

Fact versus assertion, or, Critical and explanatory observations on some erroneous statements, contained in Dr. Adam Neale's pamphlet, on the nature and properties of the Cheltenham waters : to which are annexed, Directions for management in the art of puffing, addressed to a friend : with a sequel / by Wm. Henry Halpin.

Contributors

Halpin, William Henry.
Royal College of Physicians of London

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FACT versus ASSERTION,

OR,

Critical and Explanatory Observations on some

ERRONEOUS STATEMENTS,

CONTAINED IN

Dr. Adam Neale's Pamphlet,

On the Nature and Properties of the

**CHELTENHAM
WATERS ;**

To which are Annexed, Directions for *Management* in the
ART OF PUFFING,

ADDRESSED TO A FRIEND :

With a Sequel,

Containing—The Address of the Proprietors to the Public—Doctor NEALE'S Answer—The Requisition for a Public Meeting—The Resolutions adopted at that Meeting—Six Affidavits in contradiction to Doctor NEALE'S Pamphlet—Important Letters from Mr. PEARSON THOMPSON to Doctor NEALE ;—To Conclude with

Doctor Neale's Confession ;

AND THE

Refutation of Captain Matthews.

BY WM. HENRY HALPIN, JUN.

“ *Seigneur docteur, je vous prie d'excuser ma curiosité : je croyois connoître tous les medecins de Valladolid, et cependant je vous avoue que vos traits me sont inconnus. Il faut que depuis tres peu de temps vous soyez venu vous etablir dans cette ville.*”

LE SAGE.

“ For this we may thank ADAM: but his thanks
“ Shall be the execration.”——PAR. LOST, B. x. l. 736.

Robinson, Printer, High Street, Cheltenham.

1820.

FACT OBTAINING ASSERTION

Correct and Exploratory Observations on some

ERRONEOUS STATEMENTS

CONTAINED IN

Dr. Adam Neale's Pamphlet

On the Nature and Properties of the

CUMULATIVE

WATERS;

To which are Annexed Directions for Management in the

ACT OF PURSING

ADDRESSED TO A FRIEND

Being a Second

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Doctor Neale's Confession

Refutation of Captain Harrison's

BY WM. HENRY HALLIVAN JUN.

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1830

INTRODUCTION.

TO THE

INHABITANTS

OF CHELTENHAM,

WHOSE INTERESTS HAVE BEEN SO

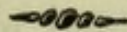
WANTONLY ATTACKED,

This Pamphlet,

Is very gratefully Inscribed,

By their devoted Servant,

William Henry HALPIN, Jun.



MYRTLE COTTAGE, CHELTENHAM,

June 15, 1820.

NO. 12

INHERITANTS

OF CHESTERMAN

WHOSE EVIDENCE HAVE BEEN IN

WANTONLY ATTACKED

By the Plaintiff

In very carefully furnished

By their learned Counsel

William Henry Halliday, Esq.

NEWELL COYAGE, CHESTERMAN

1850

INTRODUCTION.

WHEN the well-being of a community is assailed, it is no longer a question to whom the right of defence attaches:---That which affects the body, must affect the members; and the public wrong becomes an individual injury. With this impression forcibly on my mind, do I conceive it my duty to devote my services, humble as they may be deemed, but certainly well intentioned and zealous, to the exposure of as disingenuous a system of reasoning,--if reasoning it may indeed be called,---as ever was employed in the cause of malice and detraction.---But my motives are pure--my cause is a grateful cause--and for my pages and myself, I shall only say, "*Jugez nous par notre zele, et non pas par le talent.*" At all events, I have the consciousness of a pure and stedfast sincerity to raise me superior to any thought of difficulty in encountering a veteran in the trade of publication, who has been long accustomed to stand the award of "gods, men, and columns;" or of entering the field of discussion on a medical subject, of which I pretend not to know much, in compe-

tition with a professor, whose long list of titles and appointments might dazzle even sterner eyes, shining as they do the glittering and gaudy evidences of transcendent talent, or of surpassing services! Much, however, as my feeble advocacy might acquire, from a *scrupulous investigation* of the merits, exploits, talents, and services for which the honors so vauntingly displayed may be supposed to have been awarded, I shall content myself with requesting the Public, (for the time being at least) to lose the recollection of the existence of such beguiling superfluities, of which there is little doubt of their being speedily reminded by their *modest* possessor. If TRUTH be not in the scale, neither the degrees conferred by colleges, nor the employments obtained by interest, nor even the appointment craved from Royalty itself, should weigh one feather in public estimation. It is from this conviction that I am desirous of considering the person to whose vague opinions and "*bolstered up*" assertions I mean to oppose established circumstances, and unequivocal facts—to be regarded not as a Graduate, a Licenciate, a Physician to the Forces, or the Embassy of Constantinople, or a late Royal Duke;—but as the abstract man, the simple and undecorated Adam Neale, the "pure lover of truth--"

