

Tract: Letter to Earl Fitzwilliam by Godfrey Higgins (1814)

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A
LETTER
TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
EARL FITZWILLIAM,
Lord Lieutenant of the West-Riding of the County of York, &c. &c.
RESPECTING THE
INVESTIGATION
WHICH HAS LATELY TAKEN PLACE,
INTO THE
ABUSES
AT THE
YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

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

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

DONCASTER:
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1814.

LETTER

RIGHT HONOURABLE

EARL TOWNHILL

WESTMINSTER

WHICH WAS LATELY TAKEN

BY

FOR THE KING

COURT HOUSE

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

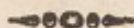
AND THE HOUSE OF LORDS

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

AND THE HOUSE OF LORDS

1811

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ERRATA.

In page 2, the quotation from Sir W. Jones ought to stand in Italics.

"Where low-brow'd baseness wafts perfume to pride."

Page 6 line 10 from the bottom, for distinguished read distinguish.

Page 7 line 9 for the thong read those.

Page 9 line 16 from the bottom for in read a.

Page 10 line 22 for majory read majority.

Page 11 line 15 for scarce read scarcely.

Page 16 line 3 for was read were.

A

LETTER

TO THE

RIGHT HON. EARL FITZWILLIAM.

&c. &c. &c.



MY LORD,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Exclusive of interest..... 39676 0 0

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Extract from the York Herald, August, 1812.

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

 2445

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

 2445

York Herald, August, 1813.

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

 2556

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

} 199

 2556

(Signed) CHARLES ATKINSON.

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

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

* For additional proof, see Report of 1811.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The business has been attended with much trouble and

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

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

Your Lordship's

Very obedient and humble Servant,

GODFREY HIGGINS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX.

To GODFREY HIGGINS, Esq.

York, Nov. 7, 1813.

Sir,

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

and am, Sir,

Your obedient and humble Servant,

CHARLES BEST.

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

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

CHARLES BEST,

(Physician to the Asylum.)

York, Nov. 10, 1813.

To Dr. BEST, YORK.

Sir,

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

I remain, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

G. HIGGINS.

Nov. 11, 1813.

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

To Dr. Best, York.

To the EDITOR of the DONCASTER GAZETTE.

York. Nov. 27, 1813.

Sir,

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

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

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

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

C. BEST.

To the EDITOR of the YORK HERALD.

Sir,

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

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

I am, Sir, &c.

C. BEST.

York, Nov. 26, 1813.

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

York, Nov. 20, 1813.

Sir,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

CHARLES BEST.

YORK ASYLUM.

MR. EDITOR,

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

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

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

I remain, Sir, your humble Servant,

GODFREY HIGGINS,

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

SKELLOW GRANGE,

Near Ferrybridge, Nov. 20th, 1813.

STATEMENT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SARAH

Her ✕ Mark.

VICARS

Bill paid by the OVERSEER.

York, July 5th, 1813.

B. W. VICARS,

Bought of JOHN HODGSON,

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

Bill paid by the OVERSEER.

C. Mr. VICARS.

Shirts mended	0	1	6
7½ yds Cloth	0	13	9
2 Shirts made	0	2	9
2 pair Stockings	0	6	0
	1	4	0

B

Bill paid by the OVERSEER.

D. The Overseers of Fishlake, Dr.

To the Governors of the York Lunatic Asylum,

OCTOBER 13th, 1813.

	£.	s.	d.
Board, &c. of Wm. Vicars, 4 weeks 3 days, 9s. ...	1	19	9
Letter 1s. 9d. Shaving 5d. Stamp 2d.	0	2	4
Paid Short	0	0	6
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.

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

G. H.

Dr. BEST'S DEFENCE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHARLES BEST.

Nov. 5, 1813.

To the EDITOR of the YORK HERALD.

Sir,

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

I remain, Sir, your humble Servant,

GODFREY HIGGINS.

York, Thursday evening, Dec. 2, 1813.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GODFREY HIGGINS.

York, December 1, 1813.

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YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

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

PRESENT,

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

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

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



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

RESOLVED,

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

RESOLVED,

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

RESOLVED,

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

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

E. EBOR.



YORK ASYLUM.

To the EDITOR of the YORK HERALD.

Sir,

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

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

C



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

I remain, Sir, your humble Servant,

G. HIGGINS.

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

YORK COURANT.

YORK ASYLUM.

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

PRESENT,

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

The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor.

