neglect; and that due attention is not paid either to the health or the comfort of the patients, the contrary of which notion, as I venture to affirm with the utmost confidence, will be established by the most ample and satisfactory evidence.

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

Should you, after all, decide upon publishing your statement, from which a sense of justice and candour will, I trust, still dissuade you, you are at liberty to make what use you think proper of the paper I put into your hands, explaining, of course, in case of its publication, that it is to be considered merely as a

partial and imperfect explanation of the circumstances, taken down hastily on the spur of the occasion, and as by no means comprising the whole of the evidence to be brought forward on the subject.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

CHARLES BEST.



It is confidently hoped, that the CASE which has just appeared in the York Herald, with the controversy which has recently taken place, respecting the Asylum, will induce a general attendance of the Governors at the Quarterly Court, to be held on the 2d of December. The following judicious Regulations for the prevention and detection of abuses, in a class of Institutions of all others the most exposed to them, are extracted from the Rules of several respectable Establishments, and are most respectfully submitted to the serious consideration of the Governors of the York Lunatic Asylum, by

WILLIAM TUKE.

York, 27th of 11th Month, 1813.

“That the Physicians and Surgeons of the Public Infirmary, shall be the Physicians and Surgeons of the Hospital and Asylum: and the Liverpool Parish Poor shall be under the care of the three Senior Physicians of the Dispensary.”—*1st Rule of the Liverpool Lunatic Hospital and Asylum.*

“That each Patient admitted, shall come under the care of that Physician, who is the Physician for the week, except the Patient be entitled to reside in the Asylum; in which case, the Patient's Friends shall have liberty, at the time of Admission, to choose any one of the Physicians of the Infirmary to attend the Patient.”—*9th Rule.*

“That none of the Male Servants shall be permitted to go into the Female Patients' Apartments upon any account; nor the Keeper, without the Matron, or some Female Servant, (for whom the Matron shall be responsible) constantly attending him.”—*24th Rule.*

“That the Officers of the Infirmary be requested to visit the Hospital and Asylum occasionally, and to observe the behaviour of the Keeper, Matron, and their Servants, towards the Patients; to examine into the cleanliness of the Wards and Public Apartments; the quality of the Bread, Beer, and other Provisions; whether they are allowed to walk in the Gardens when the Weather will permit, and whether they be regularly attended by their respective Physicians—also to re-

mark, whether there is cause to infer any damage by fire or insecurity; whether any further improvements can be made, for the greater comfort and convenience of their unhappy Patients, and in particular, that they examine into the Bedding and nightly accommodation of each Patient; for which purpose it is desirable that they occasionally visit in the Evening, and that they enter their Remarks in the Book provided for that purpose."—26th Rule.

These Rules appear to have been copied nearly verbatim from those of Manchester, in which, however, House Visitors are appointed to attend *daily*. It is also directed "that the admission of each Patient shall be signed by four, or more, of the Trustees of the Infirmary," and that "Consultations be held Monthly, or more frequently, if necessary, by the Physicians, concerning the Cases of the Patients, by which experience and knowledge will reciprocally be communicated, in a Disease, of all others the most perplexing and obscure."

The following is extracted from the Rules of the Nottingham Asylum.

"That the House Committee shall meet, at the Lunatic Asylum, on every Wednesday, at the Hour of Eleven in the Forenoon, or oftener, if necessary; and be authorized to admit or discharge Patients, not belonging to the third Class; to determine the amount of the Weekly Payments, demandable from the respective Patients: to superintend the condition of the House and the Furniture; to hire, dismiss, and pay the Assistants and Menial Servants; to inspect and allow, or reject Weekly Bills; to pay all Demands not exceeding Ten Pounds, which cannot be reserved for the consideration of the general Quarterly Meetings; to enforce the observance of the Rules and Orders; to hear and decide Complaints; to correct Abuses, and to transact such incidental and ordinary Business, as may claim immediate attention."

From the York Herald of Dec. 4.

SIR,

I THINK it my duty to inform the public, that I have presented the following Statement to the Governors, at the Asylum, this day. I am not at present informed, what is the decision of the Court. I shall therefore make no comments, nor give any opinion upon what has passed; but I do most confidently hope, if the Governors have thought it right to come to any decision, that at least, the nature of the evidence upon which that decision is founded will be stated to the public.

However, I care little what is their conclusion, so that it only produce such wholesome Regulations, (the appointment of Visitors, &c. &c.) as may prevent even the suspicion of such things occurring in future.

I remain, Sir, your humble Servant,

GODFREY HIGGINS.

York, Thursday Evening, Dec. 2, 1813.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I think it my duty to lay before you the following statement of certain facts, which came publicly before me as a magistrate, respecting a lunatic of the name of Wm. Vickars. I have done myself the honour of presenting them to you in person, in consequence of a conference I had some time ago at Doncaster with Dr. Best, and of the advertisement published by him, the result of that conference; and also, in order that I may verify the documents as far as in my power, and be ready to afford you any explanation which you may require.

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

At the time I first wrote the statement which I sent to the Courant, (see page 37,) I did not know the name of any person connected with the Asylum: I had never read any of the letters which have lately been published in the York papers respecting it; nor have I to this day read more than three or four of them, and I never have had, until this week, any communication, directly or indirectly, on this subject, with any person in the City of York or its neighbourhood, except Dr. Best and the Editors of the two York papers.

I should not have said a word of my own motives or conduct in this affair, had it not been for something like an insinuation contained in Dr. Best's letter (see page 39) of Nov. 20, that I was lending my name as a magistrate to encourage a malicious conspiracy against him and the Asylum; but I hope and trust no one will believe, that I would so far forget myself and the situation I have the honour to hold. No one, surely, will suspect me, of wishing, wantonly, to hurt the feelings of any man, much less of a man like Dr. Best, whom I had never seen, and of whom I had never heard any one speak, but with esteem and respect. He may think it policy to turn the attention of the public to my offences, instead of the offences of the Asylum, but I do not think it will avail him much. I cannot think, that in attacking me, he has taken the best method of defending himself.

By Dr. Best's account, the only difference in opinion betwixt him and myself, seems to be, that *he* wanted a full and complete investigation in private—I wanted one in public. In consequence of the Doctor's journey to Doncaster, I have had a great deal more trouble than I should otherwise have had; but I should have been amply repaid, if my trouble had been ten times as great, by the thanks of numbers, for taking up the cause of their relations and friends. Yet, in several instances, when I have urged them to let me bring forward their individual case, the answer has been, "I can take care my friend shall be ill used no more, but I will not advertise him in all the York papers for a lunatic."

I shall now probably be told, I am raising an outcry again—be it so, but what I say is true. I think no one will deny, that the case of Vickars is a very strong one in its present appearance. Having brought it before the public, I have done my duty, and I shall be very glad, if the gentlemen connected with the Institution can be able to show that they have done theirs, and to convince the friends of Wm. Vickars and the public, upon *unquestionable* evidence, that his case has been mistaken; but I apprehend nothing short of the whole evidence being laid before the public will be deemed satisfactory—less than that will not satisfy me.

Upon the document containing Dr. Best's defence, which he might have published, if he had thought proper, along with mine, I think it right to observe, that it seems to me incredible that any inferior servant of a mad-house should be found so humane as to lend his clothes for six weeks to a lousy and itchy pauper, who, if not lousy and itchy at that time, was so mischievous as, in spite of all restraint, to destroy his own clothes as fast as they were given to him, and for whom the opulent township of Fishlake was bound and willing to find every necessary. I may possibly err in my judgment, but I cannot admit such interested and incredible evidence as the

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above to stand in competition, for a moment, with the disinterested and unobtruded evidence of Francis Moat and the two Mapleses.

I sought their evidence it was not offered to me.

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

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

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

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

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

Surely, my Lords and Gentlemen, if you dispassionately discuss the circumstances which I have laid before you, you must agree with me that public investigation into the state of the Asylum, of which you are the guardians, is absolutely necessary; and that the Institution ought to be placed on such a footing, as, by the purity of its principles, the frankness of its proceedings, the wide extension of its doors to the insane poor, might challenge and command the approbation, the confidence, and the continued patronage of that liberal public to whom it is indebted for its origin and support.

GODFREY HIGGINS.

York, December 1, 1813.

From the York Herald of Dec. 4.

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM,

AT a QUARTERLY COURT of the GOVERNORS of the YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM, held the Second day of December, 1813.

The Governors having taken into their consideration the Statement published in the York and other Newspapers, respecting the treatment of WILLIAM VICKARS, lately a Patient in this Asylum, and having examined upon oath such Witnesses as were competent to afford information on the same, are unanimously of opinion, that during the time that the said Wm. Vickars remained in the Asylum, he was treated with all possible care, attention, and humanity.

RESOLVED,

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

RESOLVED, That this Court be adjourned to FRIDAY the 10th day of December instant, at Twelve o'Clock.

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

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

E. EBOR.

From the York Courant of Dec. 6.

SIR,

I CANNOT refrain from wishing to call the attention of your Readers for a few moments, to the decision of the Quarterly Court of Governors of the York Lunatic Asylum, published in the last Herald, and which will doubtless also be found in your pages.