the writer of this most unfaithful letter. It has cost me no small pains to approach him through his stupendous barrier of decorations and appendages, with which I have no more to do than their egotistical and vain-glorious display has with the subject under consideration. Before we part, however, I trust to remove even more of the incumbrances with which fancy and fiction have invested him--both of which were essential, not merely to the composition, but the sale, of this meretricious little work. So is it with society, that we may exclaim with the French Philosopher, "*Tant on aime de fabuleux! aussi bien dans ces siecles modernes, que dans celui de Pythagore.**"

* Histoire des Sept Sages, par De Larrey.

The writer of the inscription... It is not...
 to be... points to... through the...
 of... and... with...
 have... to... their... and...
 thus... with the...
 before... part... more...
 of the... which...
 in... which...
 to... of...
 this... that we...
 with the... in...

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FACT *versus* ASSERTION.

It has been well observed by Watts, that, “when the balance of the judgment once resigns its equilibrium, or neutrality to a mere *probable* argument, it is too ready to settle itself on that side, so that the mind will not easily change that judgment, though strong evidence appear afterwards on the other side.” In the present instance prejudices had existed, which, as they had been originated by the ill-report of the interested, could only be contradicted by experience; for so long as the effects sought for, were produced in a more beneficial and salutary way than could be obtained from any other source, the prejudice was unavailing, and unsupported even by “one probable argument.” Yet enough of its baneful essence remained to give a sanction to any future misrepresentations, and to add strength and probability to future assertion; and hence the opinion given to the world, in this “Letter addressed to a Professor of Medicine in Edinburgh, on the nature and properties of the Cheltenham Waters,” whilst it recalls the suspicions formerly entertained, acquires, from their recollection, an air of genuineness and truth. Hence is the difficulty of changing the judgment formed upon it, enhanced, although *stronger* evidence “appears on the other side.” Had the detail been limited to medical discussion, I should never have presumed to controvert the contents of

this statement ; but as Doctor Neale has founded his case upon the statements of others, and declined the means of ascertaining the *truth*, although repeatedly invited so to do, without limiting himself to his own observations or practice, I feel entitled to dispute the ground he has taken up ; and as it may be well to observe the style and spirit of his performance, I shall begin by pointing out some blemishes in the first, and much want of candor in the latter.----His "*Advertisement*" (with which the subject is introduced) sets out with an insinuating caution "to the *real* invalid--" the *real* invalid! who ever before heard of an *unreal* invalid? It surely remained for the experience of Doctor Neale to add so strange a discovery to the many wonderful and valuable results of his *extensive* practice! "to such a man," (for this *real* invalid must be a *man*, there cannot be such a thing amongst the Ladies as a "*real* invalid," the Ladies are no doubt obliged to the Doctor ;) "to such a man" he holds it to be "of some little moment, that he should be warned against a blind confidence in an equivocal remedy, because he believes it to be a natural one." Here comes another discovery---as great a wonder in physic as the other. But perhaps Doctor Neale in some *future* "Letter to a Professor of Medicine," will kindly expound to the world *his* discovery of an *unequivocal* remedy. For, hitherto, Science, Art, Research and Experience, have alike been unsuccessful in their endeavours to establish a remedy that may be pronounced infallible ; all remedies being in their nature *probable*, but not *positive*, and totally dependent upon local and incidental circumstances---and above all, under the immediate guidance and permission of Providence, are consequently but *equivocal* at best, and by no means infallible. The advertisement then introduces that eminent man Sir Walter Farquhar, for the sole purpose it should seem, of "*bolstering up*" (to adopt a

favorite and elegant phrase of the Doctor's) his own most sapient inferences. This great man forsooth, "was anxious to impress on the minds of his young friends, a *distaste to tampering too much.*" To say nothing of the *tournure* of this phrase, I may be permitted to ask, whether Doctor Neale means to imply that Sir Walter Farquhar, permitted *tampering at all*, or only objected to *too much*? If this be his meaning, it cannot, in my opinion, be construed into less than a libel on the grave authority he cites; "a distaste to *tampering too much!*"—" *de gustibus non est disputandum.*" Truly this is a promising style to get over, but henceforth "be it as the style shall give us cause to climb in the merriment." He then thinks it useful to call attention to a point "whereon much of the safety or danger may hinge." How *safety and danger* are to mete themselves out to *hinge* in given quantities upon a *point*, I am at a loss to ascertain; but as the discovery cannot be of importance to Society, I shall not require it at the hands of Doctor Neale. After some sly hints, implying a confession of doubt as to knowing any thing whatever of the subject, the world is favored with a confession of a more important nature; and which, though not medically gifted, being neither a graduate, licentiate, nor physician to forces, embassies, or great men, I shall contend to be totally subversive of every thing subsequently deduced, for he expressly says, "if the intention be to *stimulate the peristaltic motion of the intestines, &c. &c.* rather let * *OUR patients drink the original spa water of Cheltenham*, than that of Harrowgate." I thank him for the admission, and without entering into any frivolous explanation of the *peristaltic*