Dr. Best,  
Thos. Wilson, Esq.  
P. Saltmarshe, Esq.  
Rev. T. Preston,  
John Prince, Esq.  
Mr. Edward Wallis,  
Sam. Wm. Nicoll, Esq.  
Mr. J. Gray,  
Rev. J. Graham,  
Henry Bland, Esq.  
Mr. Robert Cattle,  
Rev. C. Constable,  
John Dalton, Esq.  
W. C. Fenton, Esq.  
Mr. Catton,  
Rev. James Richardson,  
Mr. Wm. Hornby,  
Mr. John Hodgson,  
Mr. Mason,

Mr. Roper,  
Rev. Wm. Bulmer,  
Wm. Gimber, Esq.  
Benj. Brooksbank, Esq.  
Dr. Beckwith,  
Mr. J. B. Wilson,  
Richd. John. Thompson, Esq.  
Rev. R. H. Whytehead,  
Rev. Robert Stephen Thompson,  
George Palmes, Esq.  
Geo. Lowther Thompson, Esq.  
Richard Fountayne Wilson,  
Esq.  
George Healaugh, Esq.  
David Russel, Esq.  
Mr. Samuel Tuke,  
Mr. Priestman,  
Rev. C. Wellbeloved,  
William Danby, Esq.



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

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

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

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

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

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

The Depositions taken by the Committee having been read,

*Resolved,*

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

*Resolved,*

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



*Resolved,*

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

His Grace the Archbishop of  
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.

*Resolved,*

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

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

The Report having been read,

*Ordered,*

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

*Resolved,*

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



*Resolved,*

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

*Resolved,*

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

*Resolved,*

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

*E. EBOR.*

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### YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

*To the EDITOR of the YORK HERALD.*

Sir,

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



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

I remain, &c.

G. HIGGINS.

Skellow-Grange, Jan. 10, 1814.

### YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

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

JOHN BROOK, *Treasurer*.

York, April 4, 1814.

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

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



YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

To the EDITOR of the DONCASTER GAZETTE.

Sir,

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

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

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

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



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

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

I remain, &c.

G. HIGGINS.

March 24, 1814.

# YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

To the EDITOR of the YORK HERALD.

York, April 2, 1814.

Sir,

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

I am, Sir, &c.

CHARLES BEST.

### YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

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

PRESENT,

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

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

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



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

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

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

*Resolved,*

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

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

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

*Resolved,*

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WILLIAM INGILBY, *Chairman.*

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*EXTRACT from the YORK COURANT.*

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



*Oath offered to be taken at Pontefract Sessions.*

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

G. HIGGINS.

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

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



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

And your Petitioner,

shall ever pray,

G. HIGGINS.

*To the GOVERNORS of the YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.*

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

GODFREY HIGGINS.

Skellow-Grange, Aug. 1814.

#### YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

To the EDITOR of the YORK CHRONICLE.

Sir,

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

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

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

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



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

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

I am, Sir, &c.

August 23, 1814.

Y. Z.

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

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

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

*Resolved,*

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

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

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

That until a Committee for General Purposes shall be appointed

E



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

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

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

*Ordered,*

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

E. EBOR.

His Grace the Archbishop having left the Chair :

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

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

#### YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

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

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



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

### EXTRACTS FROM THE ORDER BOOK.

Aug. 23, 1793.

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

This motion was negatived.

Aug. 22, 1794.

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

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

### SUBSCRIBERS TO LUPTON'S FUND LIVING.

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

### FUND.

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

Those marked \* are GOVERNORS of the Asylum.



### QUARTERLY COURT.

March 23, 1809.

*Ordered,*

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

### ANNUAL COURT.

Aug. 25th, 1809.

*Resolved,*

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



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## RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE

### YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM,

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

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#### OFFICERS.

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

#### GOVERNORS.

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

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

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



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

### COURTS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### COMMITTEE.

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

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



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

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

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

### VISITORS.

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

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

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

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

### PATIENTS.

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

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



*Classes for the remainder of the year 1814.*

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

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

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

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

No criminal Lunatic shall be admitted as a Patient.

## PHYSICIAN.

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

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



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

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

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

#### TREASURER.

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

#### APOTHECARY.

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

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



## STEWARD.

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

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

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

## THE MATRON

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

## SERVANTS IN GENERAL.

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

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



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

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

#### LUPTON'S FUND.

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

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Sir Charles Anderson, Bart.  
William Aldam, Esq.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Sir William Ingilby, Bart.

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

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

Maxwell Constable Maxwell,  
Esq.

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

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

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

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

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



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

The Honourable Edward Venables Vernon, Lord Archbishop of York.

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

Richard Fountayne Wilson, Esq.

James Walker, Esq.  
Godfrey Wentworth Wentworth, Esq.

Mr. Edward Wallis,  
William Whytehead, Esq.

The Rev. R. H. Whytehead

Rev. C. Wellbeloved

Matthew Wilson, Esq.

Henry Willoughby, Esq.

Mr. John Wormald

The Lord Mayor and Commonalty of York.

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



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