It is stated in this publication, that such *witnesses* were examined upon oath in regard to the case of W. Vickars as were

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competent to give information. Will the Public believe that these *competent witnesses* were no others than the Managers and Keepers at the Asylum!—The persons suspected of neglect, cruelty, and fraud, say, upon their oath, that they are perfectly innocent, and entirely contradict the facts stated by Vickars' wife and her sister; by Leach, Moat, and the two respectable Surgeons of the name of Maples. Is it possible that upon this mere denial of guilt, by the parties accused, the Governors have formed their opinion, that "during the time Wm. Vickars remained in the Asylum, he was treated with all possible care, humanity, and attention!"

Will not the Public inquire, why the pretended evidence upon which the decision of the Court is founded, is not published?—As the Public have heard the charges, justice to the Asylum seems to demand that they should also hear the vindication. Englishmen are not accustomed to place implicit faith in declarations unsupported by proof. But will it be believed that in this *proper tribunal*, it was not deemed expedient to take down in writing the declarations which were received as evidence. Of course, any cross examination must have been very imperfect.

Let your readers inquire, which of the Governors whose names appear in the advertisement, as having been present when the unanimous declaration was made on the case of Vickars, were actually in the room at the time, or whether several of them had not previously retired in disgust.

The public must remember that there are four other cases of complaint, yet unnoticed by the Court of Governors. Let them not, therefore, imagine that the whole business is decided. What light these cases may throw even upon that of Vickars is uncertain—though, doubtless, the *competent witnesses* in the Asylum, will declare upon oath, that they are as innocent in the cases yet unexamined, as in that of the unfortunate Vickars.

The respectable Magistrate, whose public spirit demands the thanks of his countrymen, can now require no justification for making his appeal to the tribunal of the public. It is to be hoped that every one will read his excellent address to the Governors, in the last York Herald.

I remain, &c.

A HATER OF ABUSES.

From the York Herald of Dec. 11.

SIR,

AS I am informed something more is expected from me relative to the meeting of the Governors of the Asylum on Friday

last, than what I published last week in the Herald, I beg your to state the following particulars—I wish to say as little as I can with propriety.

The Archbishop, the last minute before I came away, told me very politely, that they would detain me no longer, they had no further any occasion for me.

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

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

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

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

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

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

In that most excellent Institution, called the Retreat, belonging to the respectable Society of Friends, 26 patients have died in sixteen years, during which period, the average number of patients has been 46. In the Asylum, containing at the time of the last report 199 patients, 24* have been buried at one church alone, in the last eleven months; and it was sworn in the Asylum, by one of the interested witnesses, that only a slight appearance of typhus had shown itself in one or two cases.

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

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

I remain, Sir, your humble Servant,

G. HIGGINS.

Skellon-Grange, near Ferrybridge,

December 9, 1813.

As the Resolutions of the adjourned Court on December 10th were not published, it may be proper to insert here the following extract from the History of the Asylum, pages 33, 34.

"On that day, Mr. Nicoll and twelve other persons, went down to the Asylum, at the hour of meeting, and paid the requisite donations to become Governors. After some hesitation, as to the point of regularity, (this being an adjourned meeting) they were admitted to act and vote as Governors.

It would be difficult to conceive the surprise, occasioned by this unexpected incursion. Considerable indignation was naturally felt and expressed; but the impartial and dignified conduct of the chairman, (the Archbishop of York) contributed to restrain the meeting within the bounds of decorum. His Grace's efforts were exerted at this and every subsequent meeting, to unite all the Governors in a cordial co-operation for an improvement in the system of the Charity.

Though the Court, on the 2d of December, appeared to have decided erroneously on the case of Vickars, the new Governors forbore to propose any revision of that case, or even to allude to it; conceiving that this would be an unnecessary attack on the measures of those with whom they were now to be associated. They were persuaded, that out of Mr. Higgins's remaining cases, if properly investigated, enough would be proved to evince the necessity of a change of system.

On the first of these cases, therefore, being brought forward, Mr. Nicoll proposed, that instead of an inquiry by the whole Court, a Committee of Investigation should be appointed. Mr. Nicoll's proposal was violently opposed—there were only "a couple of lousy cases, which might be disposed of in half an hour."

The Archbishop however, declared himself so decidedly in favour of the Committee, as the preferable course, that the opposition to it was withdrawn, and this mode of proceeding was agreed to be adopted."

From the York Courant of Dec. 27.

SIR,

WITHOUT further apologizing, I beg to inform you, that there has died in the York Lunatic Asylum since its first establishment in 1777, (being a period of 36 years) 246 persons; that the average number of Patients for great part of the time have been 195; therefore compare the number in the Friends' Retreat, say 46, as stated by Mr. Higgins, in the York Herald of the 11th instant, and the deaths as stated also by him, at 26, within a period of 16 years, and it will then appear the number of deaths are *greater* in proportion in the Retreat than they have been in the Asylum.

Why Mr. H. has endeavoured to impose upon the Public, by saying that the proportion of deaths in the Asylum, are as 3 to 1 in the Retreat, I am at a loss to conceive; perhaps the worthy Magistrate will, upon seeing this, condescend again to explain to the *Public* the mode by which he has made his calculation.

There is also another small mistake which he has made, which I beg to bring to his recollection: In the York Herald of the 27th ult. he states that Mr. Branson, Surgeon, of Doncaster, and others, had seen the legs of *Vickars*, the pauper, after his return from the Asylum at York; whereas Mr. Branson has since wrote to the Governors of the Asylum, saying that "he never even saw the pauper after he was sent to York; and that Mr. Higgins must have *completely misunderstood* him."

Hoping to have these calculations and mistakes explained,

I am,

With my Public respect,

Yours,

York, Dec. 26, 1813.

A FRIEND TO TRUTH.

From the York Chronicle of Dec. 30.

A WRITER in the last Courant, who has, *most unfortunately*, assumed the title of "A Friend to Truth," has given the public the following statements:—1st, That there *has* died in the York Lunatic Asylum since its first establishment in 1777—246 persons." 2d, "That the average number of patients for *great part of the time*, has been 195." And 3d, As an inference from the foregoing, "that the number of deaths are

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greater in proportion at the Retreat, than they have been in the Asylum."

I beg to inform your readers, that these three statements are absolutely false, as will appear evident from the following annual account of the number of patients in the house in each year, and the number of deaths. This document has been extracted chiefly from the printed reports of the state of the Institution published in the York Chronicle.

Date	No. of Patients in the House.	Number of Deaths from the opening.	Date	No. of Patients in the House.	Number of Deaths from the opening.
1778	15	1	1796	83	89
1779	23	4	1797	85	101
1780	28	8	1798	96	105
1781	41	11	1799	99	112
1782	32	20	1800	112	120
1783	39	22	1801	127	145
1784	33	22	1802	127	157
1785	43	25	1803	137	165
1786	47	27	1804	141	185
1787	55	30	1805	142	194
1788	68	36	1806	158	210
1789	72	38	1807	166	223
1790	75	45	1808	186	230
1791	70	56	1809	154	247
1792	74	58	1810	174	266
1793	74	66	1811	172	292
1794	80	73	1812	195	310
1795	83	81	1813	199	322

It is evident, from the preceding table, that the number of patients who had died in the Asylum, at the time of the last printed report, was 322: so much for the *first* statement of the "Friend to Truth."

In regard to the *second*, it appears that prior to the year 1800, the number of patients in the house at one time has never been 100; and that the average number from the commencement of the Asylum to the present year, has not been 98. The average annual number of deaths will be found to have been as nearly 9 as possible. Let us then examine the *third* statement of the letter writer. The average number of patients in the Retreat, since its establishment, a period of 16 years, has been 46, and in this time the number of deaths has been 26. A very simple arithmetical process, will readily show that the proportion of deaths in the Retreat to those of the Asylum, are

* These numbers are printed, I presume by mistake, 210 and 222, in the annual accounts of the Asylum.

about as 1 to 4 1 5th; or, in other words, had only the same mortality prevailed in the Asylum, as has been the case in the Retreat, instead of an average of nine deaths in one year, there would have been only seven in two years. I am aware that a variety of circumstances must be considered, before any just inferences can be drawn from these comparative statements, and I should not have made them, had it not been necessary to correct the flagrant inaccuracies of this pretended "Friend to Truth."

There is another part of the letter we are examining, which, though not absolutely false, is calculated to make a very false impression on the readers' mind, and which, therefore, deserves notice. The writer says, he wishes to call to Mr. Higgins's recollection, another small error which he has made in regard to Branson, the Surgeon of Doncaster, having seen the legs of Vickars, the pauper—Another error indeed! Did this Friend to Truth know, or he did not know, that Higgins had corrected this error, and given a full explanation of it in his address to the Governors on the explanation of Vickars's case, and that this correction and examination were printed in the York Herald, the only paper in which the erroneous statement appeared, on the 11th of December.

You will, I think, agree with me in opinion, that whatever friendship this writer may have for Truth, he has a most unhappy way of showing it: He certainly has not taken much pains to seek her, and I really fear the fact is, that so long a time has elapsed since their last interview, that she has insensibly lost her place in his regards, and they have been transferred to a creature, whose qualities are the very opposite to those of Truth, but who, for purposes not the most honourable, may sometimes assume her name and garb.

If I am mistaken, which I heartily wish I may be, in these reflections, the Friend to Truth will doubtless confess himself a bad seeker, and thank me in your next, for the pains I have taken to bring him to the object of his attachment.

I remain, with respect, &c.

A SEEKER OF TRUTH.

—◆—
YORK ASYLUM.

AT an Adjourned Quarterly Court of GOVERNORS of the YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM, held on Friday the Seventh day of January, 1814.