* "How we Apples swim!"

motion, shall assume it to be, in ninety and nine cases out of the hundred, the intention to stimulate *that* motion. So that hence it follows, that the assertion contained in page 25 is *palpably erroneous*, and that people *may not* be “equally benefited by drinking a solution of Glauber and Epsom Salts, at home, provided they had confidence and patience.” Hear this *ingenious*, and *rational* “arguier of the topic:” if you want to stimulate the peristaltic motion of the intestines, “*Come to Cheltenham* ;” says Doctor Neale :---“you will be equally benefited by “*staying at home*,” says the identical Doctor Neale !!

Which of these propositions are we to be believe? or has not the Doctor yet made up his mind as to which of them he himself believes? But in order to shew which is most conformable to *common sense*, I shall propose a simple, but unerring criterion; let any person dissolve *seventy four grains* of Glauber, or Epsom Salts, in a pint of water, and take it one morning, and on the next take a pint of water from No. 1, of the Montpelier Spa, or any other Well, and then decide on their respective merits; would the experiment be repeated? I think not.

So much for the style;---now for the spirit of the work: and first be it observed, that when a man arrogates to himself so important a duty as that which belongs to “*A Guardian of the Public Health*,” he should come to the task with a pure consciousness of rectitude; a desire of really doing good, divested of prejudice, and actuated solely by motives of Public Benefit, not of private pique or personal resentment. The most uncompromising candour should mark his conduct; but it should also be free from “hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness.”---How far Doctor Neale has been thus purely,

and ingenuously actuated, his own letter will testify, and the Public must decide. The basis upon which he attempts to found his case, is the essential difference between the Analysis of "the Original Spa Water," and that of the "*Montpelier Spa*." But in the very onset, Doctor Neale has either laboured under an erroneous impression, or he has wilfully sent forth a statement which is in itself delusive; because, it so happens, that the "*Original Fountain*," of which he gives an Analysis taken so far back as the year 1788, has *long since ceased to be*. It was situated under the Arch-way fronting the Pump Room, and was only six feet in depth, the shallowest Well ever known in Cheltenham, and was *literally "drank dry"* some years ago. So that Doctor Neale has but added another to his marvellous discoveries, in ascertaining that "very few had ever repaired to the *Original Fountain*," *the Springs whereof no longer exist*; * nor was the

* I conceive myself fully borne out in this Statement by the concurring testimony of Doctor Jameson, who says, that "the former supply of 58 Gallons collected every night, becoming gradually less and less for some years past, and its transparency likewise disturbed, *the Well was enlarged*, in the year 1808, to 12 feet deep, &c. And again, "The Analysis which was made by Dr. Fothergill in the year 1788, appears to be *nearly the state* of the Waters in the present day, *with this exception*, that the Author, in some recent Experiments, could not obtain so much residue by thirty six grains in a gallon, *as appears in the Printed Analysis*." Dr. Jameson's Treatise, pp. 75, 76.

To this I may add, the more recent extension of the Wells, as advertised by the Proprietors, who in 1819, announced, "that having at a very considerable expence, extended their Wells, they were enabled to offer to the Public, the following statement of the Mineral Waters, at their Pump Room. viz.

- No. 1. STRONG ÆRATED SALINE.
2. STRONG SULPHUROUS SALINE.
3. MAGNESIAN SALINE.
4. PURE SALINE.
5. MILD CHALYBEATE."

Although this Statement was publicly given in the Cheltenham Chronicle, and circulated in Cards, the *candid* Doctor Neale has not so much as hinted at

Old Well in use for some time, 'till, the soil being sunk to the same depth with the other Wells, new Springs were discovered, which now produce water of precisely similar qualities with those of the Montpelier Spa and Sherborne Wells. So much for the "Analysis of the Original Spa Water." Was it then candid---was it becoming, in a man who professes to take up this ungrateful task "*from a pure love of truth,*" to publish such a statement? Is this seeking for truth in the *true* way?

How desirable would it not have been under such circumstances to have obtained the means of personal examination and inspection? nay, how indispensable in such a discussion, to any man but Doctor Neale, who confidently contents himself with his "entirely medical reasoning" and relying upon the *analyses* taken when the wells were far differently situated, boldly sends forth *his ipse dixit* as the infallible standard of all future opinion. Really his must be a hardy spirit!--yet there are some things which he could not, or he did not, dare. He did not dare to publish his pamphlet in the state in which it was shown to a person deeply interested in its contents, even though "he had Counsel's opinion, and was warranted in giving it to the public." He did not dare to assert in print "that the Waters and Salts were factitious, and that the physicians knew it, but *bolstered them*

these four additional Wells; but on the contrary, says "he has the authority of one of the Proprietors to assure his Readers, that the soil around Cheltenham produces only *three* Mineral Waters." Admitting No. 1, to be the Original Spa, I am warranted in stating, that it differs essentially from the Analysis placed by Doctor Neale in contrast with that of the Montpelier Spa; Dr. Jameson tells us that it differed in 1808, when the Well was sunk to *twelve feet*, how must it vary in 1820, when the Well, I presume, is sunk to sixty or seventy? Allowing it to be as efficacious as any other, I still contend, that Dr. Neale has not stated the Fact, in giving that Analysis to the world in the manuer he has done.

tip for their own interested purposes." He did not dare to publish so unfounded and scandalous a statement, even had he prepared it for the press. But I will tell Doctor Neale---and I do so *advisedly* and *with authority*, that if he unqualifiedly asserts that the Waters and Salts offered to the public are factitious, he wilfully asserts the *thing that is not*, and is the more inexcusable in doing so, in as much as he has contemptuously rejected the means of possessing himself of the positive truth; and thus he gives to error and mistatement the sanction of a profession, to which unfortunately all men are not ornaments. Had his pamphlet been published in a hasty manner, there are some passages which it would be unfair to consider otherwise than as the effect of negligence, or rather inadvertence; but, having come by slow and gradual progress into the world, we are to assume that the opinions which it contains, however at *variance with each other*, are, notwithstanding, the results of mature and deliberate reflection. Well then, in page 16, Doctor Neale tells us that the "MURIATE OF SODA does not act on the bowels," whilst, in page 21, he ascribes to the Water containing this same MURIATE OF SODA, the effect of "throwing a *torpid* liver, which might have remained for years in a quiescent state, into violent inflammatory action, succeeded by suppuration." Indeed! will Doctor Neale be kind enough to explain how *Muriate of Soda* which "does not act upon the bowels," in page 16, can in page 21, throw the "liver into violent inflammatory action?" or can the Doctor point out a case of this description? Will Doctor Neale inform the world how long a person could exist with a liver decidedly torpid? or can Doctor Neale produce one case of sup-

puration of the liver, caused by the Cheltenham Waters? With respect to the case of appoplexy, which Doctor Neale says he well remembers, I contend that if he were even to bring forward the most unquestionable evidence of the fact, as stated by him,---of which I must confess mere assertion does not convince me, it would prove nothing; because, on his own showing, this large-headed and short-necked gentleman prescribed for himself an inordinate quantity of the Waters; and if he did "tumble down at breakfast," (to use the Doctor's elegant phraseology,) and expire, is it fair or candid to charge the melancholy effects of his imprudence upon the properties of the Waters?--- But to come directly to the truth of this catch-penny publication. The proof-sheets of a Letter purporting to be this now published, was shown some weeks since to a gentleman interested in preserving the reputation of the Cheltenham Waters, even from suspicion. Why it was shown, by the Doctor's friend, to this gentleman, I may be permitted to imagine, nor will the Public be at a loss to devine; but in order to give a clearer insight into this transaction, I beg leave to state a conversation which is more than suspected to have taken place, on the occasion of the proof-sheets being shown to Mr. Pearson Thompson. The friend to whose care they were entrusted, said, he "supposed Doctor Neale had taken Counsel's opinion," and added that "he, Doctor Neale, was a very determined man, and certainly would publish the book unless *some means* were taken to prevent it." To this Mr. Thompson answered, "if it is meant that I, or my Father should purchase the Book, it would be an act of injustice to the public, to my Father, and to myself, were I to do so."