At this Court, the Committee appointed on the Tenth of December last, to investigate certain charges then before the

Court, reported the several depositions taken by them on the cases referred to their investigation.

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

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

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

The Depositions taken by the Committee having been read,

RESOLVED,

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

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

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

His Grace the **ARCHBISHOP of YORK,**

THOS. SMITH, Esq. (LORD MAYOR.)

Rev. THOS. PRESTON,

Rev. WM. DEALTRY,

GEO. PALMES, Esq.

SAM. WM. NICOLL, Esq.

BENJ. BROOKSBANK, Esq.

WM. CARR, Esq.

THOS. WILSON, Esq.

HENRY BLAND, Esq.

Rev. JOHN GRAHAM,

Mr. BROOK,

Mr. J. GRAY.

From the York Herald of Jan. 15, 1814.

SIR,

LEST any improper inference should be drawn from my silence, I think it right to state to the public, that I am perfectly satisfied with the decision of the late Meeting of Go-

vernors; and am persuaded, that in consequence of the recent proceedings, the Patients are treated with as much *care, humanity, and attention*, as circumstances will admit of.

It gave me great pleasure to be able to second the motion for thanks to his Grace the Archbishop, and the Committee who conducted the late investigation. I now entertain the most sanguine hopes, that in August next, this Asylum will be put upon as good a plan of management as is adopted in any similar Institution in the kingdom. This expectation, Sir, is an ample compensation to me for the anxiety I have felt on this occasion, and for those misrepresentations to which I have been exposed in the discharge of what I conceive to have been my duty as a *Magistrate*.

I remain, &c.

G. HIGGINS.

Skellow-Grange, Jan. 10, 1814.

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

From the York Herald of March 26.

SIR,

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

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

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

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

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

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

I remain &c.

March 24, 1814.

G. HIGGINS.

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

From the York Herald of April 2.

Sir,

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

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

There are four sleeping-rooms or cells for females at the Asylum, separate from the main building.—They are of a very sufficient size, entirely lined with wood, and furnished with ventilators, straw beds, blankets, &c. Such apartments form an indispensable appendage to every large building for the reception of Lunatics, and are designed for the use of those unfortunate persons who cannot, with propriety, be permitted to sleep in the galleries with the other patients, on account of their excessive uncleanness or violence.

From the situation and habits of the four poor women by whom they are usually occupied, they are, every morning, at the time of cleaning them out, in an extremely offensive con-

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dition. I have no doubt that they were so when seen by Mr. Higgins, though not to the extent described in his letter; and I am convinced they will continue to be found in the same situation, with very little improvement, under every precaution, and contrivance, which it is possible to adopt. I am fully persuaded that the idea of concealing these cells from the knowledge of the Governors, never entered into the thoughts of any individual belonging to the Asylum. No one could have any motive or interest in doing so; and it can be proved, if required, that they had been previously seen by different Governors.

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

With reference to the notion of my responsibility, I here judge it expedient to inform the public, however superfluous such a statement may to many persons appear, that if the site upon which the Asylum is built is a damp and improper one—if the plan upon which it is constructed is injudicious and imperfect—if half of the accommodations have been destroyed by fire, and if the remaining apartments are insufficient for the comfort and the security of the patients—if the servants are too few to do the business of the house, or if they at any time neglect to perform it—and, lastly, if there is any thing defective in the general constitution and laws of the Institution, I do not consider myself as responsible for any of these circumstances, or for the evils which may naturally be expected to result from them.

I am, Sir, &c.

CHARLES BEST.

From the York Herald of April 2.

AN Inquest has been taken by Mr. Cowling, Coroner for this City, on view of the body of John Bardwell, otherwise

Chappey, a lunatic, who died in the Asylum, on Tuesday morning last. The Jury returned their verdict, that the said John Bardwell, alias Chappey, died of bruises given to him, *by all, or some, or one of three other Lunatics, who were confined and slept in the same room, or apartment with him, during the night of Thursday the 24th ult. but, by which of them it did not appear to the Jury.*

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

THE next Quarterly Court of GOVERNORS will be held at the ASYLUM, on Thursday the 14th Day of April instant, at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon.

JOHN BROOK, Treasurer.

York, April 4, 1814.

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

	£.	s.	d.
S. W. Nicoll, Esq.	20	0	0
D. Russell, Esq.	20	0	0
Rev. C. Wellbeloved	20	0	0
John Dyson, Esq.	20	0	0
Mr. D. Tuke	20	0	0
Mr. John Crosby	20	0	0
Mr. Jonathan Gray	20	0	0
Rev. J. Graham	20	0	0
Wm. Gimber, Esq.	20	0	0
J. Rawdon, Esq.	20	0	0
Rev. J. Richardson	20	0	0
Mr. S. Richardson	20	0	0
A. Thorpe, Esq.	20	0	0
Mr. D. Priestman	20	0	0
J. Tweedy, Esq.	21	0	0
G. L. Thompson, Esq.	20	0	0
Mr. Wm. Hornby	20	0	0
Mr. Wm. Tuke	20	0	0
M. Wilson, Esq.	20	0	0
R. T. North, Esq.	20	0	0
T. Smith, Esq.	20	0	0
Wm. Gray, Esq.	20	0	0
Rev. Mr. Perring	5	0	0
Rev. Wm. Smith	20	0	0
Wm. Carr, Esq.	20	0	0
C. Duncombe, Esq.	21	0	0
B. Brooksbank, Esq.	20	0	0

	£.	s.	d.
Mr. J. Mason	21	0	0
Mr. S. Tuke	20	0	0
Mr. T. Procter	20	0	0
Godfrey Higgins, Esq.	20	0	0
Wm. Marshall, Esq.	20	0	0
J. Cooke, Esq. of Camp's-Mount	20	0	0
Mr. J. Marshall	20	0	0
Mr. J. Catton	20	0	0
Mr. J. Wormald	20	0	0
Rev. R. S. Thompson	20	0	0
R. J. Thompson, Esq.	20	0	0
Mr. B. Clarkson	21	0	0
Mr. B. Clarkson, jun.	21	0	0
Mr. M. Clarkson	21	0	0
Mr. T. Marshall	20	0	0
J. L. Raper, Esq.	20	0	0
Sir Wm. Ingilby, Bart.	20	0	0
John Swann, Esq.	20	0	0
Rev. T. C. R. Read	26	5	0

*The following Donations and Legacies have been received
by the Treasurer since April last:—*

A Donation from Mr. Wm. Stead, jun.	21	0	0
Rev. James Dallin	21	0	0
Dan. Gaskell, Esq.	20	0	0
Benj. Gaskell, Esq.	20	0	0
M. Stapylton, Esq.	20	0	0
John Hustler, Esq.	20	0	0
Wm. Aldam, Esq.	20	0	0
Mr. John Mason, jun.	20	0	0
Mr. Caesar Peacock	20	0	0
A Legacy bequeathed by the Will of the late John Dodsworth, Esq. to the Fund } called Lupton's Fund.	100	0	0

From the York Herald of April 9.

SIR,

THOUGH I would wish to avoid raising "a popular
"clamour on the subject of the Lunatic Asylum," and exciting
"the indignation of the county against the persons concerned
"in its management, it seems to be requisite that some notice
"should be taken of" certain passages in Dr. Best's letter.

Dr. Best says, speaking of the cells for females: "*They are of a very sufficient size, entirely lined with wood, and furnished with ventilators, straw beds, blankets, &c.*"

Larger rooms, better ventilation, or a more frequent cleansing of these cells, might have prevented the effluvia which pervaded them, when they were visited by the Governors several hours after the filthy straw had been removed. The expression "*straw beds*," is scarcely applicable to loose straw covering the floor as in a stable.

The Doctor proceeds:—"I am fully persuaded that the idea of concealing these cells from the knowledge of the Governors, never entered into the thoughts of any individual belonging to the Asylum."

If the idea of concealment had not "entered into the thoughts of any individual belonging to the Asylum," yet it is certain that when the Committee of Rules and Management were conducted by the Physician, Apothecary, and Keepers, through the building, (some of them having particularly requested to see the cells,) they quitted the Asylum under a full persuasion that every part of the building had been submitted to their inspection.

"With respect to the chain and handcuffs, they have been particularly examined by a Committee of Governors."

This statement is calculated to induce a belief, that there has been a regular investigation by some Committee, within whose province the cognizance of the facts properly came. There are only two Committees now in existence; the one is, the Committee of Inquiry into Rules and Management, who might have been convened upon this occasion, but were not so. The other is the Fire Committee, whose province was to provide a remedy against the inconveniences which that emergency had occasioned. This is the Committee alluded to as having particularly examined the chain and handcuffs. Individually, as Governors, they were competent to investigate the circumstance; but as the Fire Committee, they had no authority.

As to chain and handcuffs, if they still continue in use, it is in contradiction to the statement of all the individuals belonging to the Asylum. It seems fair to believe, that they were intended by Dr. Best to be discontinued; and that the chain and handcuffs which were unknown to the Doctor, until discovered by Mr. Higgins, and which prove to have been replaced in the floor within the last six months, may have ever since been hidden from view by the neglected mass of filth and ordure, described in Mr. Higgins's letter.