—The Doctor's friend then said, "You are the best judge of that;" and the parties separated. If my suspicion be well founded, his hopes were "most miserably shaken;" (to use a phrase of the Doctor's), for to his astonishment he received a letter, of which I have seen a copy publicly handed about, offering him permission in the most explicit terms, to visit and examine all the Wells in question, and to make any experiment upon the Waters which flow into them." Pray how does Doctor Neale feel now? quite easy and comfortable no doubt: but did he avail himself, most pure and immaculate "guardian of the public health" as he would be thought, of that liberal and manly offer? Did he, "pure lover of truth," as he would seem, visit the Manufactory of Salts, which he had likewise permission to do? Did he inspect "the Water from which, and the manner in which, these Salts were prepared?" Did he examine, or question any of the men employed in that Manufactory; or, what was more, the men who had been discharged from it? All these things he might have done; and all these things it was his duty to have done. But let me ask how the liberal and gentlemanly permission so granted him, was received? Instead of making one solitary effort to come at the truth, and nothing but the truth; instead of becoming possess of the very best of all possible evidence—evidence too, of the actual state in which the Wells then were; this fair, impartial, and truth-loving "plain matter-of-fact man," contented himself with penning a most ungracious reply, in which the common feelings of respect, and the language of common decency were alike overlooked. It is upon record. This reply, however, contained another admission, which is rather unfortunate

for the Doctor, for he confesses that he is “not warranted in concluding himself likely to be much enlightened, by interrogating the manufacturers, or inspecting the eighty and four Wells.” Connect this with his modest assertion, with respect to his “own chemical knowledge,” [see page 14,] and we may fairly conclude that his knowledge of the matter is “somewhat of the smallest.”

I shall now contrast some few of Doctor Neale’s opinions with those of Doctor Jameson, and also of Doctor M’Cabe.

“*The muriate of Soda* will not act upon the bowels.”
 Dr. NEALE’S LETTER.

“*Muriate of Soda* (sea salt) is found in almost every water that percolates the Earth, and being generally associated, in small quantity, with the two former Salts in springs, it in some degree meliorates their taste, and increases their purgative powers.

Dr. JAMESON’S TREATISE, p. 19.

“The Muriate of Soda, which, as may be perceived by the Analysis, is the most abundant ingredient in the Montpelier Wells, is an active and powerful stimulant.—The stimulus afforded by the Muriate of Soda, in No. 4, of the Montpelier Wells, will be attended with the most decided advantage.”

Dr. M’CABE ON THE CHELTENHAM WATERS,
 pp. 56, 58.

“Shall we not be warranted in drawing this inference, that all these people might have been equally benefited by

drinking a solution of Glauber and Epsom Salts at home, provided they had confidence and patience enough to persevere steadily for a fortnight or three weeks, and rise every morning and walk for an hour or two before breakfast.

DR. NEALE'S LETTER, p 24.

“ Cheltenham Water is the only species of purgative that can be taken for a great length of time with safety to the constitution, in consequence of the proportion of nutriment being increased, and the system supported under the evacuation by the water improving the appetite.”

DR. JAMESON'S TREATISE, pp. 111, 112.

“ The individuals who visit Cheltenham for medical purposes, whatever have been their predilections, may find here a collection of Mineral Waters which contain the principles of Tunbridge, Bath, Bristol, Leamington, Malvern, Harrowgate, and perhaps of every public Spa in the Kingdom.”

MESSRS. BRANDE AND PARKE.

“ The cases which are generally sent to Cheltenham are either people who have resided a long time in warm climates, and whose livers and chylopoetic viscera have been injured by the influence of fevers and tropical heats; or such as have never travelled out of Great Britain, but whose abdominal organs have suffered from excessive stimulation, from various causes. In neither of these two classes of patients, according to my experience, does a water containing Muriate of Soda, in excess, produce beneficial effects.

Dr. Neale's Letter, p. 21.

“ The following are the principal diseases which require a course of purging waters.

“ Inflamed and schirrous liver or spleen.”

“ Torpid Liver, &c.”

“ Cheltenham Waters are of as much use in stomach complaints as in any disorders whatever; provided the dose be moderate. They lessen the effects of acrimonious matters in the stomach, and gently remove the oppressive load of undigested food from the debilitated organs, without exhausting the system like more drastic remedies,”

Dr. Jameson's Treatise, pp. 112. 117.

“ Lay in a proper store of Glauber and Epsom Salts, together with the Sal Polychrest, the sulphrate of Potash of the moderns; not indeed, that this was ever yet found in a Mineral Water, since the days of the deluge.”

Dr. Neale's Letter, pp. 36, 37

“ It will be seen by the above observations, that Mr. Cooke, is of opinion, not only that sulphate of potash is contained in the Cheltenham Waters, but that it also forms a part of the crystallized Salts.”

Dr. M'Cabe, on the Cheltenham Waters, p. 220.