Admitting, however, the use of chains to have been *bona fide* relinquished, or at least directed by the Physician to be so, it was highly necessary to have adopted some other mode of coercion, sufficient to prevent the violent patients from injuring

either themselves or each other. Yet on the occasion of the fire, it was in evidence that not one of the 180 patients, was confined by straps, a strait waistcoat, or any other personal restraint; and a pauper patient lately received mortal wounds on the day after his admission, from two unrestrained furious patients*.

Dr. Best's letter concludes with stating various instances in which "he does not consider himself as responsible."

1. "*If half of the accommodations have been destroyed by fire.*"

It would certainly be unjust to blame any individual connected with the Asylum as answerable for the fire. Yet still it was an unfortunate coincidence in its results, that the Physician was above 30 miles distant, in attendance on a patient; that the Apothecary and Housekeeper were gone out to keep Christmas; that two of the four male servants were also making merry with their friends; and that a third, who was troubled with an asthmatic complaint, could not bear the smoke which filled the building. Thus it happened, that though the only remaining male servant exerted himself to the utmost in rescuing the patients, four of them were unavoidably burnt to death; or, as the Steward's book records it, they died†.

2. "*If the remaining apartments are insufficient for the comfort and security of the patients.*"

The Governors declined the offers of accommodation from the Nottingham Asylum, and the Quakers' Retreat, on the statement of Dr. Best, that the patients could be sufficiently accommodated in the remaining buildings.

3. "*If the servants are too few to do the business of the house.*"

The Physician is the proper person to represent this to the Governors. If he have done so, and the representation have been neglected, the consequences are not chargeable on him. At present, however, the number of servants continues the same as when the Asylum contained 200 patients, and before "half of the accommodation had been destroyed by fire."

4. "*Or if they (the servants) at any time neglect to perform it.*"

The Physician may reprimand or discharge them, or report their conduct to the Governors. It seems particularly his duty not to overlook, still less to palliate, "a gross neglect of clean-

* He was admitted on the 23d, and assaulted on the 24th ult. and he died of his wounds on the 29th. His body was removed from the Asylum, and would have been buried without an inquest, but for the intervention of the Rev. J. Graham and Mr. Catton, two of the Governors.

† In the same book, a "flighty" patient who disappeared and was never again heard of, or accounted for, is entered as "removed."

liness, and of attention to the persons" of patients, which lately appeared "in full proof."

5. "*If there is any thing defective in the general constitution and laws of the Institution.*"

In most charitable Institutions, the medical attendants are not responsible for the constitution and laws. But in the York Lunatic Asylum, where allowed practice has given the Physician extraordinary powers, and where his suggestions and recommendations appear to have been uniformly adopted by the Governors, it follows that the responsibility for defects in the constitution and laws must, in a considerable degree, attach to the Physician.

The Governors, from the commencement of the Institution, seem to have placed a full confidence in their Physician, and have been ready to mould their constitution and laws agreeably to his suggestions.

Should it be objected, that a responsibility has been imposed on the Physician, beyond what is exacted from the Physicians of other charitable Institutions, it may be answered, that his emoluments have been in proportion; and that the admission of opulent lunatics, which was intended solely to provide a fund for the relief of the poor, has answered no other purposes, during the administration of the late, and that of the present Physician, than their own private emolument, and the cheap maintenance of their private patients.

It appears "superfluous" particularly to allude to the unfavourable insinuations against Mr. Higgins, which are scattered through the letter. The public are convinced, that if there be any prospect of a reformation of the defects and abuses which are now admitted to exist, they are chiefly indebted for it to the independent exertions, and the firmness of Mr. Higgins. Candid allowances will be made not only for some warmth of indignation, which may have been excited in the detector of abuses, but for some feelings of irritation operating in the minds of those who have been supporters of the old system.

A GOVERNOR OF THE ASYLUM.

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

AT a QUARTERLY COURT of GOVERNORS of the YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM, held the Fourteenth day of April, 1814.

RESOLVED,

That it appears to this Court, that when the Committee of Rules and Management were conducted through the Asylum

on the 28th of January last, the four Cells for Female Patients, recently discovered by Mr. Higgins in a state of extreme dirt and neglect, were not shown to them.

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

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

To the **GOVERNORS** of the
YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

GODFREY HIGGINS.

Skellow-Grange, Aug. 1814.

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

From the York Chronicle of Aug. 25.

SIR,

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

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

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

I am, Sir, &c.

August 23, 1814.

Y. Z.

From the York Courant of Aug. 29.

AT an ANNUAL COURT of GOVERNORS of the YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM, held at the GUILDHALL, in the CITY OF YORK, the 26th Day of August, and by Adjournment the 27th Day of August, 1814.

His Grace the ARCHBISHOP of YORK in the Chair.

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

RESOLVED,

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

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

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

That until a Committee for General Purposes shall be appointed, the present Committee of Rules and Management shall exercise the powers vested in the Committee for General Purposes by the new Rules and Regulations.

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

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

From the York Herald of Sep. 3.

WE congratulate our readers on the general results of the late meeting of the Governors of the York Lunatic Asylum. We hear that it was very numerous and most respectably attended, and that Earl Fitzwilliam and Viscount Milton expressed, in strong terms, their astonishment and regret at the abuses which have existed in the management of the patients, as well as of the pecuniary affairs of the Asylum.

The thanks of the Community at large, as well as of the Governors of this Charity, are due to the Committee, who have so laboriously investigated into its state, and who, we understand, have produced a new code of laws for its future management, calculated, as far as laws can be, to prevent the recurrence of those disgraceful and frightful evils, which it has required so much courage and perseverance to expose and remove.—We trust, that in future, the management of the York Lunatic Asylum will make it equally honourable and beneficial to our county.

From the York Courant of Sep. 12.

IT must be matter of great and general consolation to the Public, but more particularly to the friends of the unfortunate

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Lunatics confined in the Asylum at York, to hear, that after a most scrutinizing and minute investigation into the direction, management, and treatment of the Patients in that Institution, only *two* instances of neglect or ill-treatment have been proved against the Servants and Keepers of the Establishment.

Report of a General Quarterly Court, held Aug. 7th, 1814:

"That in the case of MARTHA KIDD, a gross neglect of cleanliness and of attention to the person is in full proof."

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

"That in the cases of GEORGE ARUNDEL and others, no sufficient ground of censure has been established."

From the York Herald of Sep. 17.

SIR,

AN article having appeared in two of the York Newspapers, relative to the late investigations at the Asylum, ingeniously calculated to mislead the judgment of the public, I request you to give a place to the following remarks:—

1. The "scrutinizing and minute investigation" was far from being confined to the conduct of "*Servants*," and "*Keepers*."

2. The cases, in which no sufficient ground of censure was established, were few in number.

3. Several Members of the Committee, and other Governors, had more cases in store, had they been solicitous to substantiate the charge of misconduct, farther than was requisite to demonstrate to the Governors, the absolute necessity of a radical change of system.

4. I am perfectly convinced, that the respectable majority of Governors, whose humane hearts and disinterested minds have felt the results of the late investigation, and who have honourably concurred in effecting a renovation of constitution and management in the Asylum, derive their "*consolation*" not from a review of the *past*, but from their anticipation of the *future* condition of that Institution.

5. I would gently hint to the author of the article alluded to, that he would best show his prudence, and his regard for the parties more or less affected by the late investigation, not by provoking a public discussion of the past History of the Asylum, but by permitting the subject to go quietly to rest.

I am, yours, &c.

A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE.

99 No. 12

From the York Herald of Sep. 17,

MR. EDITOR,

IT must unquestionably, as stated in the Courant of Monday, and the Chronicle of Thursday, be a source of great consolation to the friends of Patients confined in the York Lunatic Asylum, to find that a severe investigation has produced but two cases of negligence or disorder in the servants and keepers of that Institution—and those friends must have heard, with no slight degree of surprize, *that all those servants, whose conduct has thus borne the test of inquiry, have been discharged from their respective situations—the superior ones by a numerous general meeting, the inferior by the committee of inquiry itself.*

Perhaps some of your intelligent correspondents may furnish me with answers to the queries which follow:—

Was a gentleman of the name of Wilson ever confined in the York Asylum?

Were two guineas per week paid for his board and medical attendants?

Of this sum did the House receive 14s. and the Physician 28s.?

Was Mr. Wilson removed from the Asylum by his friends, on a gradual and alarming change in his bodily health?

Was such change attributable to a deficiency of that personal attention, for which the stipend he paid was an ample compensation?

Was this proved to be the case by his speedy recovery on the restoration, at his own home, of that care to which he had before been accustomed, and which his health required?

Is there, in the above case, any charge against the Institution as ill conducted, or can it be said that such case is evidence of funds misapplied?

Were there, after the unhappy accident of the fire, 13 female patients confined in one small chamber not more than 13 feet long or 8 wide?

Was such chamber ventilated—and was it, or was it not, constantly heated by a fire?

Was such confinement continued for three or more months?

Had any, and which, of the servants and officers of the Asylum, any knowledge or superintendence of such confinement?

During such confinement, had, or had not, offers been made to the Asylum from the Quakers' Retreat, and also from the Lunatic Asylum at Nottingham, of receiving such patients as the remaining buildings were insufficient for?

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Were, or were not such offers rejected, and under what circumstances or on what ground?

Were the two cases substantiated before the Committee considered by such Committee as accidental or insulated, or were they deemed evidence of the general state and conduct of the Institution?

Was it not the opinion of the Committee, when those two cases were closed, that all further examination was superfluous?

Had not a Member of the Committee many other cases in his hand, which he deemed it unnecessary, in the existing circumstances, to produce?