I will now say a word or two about *Management*; a theme which has been so ingeniously handled by Doctor Neale; and, as in no profession in life is there so much need for *management* as in that of a *Puff Empyric*, I shall, in order

to elucidate these *mystic words*, here subjoin a Correspondence which lately took place between myself* and an old schoolfellow, who resides at —— Farm, in——shire, on *our* side of the Tweed. My only regret is, that I cannot interlard it with any big-sounding name, with a Battle at the end of it, to shew that I am somebody, and have been somewhere.

◆

TO MR. W. H. HALPIN, JUN.

MY DEAR SIR,

It is now some years since we met at school, and I have but within these few days heard of your present place of abode. Relying on our previous intimacy, I trust you will oblige me with your opinion in regard to a circumstance which is of great moment to me, in my *present* condition. The truth is, all my property has fallen from me, and in Peace time there is no longer the chance of an appointment. I have nothing but my half-pay left, and that has been forestalled for the next few years, by two unlucky attempts I made at discovering a diamond-mine, and making my fortune at once, by a grand Course of Lectures upon *Natural Philosophy*. I have, since the termination of the war, been obliged to quit all scenes of active life, from the want of means to support myself in them. I have made the tour of England, without success; never having been able to obtain six patients in any place I visited, nor to retain three. However, my

* "Serve thyself last," says Shakespeare—Other people think differently.

situation is a critical one, and may be worse, if some means are not found to prevent it. I am now under the disagreeable necessity of resigning my Establishment here into the hands of my two old friends, John and Richard, whose judgments are at this moment most confoundedly against me. As I must be candid with you, my old friend, I almost blush to confess that I have become so unpopular here, from some opinions I once rather hastily, but peremptorily promulgated, that my testimony will scarcely be credited. But it follows that if I cannot stay here any longer, I must go somewhere.—I have just heard with most revigorating hope, that your town, although stocked with medical men of the *first* respectability, has yet room for one of my pretensions. I have also learned that the gullibility of some of your people is prodigious, so that I think if I had the very smallest possible opening as a Physician, to ensure which, and establish my fame for ever, I propose to commence with a Lecture on the *Philosopher's Stone*, a subject of which I am yet ignorant, but which I shall fully acquire in four and twenty hours—the thing would be done. Now my dear Sir, if this be actually the case, and you can afford me this important information I am so much in need of, pray impart it without delay, and you will confer a lasting benefit on myself and family, and even on the race of ——'s yet unborn.

My Answer to this was as follows:—

I cannot rejoice that it is really in my power to answer your letter so hastily, and put you in possession of all that information you require on a subject which I am free to con-

fess I feel must be of importance for you to know ;—whilst at the same time, I am candid enough to own that the first sentence of my letter, is most unintelligible nonsense. You have been rightly informed that our Town is stocked with medical men of the first respectability ;—men of character, reputation, and skill ;—indeed, so stocked, that I see not the least opening even for a man of the most consummate abilities in *your* way : but as you frankly acknowledge that “ you are in a critical situation,” some means must be found, as you say, to prevent its becoming worse. You will, therefore, should you screw up your conscience, to try the experiment, assume all the brass you are master of.—And if you can get any unfortunate tradesman, likely to have faith in you, be it even as a grain of mustard seed—if he *will* embrace a *a martyr's fate*, equip yourself as decorously as may be.—Send orders to your Booksellers in town, who have, doubtless, some few copies of your Travels in Utopia and Barrataria, on their shelves, to dispatch them forthwith, to the Libraries of this place, with a most obsequious request that they will be pleased to exhibit them in their windows, and on their counters in the most conspicuous manner imaginable. On your arrival here, suppose you were to bargain and agree for the purchase of a large furnished house, and effect a negociation with your agents in town, for the means of paying for it.—Should you not, first, however, write to some one of our most eminent practitioners here, to beg him for God's sake, and for the sake of your family, to afford you an introduction to his inferior or secondary practice ? because, in the event of his not subsequently relinquishing his first rate patients into your hands, will you not then have a glorious opportunity of quarreling with, and traducing him ? Above all things it would be highly desirable, if you could prepare a

pompous display of collegiate honours, (whether honorary or not) and professional services, as for instance, a Graduate of one college--a Licentiate of another---a Physician to the forces, no matter if you had been an Assistant Surgeon; or an Hospital Mate---Physician to an Embassy, though no such appointment be recognized; or place yourself on the Establishment of some Great Personage, though your appointment had barely been promised you.---It is all one: no body will take the trouble of investigating your claims, or of questioning your pretensions. The instant you may arrive and take possession of your new house, it would be desirable for you to sit down collectedly, and learn all the scandal you can glean, no matter from what source or channel, the viler the better, because the very taint of corruption may savour it to your palate, and so heighten the flavour with which you may pour it forth;---there is nothing in scandal like the genuine twang of the Borracio. If you could by possibility pounce on a discarded livery servant, your fortune is made. You ought then to employ yourself in writing anonymous Letters; and occasionally, as opportunity offered, to cut up the characters of your quondam friends, as an Indian might be supposed to dissect the body of an enemy. After some months of endurance, after having stoically exhibited your *patience*, if not *patients*, sit fairly down to expose a fallacy which never existed.---Impugn the character of our waters---by the established excellence of which, by the bye, Cheltenham has been elevated to its present prosperous condition---and whereby you may once have hoped to live;---you have only to assert;---proof is by no means necessary.---If any one of the Proprietors should offer you an opportunity of coming at the fact, by all means insult him, this will show your gentlemanly spirit and independence. Your business is to *sell your book*, and if he

won't buy it, the Public will. You will thus not only get the means of living a little longer,---but you get talked of, and you well know that

“’Tis better, Hark ! the general call,”

“Be damned, than noticed not at all.

You must become puffed into Notoriety and Fame—(and who now-a-days cares whether it be good or bad—’tis Fame at last,) and your fortune is made for ever. It may be essential for you, in your Book—or Pamphlet—or Letter—or whatever you may call it—to let a man die, from the overpowerful effect of the Waters—which he possibly might have prescribed for himself:—this you can easily do :—for if no man has actually, so “died himself,” it does not follow that such a case might not have occurred.—Above all things, loudly profess to be a lover of truth, reserving to yourself the expediency of its practice.

The greatest danger, and indeed, almost the only risk that I can anticipate to your plans is, lest per-adventure some cynical scribbler should set himself to oppose *fact* to *assertion*, remove the veil, and shew you to the world in your real character, and then *Lord have mercy upon you!* For should you even escape the fate of Boccacini, the Roman satirist, and not be beaten to death with sand-bags—nor yet be forced, like Lampedo, to swallow your own pills, you will have almost a certainty of being ducked in the Wells you so traduce, and then kicked out of the town by the foot of the common scavenger. —FAREWELL.

IN CONCLUSION ;--“to come to something a more serious method.” — The following documents are too important in their nature to be withheld from the Public, and will at once, I think, be deemed satisfactory and conclusive.—Dr Neale’s Letter was received in Cheltenham on Saturday, the 11th of June, and on the 13th, a Meeting of the Proprietors of the Wells and Manufactory took place, and the following Hand-Bill was issued :—

TO THE PUBLIC.

DR. NEALE having ventured, in a late Publication, to insinuate without the slightest foundation, (and that, too, after declining a personal inspection of the Wells, and the Manufactory of Salts,) that the Proprietors of the Cheltenham Spas “ possess a secret manner of adding to the strength of their Mineral Waters, and thereby reap a rich harvest from the credulity of their visitors ;” and also to imply, that the Waters are factitious. The Proprietors feel called upon to offer a Public Refutation of this malignant and atrocious fabrication. They beg leave to invite the most public Scrutiny of their several Wells and Establishments, by which the falsehood of the Insinuation will become apparent, and they will feel highly obliged to any Persons who will have the kindness to examine them.

They also presume to suggest the propriety of a **PUBLIC MEETING** of the Visitors and Inhabitants, which they will be most happy to attend, and to concur

in any steps that may be suggested for the due investigation of this important subject.

JAMES MATTHEWS.

HENRY THOMPSON.

J. COSENS,

For Harward and Cossens.

Cheltenham, June 13, 1820.

In reply to which Doctor Neale sent forth the subjoined Appeal to the Public—shifting off—or endeavouring to shift off, the *onus* of establishing the proofs of his imputations, from his own shoulders, and resting it with the Proprietors.

TO THE PUBLIC.

A Printed HAND-BILL having appeared this Evening, bearing the Signatures of three Persons, styling themselves Proprietors of the Mineral Waters of CHELTENHAM, wherein, after garbling and misquoting a passage in Dr. NEALE'S Pamphlet, these Persons gratuitously and spontaneously apply it to themselves, and charge Dr. NEALE with having preferred a "*malignant and atrocious fabrication*" against them:—Dr. NEALE hereby repels the charge upon its Authors with the contempt and indignation it merits, and pledges himself to produce the most satisfactory evidence in support of his Pamphlet, whenever these three Personages shall bring forward the question in a tangible form, to be discussed before a British Court of Justice, where only, as they

well know, the whole truth can be fairly and properly investigated, and all the requisite Witnesses examined upon Oath.

ADAM NEALE, M. D.

Cheltenham, June 13, 1820.

This was followed up on the part of the Proprietors by a requisition for a Public Meeting:—viz.

TO THE PUBLIC.