INVESTIGATOR.

From the York Herald of Sept. 24.

*"Sullen, methinks, and slow the morning breaks,
"As if the Sun were listless to appear,
"And dark designs hung heavy on the day."*

DRYDEN.

MR. EDITOR,

THE public must feel themselves greatly indebted to the good intentions of those paragraph writers, who, having been foiled in their attempts to destroy the character of the Physician to the Asylum, by charges which have been proved to be groundless, are now anxiously desirous of appealing from the honourable and the disinterested verdict of the Archbishop of York and the Governors at large, to the more delicate, and the consequently more liberal investigation of a Newspaper controversy.

After partial statements, which have insidiously conveyed praise to Lords and humble Commoners, by whom such praise must be contemptuously disclaimed, the accusation of INVESTIGATOR in your last Herald, excites in my mind sensations widely different from those of approval.

In order to refute his inquisitorial charges, allow me in return for his queries, to inquire, if the severe scrutiny to which Dr. Best at the general meeting voluntarily and boldly submitted, did not lead to a perfect conviction on the mind of every gentlemanly observer, that the conduct of that officer had been peculiarly correct, and that his unsolicited resignation of some of the emoluments which his predecessor enjoyed, as proved at that meeting, had been *nobly disinterested*.

His continuance in office, with a recently voted salary of Three Hundred Guineas, is a proof that the Governors consider his honour to be unblemished.

The case of Mr. Wilson, to the display of which the eloquent pen of Investigator is so triumphantly directed, had been already, after lengthened discussion, discarded by the resolution of a quarterly court, when it was re-produced at the general meeting with a vehemence and a zeal which commanded the attention of the auditors, and which only subsided on the complete subversion of the accusation—for, that this accusation was *subverted* is evidenced by the immediately subsequent resolution, "THAT NO CRIMINALITY ATTACHED TO DR. BEST."

Now, Sir, is it to be endured by the independent Governors of the Asylum, which with its present almost perfect code of regulations, rises in the luxuriant promise of surpassing all similar establishments; that the officer to whose skill and humanity, after rigorous inquiry, the Governors confide the lives of their patients, shall be perpetually tortured by anonymous assailants, who, under the pretence of public justice, may perhaps, endeavour to effect the purposes of private malice.

That the facts proved against the other officers of the Institution, are perfectly free from that enormity of crime which we were led to expect, must be evident to every unprejudiced reader of the resolutions of the quarterly courts; and however lenient might have been the exercise of the boasted powers of certain Members of the Committee, or other public accusers, those charges which, when demanded at the general meeting, they did not think proper to deduce, cannot now be honourably alluded to as proofs of crimination.

That the Committee declined the offer of the Quakers' Retreat, is a fact which excites in my mind no suspicion on the motives for their refusal, but the honour of the Committee requires not my defence.

It may safely rest under the protection of that able Member of it, who after his laborious investigations, now relaxes his mind by skirmishing in the Herald, and kindly recommending a cautious prudence to the friends of the "PARTIES WHO MAY BE MORE OR LESS AFFECTED" by a public discussion.

As a disinterested Governor, I will not from motives of timid prudence, restrain the voice of truth in the just defence of either a superior or an inferior officer, much less in the defence of that Institution which can never attain its merited exaltation, if the Managers in general, or its Physician in particular, are to be anonymously assailed with a constant repetition of insidious clamour.

For the purpose of promoting peace among the various parties in York, and to remove the animosities of conflicting interests or disappointed intrigues, I call upon you, Sir, and the other Editors of Papers, as you value your present estimation among your fellow-citizens, to refuse the insertion of

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attacks upon the Asylum or its officers, **UNLESS THEY ARE SANCTIONED BY THE OPEN SIGNATURE OF THE WRITER**; and on this condition, if Investigator in his real person, to which I am an utter stranger, demands it, I will substitute my own name, however unimportant, for that of

Your humble Servant,

York, Sept. 19, 1814.

ARISTIDES.

M. Staphylion
 From the York Herald of Oct. 1.

 We do not think it very decorous for a writer, who himself assumes a fictitious signature, to call upon us to refuse all essays which have not the real names of the writers affixed. We are "open to all parties, and partial to none," but we conceive the practice which Aristides recommends would be prejudicial to the interests of society, if adopted generally, and we do not see why an exception should be made in favour of the Asylum. The multitude of our Advertisements obliges us to decline the paper of THEMISTOCLES.

ED.

Mr. Editor,

HAD my wishes prevailed, the affairs of the Asylum once settled, had been no more discussed—but there is a restless spirit abroad which, by assertions, insinuations, and charges, precludes all hope of oblivion, all possibility of repose. When the past state of the Asylum becomes a subject of congratulation, can those Committees, can those Governors who have again and again reprobated such state, remain silent? When "dark designs" are insinuated, and the purest conduct is attributed to a spirit of intrigue, are not the calumnies to be repelled?

It is most obvious that throughout the long inquiries of the Asylum Committee, no disposition hostile to Dr. Best appeared—his name was scarcely mentioned in that Committee, his conduct never alluded to, with the exception of a few questions respecting the general powers of his office, and his general mode of executing those powers. In the various quarterly meetings the same reserve took place, with one exception, a reference to his letter to Mr. Higgins—yet Dr. Best was the first officer and sole superintendent of the Asylum, all was under his management and control—he was at once physician, visiter, master—and this at a period when abuses were at their height.

Was this cabal, was this intrigue on the part of the Committee and the quarterly courts, or was it an unexampled and almost incredible forbearance? I am not considering what would have been the result of an inquiry into the conduct of Dr. Best, as sole director of the Asylum, I am stating that no such inquiry did in fact take place. I am contending that had faction, had cabal existed, such inquiry was an instrument too obvious, too important, for a moment to escape attention.

At the late general meeting a similar conduct was observed: Mr. Higgins moved that the offices of the Institution should be declared vacant—he did not precede his motion by a charge against any—he professed to criminate none—great evils he said had existed—it was necessary to resort to the Governors at large, who would declare, by future re-election or rejection, what officers had, and what had not deserved the confidence of the Court. Into one specific point, and one only, was inquiry made by Mr. Higgins, the misapplication of the Asylum funds: this inquiry was apparently forced on him, and with this all reference to Dr. Best's conduct closed; yet *Dr. Best was first officer and sole superintendent of the Asylum—all was under his management and control—he was at once physician, visitor, and master—and this at a period when abuses were at their height.* I again demand, was this faction, or was it forbearance?

If the letter of Aristides extorts from me what shall either pain or offend the Physician to the Asylum, it is Aristides, and Aristides alone, to whom the pain and offence must be attributed. It is not the malignity of enemies, but the injudicious efforts of friends, by which that gentleman suffers; so long as his friends *will* indulge themselves in unwarranted attacks, and *will* assume untenable positions, repulse must follow the one, discomfiture the other—and to use his own phraseology, whilst the combat is amongst others, it is himself who becomes the victim.

From each weekly payment of 15s. Dr. Hunter took 5s.; for each patient of the highest class, he paid the house 10s., reserving all beyond that sum to himself—if, for example, a Lady paid three guineas per week, the house received 10s. the physician 53s. Dr. Best has added to the house receipts, in the first case, 1s. per week, in the second, 4s.—and this conduct is called by Aristides, “nobly disinterested.” If what the physician has paid over to the house, has been “nobly disinterested,” what he has retained to himself must be accurately, strictly, correctly his *due*, nay, the larger sums received by Dr. Hunter, must have been the *right* of Dr. Best; it must be a *right* we relinquish, before the epithets “nobly disinterested” can be justly ours.

Let us hear what have been the opinion of others on this point, that of Aristides is already known. It was moved at

the late general court by Mr. Stapylton, not as Aristides would have moved, that Dr. Best be thanked *for the noble disinterestedness of his conduct*, but in more humble terms, that no blame attaches to Dr. Best—or to that effect—still referring to misapplication of funds—this modified praise seemed highly unpalatable to many, and an amendment was loudly called for. Mr. Nicoll then proposed that “*no criminality* attached to Dr. Best”—from this proposition, two noble Lords and several highly respectable gentlemen declared their dissent. What then, would their conduct have been—what their astonishment—what their indignation—had the bold proposition of Aristides been advanced!

On Mr. Stapylton's motion, it was said by the highest character in the meeting, that he had been an *old* Governor, and might, by implied assent, have been supposed to sanction the practice: had he been a *new* Governor, he believed he should have voted the other way.—Very few ideas of “noble disinterestedness” had been impressed on a mind which could thus speak. Mr. Nicoll, in making his motion, commented on the gross impropriety of the distribution between Dr. Best and the Asylum, but declared, that under the practice so long acquiesced in, such distribution could not be deemed *criminal*.

To be *not criminal* in the misappropriation of funds, considerably differs from their being “nobly disinterested” in their relinquishment. Aristides asserts that Mr. Wilson's case was discarded by a quarterly court, and *subverted* by the general one. No vote of censure was passed on this case by the Committee, and it has never since undergone discussion, it has been cursorily mentioned and no more. Censured or not censured, I demand an answer to my question—*Was Mr. Wilson's health giving way for want of due attention?* I will also ask, with all the lights *now* thrown on the subject, does the Committee still consider this case as implicative of no misconduct?

Aristides, with great prudence, omits all mention of the 13 female patients, for months confined in what can scarcely be denominated more than a light closet.

I here, and I hope for ever, take leave of Aristides—but though unwilling to wield it, my pen is not worn to a stump, nor is my last drop of ink exhausted—if he seeks it, we may meet again—as to *his* real name, I feel neither curiosity nor care, and shall not, at his bidding, come forward with my own. Yet, unconscious of wrong, I ask no protection from concealment—if I have mis-stated facts, I will retract the mis-statement—if I shall hereafter find that I have unjustly accused, I will then most willingly, in my own person, apologize for the errors or injustice of

INVESTIGATOR.

F

From the York Courant of Oct. 3.

SIR,

THE exposure by Mr. Higgins of abuses in the York Lunatic Asylum, having occasioned an influx of new Governors, and thus happily led to an overthrow of the old system, and the adoption of wholesome regulations for the future management of the Asylum, the past might have been suffered to remain in oblivion. But some stubborn supporters of the old system having plausibly insinuated, that only two insulated cases of abuse could be established; thus impeaching not only the conduct of those who have been most active in promoting the late result, but the proceedings of the Court and Committee in their removal of Officers and Servants; the real facts ought not to be concealed from the public.

Your Correspondent, Investigator, has submitted some queries, which I shall therefore proceed to answer:—

Mr. Wilson was confined in the Asylum, at a payment of two guineas per week; but instead of this sum being received by the Steward, and carried to the credit of the Institution, the Physician received the two guineas per week, and only paid over to the Steward, the sum of fourteen shillings, in part of the two guineas; putting the remaining one pound eight per week in his own pocket. This circumstance was wholly unknown to the Committee at the time when they decided that there was no ground of censure in Wilson's case.

This case however is by no means an insulated one; since it appears by the Report of the Committee, that before the Fire, there were in the Asylum 16 or 17 affluent Patients, whose admission was sanctioned by the Rules, solely to provide a fund for the assistance of the poorer Lunatics; but this benevolent intention was frustrated; only fourteen shillings per week for each affluent Patient being accounted for by the Physician to the Steward.

It is also a fact, that one of the Patients entered in the Steward's book as paying fourteen shillings per week, or thirty-six pounds eight shillings per annum, was actually paying to the Physician three guineas per week, or one hundred and sixty-three pounds thirteen shillings per annum; of which sum only thirty-six pounds eight shillings was received by the Steward, and carried to the credit of the Institution, in payment of the Patient's board, lodging, &c. Each parish pauper was at the same time charged twenty-three pounds eight shillings per annum; half of which sum would have provided him better accommodations and attention in a workhouse.

It would here be injustice not to state, that notwithstanding this gross misapplication of the funds of the Institution, the Governors at the late General Meeting were almost unanimously of opinion, that no criminality attached to the Physician on that account. The system of abuse had been carried on to

even a greater extent for more than twenty years previous to his appointment. There was reason to believe that when the deviation from the Rules was first begun, a considerable number of Governors connived at it, and "commended" the late Physician for having "done wisely." There was also reason to believe, that on his death, a considerable number of Governors were anxious to prevent a reformation in the system, and to promote its continuance for the benefit of his successor.

Under all these circumstances, however contrary the practice was to the Rules, (which only authorize the receipt of "moderate and reasonable" professional fees from the affluent) can it be wondered that the new Physician should be led to consider the *rules* as obsolete, and the *practice* as having received at least the *implied* sanction of the *Governors at large*?

No express sanction however can be proved to have been given, nor did these transactions ever come to the knowledge of the Governors as a body. The public should be aware, for the honour of the Institution, that many of the Governors were in no degree implicated; and a noble Earl who has been a Governor from the original foundation of the Charity, who has regularly attended the Annual Meetings and audited the Accounts, and who now exhibits a more intimate acquaintance with the state of the funds and resources, than perhaps any other Governor, came forward at the late Meeting with all the feelings of an honest and honourable mind, to declare that he had been totally deceived; and to express his surprise and indignation at the discovery.

Too much has been said of the general blame which attached to the body of the Governors; there is surely a wide distinction between those who may have erred in a remissness of inspection, and too implicit confidence in their Officers and Servants; and those, if any there were, who connived at and promoted the application of the funds of the Charity to the private use of an individual.

With respect to the smallness of the number of cases of gross neglect proved before the Committee, the fact is, that they who preferred the charges, pursued the same course as is uniformly adopted in Courts of Justice. When *one* capital charge is fully proved, it is not usual to waste the time of the Court by bringing forward others. If the servants were fully proved to be guilty of "gross neglect" in the case of only one patient, and if those who might have been expected to notice the situation of a poor object covered with filth and vermin; almost "stripped of raiment; wounded and half dead," could "pass by on the other side," and satisfy their feelings under an idea that they, individually, were not responsible, it did not require the multiplication of instances to convince the Governors, that other pauper lunatics, equally helpless, must have been exposed to similar neglect.

Sufficient cases were established to lead to the present change of system and management; and to the establishment of guards against the recurrence of similar neglect. Amongst these may be reckoned the regular appointment of a Committee, and of Visitors; and the abolition of fees and perquisites, both to Officers and Servants, from those higher classes of patients for whom the poor appear to have been neglected. One of the new Rules adopted at Earl Fitzwilliam's suggestion, particularly calls the Physician's attention to the state of the persons and apartments of the patients, in respect to cleanliness and comfort.

"Sullen, methinks, and slow the morning breaks,
As if the sun were listless to appear,
And dark designs hung heavy on the day."

This *most apposite* motto introduces the letter of Aristides, which was first inserted in the Herald, and having been approved of, was honoured by a republication after five days in the Chronicle.

Aristides complains of malicious attempts to destroy by "unfounded charges" the character of an individual, whose conduct has been "peculiarly correct," and "nobly disinterested."

Does Aristides recollect that at the late General Meeting, a gentleman who had formerly been an eminent practitioner in a particular branch of medicine in the Metropolis, though he was the principal advocate for the Physician of the Asylum, yet expressed, in very strong terms, his doubts as to the *professional regularity* of that mode of remuneration, which Aristides considers "peculiarly correct."

Aristides has quoted *in capitals* part of a well-known Resolution of the Governors:—

"NO CRIMINALITY ATTACHES TO DR. BEST:"
but he has suppressed what follows:

"FOR MISAPPLICATION OF THE FUNDS OF
THIS INSTITUTION"

If Aristides is sincere in believing that the Individual alluded to is injured by malicious charges, let him move the two following Resolutions at the adjourned General Meeting.

1. That great criminality attaches to Mr. Higgins, (and any other names who may be thought worthy to be added,) for unguarded and malicious charges against the Physician.
2. That the Physician commands our admiration and thanks for his "NOBLY DISINTERESTED" and "PECULIARLY CORRECT" application of the Funds of this Charity.

A GOVERNOR OF THE ASYLUM

John Higgins

From the York Chronicle of Oct. 6.

SIR,

MR. JONATHAN GRAY, who is named to me as the Author of an anonymous Letter in Monday's Courant, in his allusion to that of Aristides, which I acknowledge, and which I believe he supposed to be mine, reproaches me with my arguments at the General Meeting of the Governors of the Asylum—and unguardedly insinuates that I am guilty of a disgraceful inconsistency of conduct.

With a wish to contribute my disinterested endeavours towards the prosperity of that Institution, I proposed, with deference to elder Governors, and with marked respect to the Committee, that a FIXED SALARY to the Physician should be arranged, in preference to the payment of Three Guineas per head, as suggested by the Committee, and in preference to Voluntary Fees, as recommended by Earl Fitzwilliam. As this plan, when I gave notice of it at the preceding Quarterly Court, had no other advocate, and as, when I delivered my arguments in support of my Proposition, I had reason to expect, that there would not be a single voice in its favour, I felt in some degree elated, when a large majority adopted what I humbly conceive to be the strongest Pillar of the present almost perfect constitution of the Asylum.

But does Mr. Jonathan Gray suppose, that to prove my abhorrence of the late defective Code of Laws, it was requisite, that I should endeavour to consign to an unjust persecution, an Individual who was guiltless in the Corruptions of that Code, and who had prior to any attack, without solicitation, resigned a large Portion of those Profits to which I affirm he "had a right" by long established usage, and the open acquiescence of the Benefactors at large?

Aristides did not, as Mr. J. Gray erroneously supposes, assert, that the "mode of remuneration" was peculiarly correct; but that the conduct of the Physician "was peculiarly correct."

I, Sir, was not "the principal advocate" of Dr. Best: His Defence was in the open and candid display of his integrity, which advocated his cause to the breasts of nearly a hundred Governors, who, as Mr. J. Gray fairly acknowledges, "almost unanimously" voted in his favour, and his PRINCIPAL DEFENDER was the ARCHBISHOP OF YORK, whose dignified Generosity of Feeling would not permit him to give a *silent vote*, and whose brilliant Example in the acknowledgment of general error, ought to have produced a greater tendency to general oblivion.

Aristides is accused by Mr. Gray of suppressing the last part of this well known and frequently published Resolution concerning "Criminality," but if the Context be referred to,

as Wilson's case is immediately antecedent, it will be plain that Brevity and Propriety of Expression required the omission of the words "Misapplication of Money."

I beg now to hint to my friend, Mr. Gray, for I shall be sorry if he will not allow me to use that Title, that it is some deviation from "PROFESSIONAL REGULARITY," to attack, without open signature, the conduct of any Individual, or any set of Governors; and that instead of supporting the Queries of Investigator, it would become him to advise that anonymous Assailant to *restrain his Ardour*, or by manfully showing himself in substance, and not in shadow, afford an opportunity for *my easy refutation* of his Charges, instead of that possible *legal Discussion* which his last Query concerning the Health of Mr. Wilson may appear to deserve.

But let us hope that at the Meeting on Friday, Good Humour and Harmony will be the general order of the Day, and that every Governor will then recollect, that the Prosperity of this Charity is inseparably connected with the reputation of its justly accredited Physician.

I repeat the request of Aristides, that the Editors will not, as they value their own estimation, admit into the York Papers ANONYMOUS ATTACKS on the Asylum or its Officers.

MARTIN STAPYLTON.

Helmsley Lodge, near York, Oct. 5, 1814.

From the York Herald of Sep. 17.

SIR,

A WARM contest respecting the Asylum at York has now subsisted for 15 months—it began *anonymously*, by a friend of the old system, who designated himself "Evigilator"—By the partizans of that system it was then vigorously continued; by "Evigilator" himself, aided by "S. Brodum," "Observer," and "A Governor of the Asylum." "A Friend to Truth" next appeared, grossly mis-stating the proportion of deaths to admissions*. "Y. L." then strongly recommended Mr. Higgins to the county, as an object of its tremendous justice. A nameless paragraph *proved* the past perfection of the Asylum government.—"Aristides," in succession, blew the

* This reference induces me to state a curious and important fact. There has not been one death in the Asylum since July 14, 1814, (this day six months.) The number of patients in that time has varied from 109 to 104. In the preceding year there were 33 deaths, which was nearly 1 in 5 of the average number of patients—for the preceding five years, the annual number of deaths was about 1 in 8 of the average number of patients. This statement must satisfy the public, that reforms conducive to the health of patients were wanted, and have been obtained.

blast of war—and last, not least, “Corrector” stepped forth, in all the fearful dignity of a pamphlet.—Here, Sir, the campaign closed—the enemy threw away his arms, declared them unworthy the warfare of a noble spirit—and protested, if he fought again, which he had much rather let alone, new swords, bucklers, and breast-plates, should be sent for from Sheffield—with the owner’s name neatly engraved on each article.

In more serious earnest, Sir, is it to be permitted to a party who anonymously commenced a contest—who anonymously, for the most part, carried it on—and who conclude with as coarse anonymous personalities, as could well flow from *mouths genteel*, to call for *names*? Yet this, that party *now* does—and he who *now* withholds his name, is a liar, a coward, or an assassin!—Denying, at all events, *their* title to demand a name, I will assert, that the privilege of bringing forward a name to the world, or of withholding one from it, has been adopted by all parties, on all subjects and in all discussions—if to withhold a name were in itself wrong, it is sanctioned by universal practice—to complain of it is a mere trick of controversy—an attempt on the pity of the public, when appeals to its justice can no longer be supported. This privilege, like all other privileges, may be abused—whether it is in this contest abused or not; and if abused, by whom, is the true question.

The first attack of Evigilator appears purely personal—as far as one of the two characters adverted to is concerned, there can be no doubt the second Evigilator is a counterpart of the first. S. Brodum could only be written with a hope of giving pain, and holding up to ridicule—abuse seems the great object of “A Governor of the Asylum.”—“Y Z” has no purpose but calling down the public vengeance on Mr. Higgins—nor “Aristides” any other, than an assertion that individual malignity against the Physician to the Asylum, is the true object of pretended reformers.

In every contest, personality must, in some degree, intervene—where incidentally necessary to elucidate the points discussed, it is unavoidable—where itself the end and aim of the discussion, it is odious: let the writers on both sides be reviewed—on the one side, it will appear persons only were in contemplation—on the other, measures—and so strictly has this rule been adhered to, that when by the reforming party, *persons* were unavoidably alluded to—they have been introduced with cautious reserve—mentioned in terms of strict decorum, and speedily dismissed for topics less offensive—yet, as a last expiring effort of attack, and when all other means of defence had failed, this very party, whose forbearance had been exemplary, are denominated libellers—and actions and informations are talked of: are not gentlemen aware that the defendants’ box, in a court of justice, is very spacious—that it has room for all—and that themselves have been at sufficient pains in bespeaking places? I will go further—in deserving

them. I have but to name the letter signed "S. Brodum" in proof of this—that letter is introduced in no important public discussion—in support of no facts useful to be established—it is a wanton attack against an eminent medical practitioner, and its aim is to hold him out to the world, as a nostrum monger and a quack—a colleague of the Brodums, the Daffys and the Velnos of the day. I will then ask these gentlemen themselves, how we are to designate that writing which is an anonymous attempt to wound the private feelings, and to injure the public character.

And now, Mr. Editor, I hasten to a close—I trust no more to resume my pen—successive attack has called for successive defence—we were first informed that the past state of the Asylum was a subject of congratulation—a few queries showed the extent of past blessings. The world was next assured, that malignity to the Physician was the basis of our efforts—unexampled forbearance towards that Physician was the answer given and proved. That we were anonymous libellers, was the next charge—that we wrote anonymously in common with our adversaries, and after their example set—that if there is libel, amongst *them* it is to be found—this letter will sufficiently evince.

After having driven the enemy from the field, we now rest on our arms—prepared for attack, but not courting it. In this resolve, the recent clamour has no part—our object is attained—and angry discussion has been our necessity, will never be our choice. Willing as we are to be at peace—that fine flow of epithet which seems to spurt indigenously from the soil, will have no effect in preventing the discharge of duty, should fresh occasions arise. If called on, "Civis," and "Spectator," and "Monitor," and "Investigator," will still write when they like, and as they like, will still publicly and openly speak—as the friends of reform have heretofore publicly and openly spoken and written. By the temper of their writings, they have shown they feel no malice—and by the tenor of their speeches, they have evinced they have no fear.

Thus far they have never been personal—but a change of system may be called for—the peace of the Asylum must be preserved—its committee-room is not for successive generations to exhibit the manners of a bear garden—and should they still be found to *speak* in vain, they may find themselves compelled at length to *act*.

EUMENES.

From the York Herald of Sep. 3.

SIR,

I AM aware that an intention has been manifested, of shutting the public press against any statements on the subject of

the York Lunatic Asylum; although the press has been the engine of whatever reformation may have been accomplished in that Institution.

As the absent Governors, and that part of the public which has interested itself in the state of the Institution, may wish to have a correct account of the events of the present week, I shall trouble you with a simple statement of facts.—On Monday evening, the Committee of the Asylum, being in want of the Steward's quarterly books of account with the patients, sent Mr. Pyemont, the new Steward, to wait upon Mr. Surr (the late Steward) for the books; Mr. Pyemont returned twice without them, and with an unsatisfactory answer from Mr. Surr.

The Committee, on their return from the Asylum, called on Mr. Surr for the books; but he *peremptorily refused to deliver them up, or to give any account of them.* The Committee then told him he would be compelled to deliver them up. The Committee reported Mr. Surr's conduct to the quarterly court, stating their opinion, that these books were the property of the Institution, and submitting that Mr. Surr should be required to deliver up these and all other books, papers, and accounts of the Institution, which were, or ought to be, in his possession.

The quarterly court deputed Mr. Brook, the treasurer, to make a formal demand of the books. Mr. Brook returned, and reported to the Court Mr. Surr's answer, viz.: that AFTER THE COMMITTEE LEFT HIM ON MONDAY NIGHT, HE BURNT THE BOOKS. The proceeding adopted by the Court on the occasion, was a vote of *disapprobation of Mr. Surr's conduct.*

A GOVERNOR OF THE ASYLUM.

From the York Herald of Dec. 17.

SIR,

AT the Asylum Meeting last Wednesday, a Governor brought forward a motion for putting down all anonymous publications. *This* (it was most happily remarked,) *was Don Quixote fighting with the wind-mills.* It was somewhat extraordinary, that the mover himself admitted he had lately made an effort himself in the anonymous line; but he confidently alluded to an honourable friend, whose hands were yet unstained. That gentleman, however, confessed he was the author of Y. Z. Both had wholly retired from the practice.

It is true, when an anonymous writer has arrived at Y. Z., he appears to have exhausted the alphabet, but still he may *try back* for fresh game. When a worthy Baronet's hares

have run through the alphabet of plumpers, and have arrived at *Mr. Y. Z.*, tally o!—you'll find the next hare at *A. B.*

The mover of the resolution against the freedom of the press, discovered a fearful apprehension lest the *burning of the books* should find its way into the papers. But really this is too grand a winding-up of the drama, to be kept out of sight. Had the argumentative *Corrector* been present, he would have allowed this to be no *indelicate disclosure*, since it proves to mathematical demonstration, that this very conflagration has sealed the fate of *Mr. Higgins*.

We may imagine he would have spoken thus:—"Those, my Lord, are the blessed effects of '*His Worship*,' Mister Higgins's reformation. The reformation began in the *ides* of last December with burning the patients; it has terminated in the *ides* of this December with burning the books. Mr. Higgins, my Lord, began the reformation,—*Ergo*—Mr. Higgins burnt both books and patients. And therefore, my Lord, on the authority of the 'ancient history' of Job, and the last edition of '*Blackstone*,' the inclination of my mind certainly would be, to commit him for trial at the next Northallerton Sessions as an incendiary; and let him depend upon it, the Bench will show him no mercy."

ANOTHER *Y. Z.*

From the *York Herald* of Dec. 24.

SIR,

I LAST week acquainted you with the demand made by the Governors of the York Lunatic Asylum upon their late Steward, for the Quarterly Books of Account. His answer was, that he had burnt all the books, except one Quarterly account ending Dec. 1814, which he delivered to the Treasurer. The proceeding adopted by the Quarterly Court, relative to Mr. Surr, was a vote of disapprobation.

The following circumstance occurred, at a Meeting of the Committee last Monday. In consequence of some further inquiry, Mr. Surr produced a set of Quarterly books for the last sixteen years. The books produced have been occasionally inspected by the Governors: they appear to contain an account of the weekly payments made to the Steward for the patients; but instead of the sums really received, smaller sums are in many instances inserted, the difference being paid to the Physician. The other set of Quarterly books, which still continues to be burnt, is that in which the Steward entered his actual receipts;—and it is by a comparison of the two sets of books that the difference would appear.

There seems reason to believe, that if the burning story had not been implicitly credited, and if prompt measures had been immediately taken by the Court of Governors, all the books would have been recovered.

A GOVERNOR OF THE ASYLUM.

From the York Herald of Dec. 24.

I RECEIVED the following letter on Thursday last from Dr. BEST, sent to intimidate me from that course which it is my duty as the Editor of a Public Paper to pursue, I give it therefore to the world, annexing such a comment as I trust will preclude all future attempts on my fears:

To Mr. Hargrove, York Herald-Office.

Sir,

I have only this Afternoon seen your Paper of Saturday last, which contains a Letter, the tendency of which is obviously injurious to me.

It is I presume unnecessary to apprise you, that as the Publisher of various libels against me, you are already completely in my power.

I merely write this to give you notice, that if one syllable shall appear in any of your future Papers in allusion to me, which may admit of an injurious or even an offensive construction, my next communication with you will take place through my Attorney.

Lest you should be misled by this notice, you are desired not to consider this letter as conveying any intimation of an intention on my part, to overlook the past, on condition of your abstaining from injuring me in future.

I am, &c.

Castle-Hill, Wednesday Evening,

C. BEST.

Dec. 28, 1814.

The abuses of the York Asylum have been long before the Public—they demanded full, free, and open discussion—they have obtained it—and their rectification has been the result—Of this discussion the York Herald has been an instrument; as of the free and fair discussion of public abuses it ever shall be—beyond this I have not gone—and short of this, no methods of intimidation shall induce me to stop—I have shown no partiality.

To Dr. Best and his friends equally as to their opponents, this paper has been open—and if offensive personalities have

on either side been indulged, no man can hesitate to say from which party they have proceeded. To Dr. Best I have no ill will—through this paper as a medium, he has neither been libelled nor abused. The situation he holds in the Asylum has frequently and necessarily brought him forwards; never as an object of designed attack; if at any time, in a light grating to his own feelings, it is, because truth was offensive. I have only to add, that what I have done, I am ready, and I have no doubt, able to vindicate.

EDIT.

** From the York Herald of Dec. 31.*

MR. EDITOR,

HAVING asserted in my late "Vindication of Mr. Higgins," that Dr. Best was publicly censured for his letter to that gentleman, I have been charged with wanton and wilful falsehood. Wholly unmoved by virulence of language, which is disgraceful to those only who adopt it, I yet find the charge demand some notice—misapprehension exists—the public is of opinion that explanation is called for—and I readily yield that to public opinion, which private violence could never have extorted. Mr. Higgins' letter respecting concealed cells is well known—in answer to that letter, Dr. Best says, that "he Mr. Higgins," "has laboured to mislead and inflame the public mind to the deep prejudice of individuals, by an insinuation which, at the time he was bringing it forwards, he knew to be wholly unfounded."

Such expressions towards a Governor of the Asylum by one of its Officers, for what that Governor had said, it was deemed, in the discharge of his duty, were considered by many gentlemen as forming a ground for censure—they determined accordingly to come forwards on the 14th of April, and of this Dr. Best had notice.

The mode adopted, was one which they considered at once mild towards Dr. Best, and sufficiently vindicative of Mr. Higgins' conduct and letter. A motion was brought forwards by Mr. Nicoll on their part, "that it is the opinion of this Court, that Mr. Higgins is entitled to the thanks of the Governors, for his upright, persevering, and successful exertions, in bringing to light the abuses which have prevailed in this Institution."

In making the motion, Mr. Nicoll at first said little, either in the way of preface or explanation, but on some gentleman's

* This letter was occasioned by a violent attack, in the December Quarterly Court, on the Author of a Pamphlet, entitled "A Vindication of Mr. Higgins."

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observing, that a censure on Dr. Best appeared to be intended, Mr. Nicoll declared—such was his object—he then read parts of Dr. Best's letter, commented on them, and fully avowed the true construction had been put on his motion, *he did intend thereby to censure Dr. Best.*

Mr. Alderman Wilson then said—he thought Mr. Higgins entitled to the thanks of the Asylum Governors, but not at that particular time, but he still more should object to the motion, as it was meant as a censure on Dr. Best—Thus explained, thus commented on, and thus construed, the question was put and carried.

Sir William Ingilby, the Chairman, before he declared the numbers, called to Dr. Best, and asked if he meant to vote on this occasion? Dr. Best declared he did, and his vote was taken accordingly. If doubt existed, would not the Chairman's question have done it away? It is a common rule of construction, that every proposition is to be taken in the sense of the proposer—that this vote was proposed as a censure, and was adopted as such, is wholly free from doubt—and all that can be said in opposition is, that the censure, though explicitly avowed, was not explicitly recorded—that it was not so, was meant as an act of kindness to Dr. Best, of which kindness the world sees the requital.

Further explanation must be wholly needless—if there is an unprejudiced reader who can now look on the expression of my pamphlet as erroneous, I am sure there cannot be one who will accuse me of wilful error.

A NEW GOVERNOR.

From the York Herald of June 17, 1815.

MR. EDITOR,

AT the Quarterly Court of Governors held at the Asylum, on Wednesday, the case of Ann Thedwin, who had been sent from the House in a state of Filth, on the 12th of April last, was fully inquired into and perfectly ascertained. But it was determined by a majority of the Governors present, that it is *now* better, that any instances of neglect or mismanagement that may occur in that Institution, shall not be made public, as the exposure of such facts can no longer answer the purposes formerly designed by it.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

AN OBSERVER.

From the York Herald of August 26.

AT an Annual Court of Governors of the YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM, held at the Asylum, on Friday the 25th day of August, 1815:

Earl FITZWILLIAM in the Chair:

Resolved Unanimously,

That this Court feels, with the highest degree of satisfaction, the very great improvement which has taken place in every department of this Institution, since the General Meeting in August last, by which they have no doubt, that in point of humane treatment of the Patients, and the general order and cleanliness of the House, the York Lunatic Asylum is scarcely excelled by any similar Institution in the Kingdom; and this Court returns thanks to the Committees, Visiting Governors, and Ladies, for the attention to the Duties which they have so humanely undertaken, and so judiciously and zealously performed.

This Court contemplating the great improvements made in the state of the House, feels a pleasure in acknowledging its great obligations to GODFREY HIGGINS, Esq. to whose zeal and perseverance the origin of these improvements must in a great measure be ascribed.

Resolved Unanimously,

That a Committee be appointed to take the state of the Asylum Buildings into their consideration, and to report their opinion respecting any alterations, additions, or improvements therein, and the means of the Institution to accomplish them, to a Special Meeting of the Governors.

Resolved Unanimously,

That the said Committee do consist of seven; and that B. Brooksbank, Esq. Rev. T. C. R. Read, Rev. W. Dealtry, Mr. Samuel Tuke, Mr. J. Gray, D. Russell, Esq. and the Rev. R. S. Thompson, compose the said Committee.

Resolved,

That the Resolutions passed this day be printed in each of the York Newspapers.

WENTWORTH FITZWILLIAM.

The Chair being taken by the Rev. Robert Croft,

Resolved Unanimously,

That the cordial Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Right Hon. Earl FITZWILLIAM, for his very able and patient attention to the Business of the Day.

FINIS.

A LIST OF PAMPHLETS

PUBLISHED IN REFERENCE TO THE FOREGOING PAPERS.

- ◆◆◆◆◆
- A Letter to the Right Honourable Earl Fitzwilliam, together with various Letters, Reports, &c.; and the New Code of Regulations for its future management, BY GODFREY HIGGINS, Esq.* 3 0
- A few free Remarks on Mr. Godfrey Higgins's Publications, &c. BY CORRECTOR* 0 6
- A Vindication of Mr. Higgins from the Charges of Corrector; including a Sketch of Recent Transactions, BY A NEW GOVERNOR* 1 0
- Retaliation; or, Hints to some of the Governors of the York Lunatic Asylum, BY CHARLES ATKINSON* 1 0
- A History of the York Lunatic Asylum; with an Appendix, containing Minutes of the Evidence of the cases of Abuse lately inquired into by a Committee, &c. BY JONATHAN GRAY* 2 0
- The Rules and Regulations of the York Lunatic Asylum, with a List of the Governors, &c. corrected to 13th of Sept. 1815.* 1 0

627.

A LIST OF ERRATA

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Errata.

Page.

76, for Sept. 17, read January 14, 1815.

76, line 32, for Evigilator, read Evigilator.

78, for Sept. 3, read December 17, 1814.