The Proprietors of the SPAS at Cheltenham request a Public MEETING of the Inhabitants and Visitors of Cheltenham and its Vicinity, at the Assembly-Rooms, this day, [Thursday,] at One o'Clock, in order to take into consideration the recent Publication of a Pamphlet, by Dr. NEALE, tending to prove injurious to the Reputation of the Waters and Salts of Cheltenham, and to adopt the most effectual means for investigating the actual state of the Wells, and the Manufactory for Salts.

JAMES MATTHEWS.

HENRY THOMPSON.

J. COSENS,

For Harward and Cossens.

Cheltenham, June 15, 1820.

At this Meeting, THOMAS GRAY, Esq. was called to the Chair, and presided with candor, impartiality, and the utmost firmness; indeed, if one could object to his conduct,

on this occasion, it was rather for an excess of liberality exercised towards a person who had sought for little short of the destruction of Cheltenham, and the ruin of its Inhabitants—by whom he had been, at least, courteously received ;—whose hospitality he had experienced ;—but whose medical prepossessions were not to be shaken even by the insinuating Adam Neale.—They were not to be beguiled into an abandonment of tried and approved ability, skill, and reputation, solely for the promotion of the interests of a stranger :—and they were accordingly doomed, in anticipation, to the deep and deadly curse of his resentment. *Had he been bribed by any other Watering Place* of minor consideration, to effect, as far as in him lay, the ruin of Cheltenham, by destroying the reputation of its Waters, he could not have been more systematic or deliberate in his calculations:—but, let me triumphantly add, these calculations were as erroneous, as they were malevolent ; and the explosion of his hopes, has fallen with ten-fold vengeance on his own head. Should he relinquish his *extensive* practice here, go where he may in future, he must be received with something like suspicion and distrust ;—for who can say, that at some time or another—at some capricious moment, the operation of one imagined slight, may not set him about contriving how he may best expose and bring to shame, the very beings who receive him into their society. If all his efforts prove as futile as his attempt at the destruction of Cheltenham—it matters little to what point his future attention may be turned.

The following Resolutions were the result of the Meeting to which I have just referred.—Be it observed, That Dr. Neale was invited to attend this Meeting, but did not appear.

At a **PUBLIC MEETING**, held at the Assembly-Rooms, Cheltenham, June 15, 1820, for the purpose of taking into consideration the Pamphlet published by Dr. Neale, Thomas Gray, Esq. having been called to the Chair:—

It was Unanimously Resolved,

That a paper be left at the Bar of these Rooms, at Ten o'Clock To-morrow Morning, to receive the names of Fifteen Gentlemen Visitors, who may offer their names for the formation of a Committee to investigate the state of the Mineral Wells and Salt Manufactory of this place.

RESOLVED, That, at the request of the Proprietors of the Wells, Dr. Neale be authorised to nominate Eight Persons more upon this Committee, and that he be invited to attend any investigation that may be had in consequence of their proceedings.

RESOLVED, That these Resolutions be published in the Cheltenham Chronicle.

T. GRAY, Chairman.

The Chairman having quitted the Chair, it was Resolved, that the Thanks of this Meeting are due to him for his steady and impartial conduct therein.



With the following affidavits I resign the Doctor to the public opinion.

THOMAS HENNEY, of Cheltenham, in the county of Gloucester, maketh Oath and saith, that he has at-

tended the sinking of the Wells, management and conducting of the Sherborne Spa, Cheltenham, from the period the Wells were sunk to the present time; and that no Epsom, Glauber, or any other Salts whatsoever, have at any time been put into the Wells, introduced or brought into the Sherborne Pump-Room, for the purpose of mixing with the Waters, and that whatever is drank therein, is the produce of the Springs belonging to and adjoining the said Sherborne Spa; he further declares that the Saline Waters are not pumped into tanks the night previous to drinking, but are constantly running from the Springs into the drifts and shaft beneath the Pump Room, and this deponent further saith, that he maketh this his affidavit without any equivocation, mental reservation or self evasion of mind whatsoever.

T. HENNEY.

Sworn before us, two of his Majesty's }
Justices for the County of Gloucester, }
this 20th day of June, 1820.

W. H. PRINN,

JAS. CLUTTERBUCK,

T. HENNEY, as one of the Proprietors of Sherborne Spa, feels it right to publish the above affidavit, and considers the same, with the eminent benefit received by those who have used the Waters, as a complete answer to any malicious designs or invidious insinuation made against them.

TO THE PUBLIC.

James Davison, Assistant Pumper at the Sherborne Spa, Cheltenham, upon his solemn Oath, saith, that he hath been employed at the Sherborne Spa ever since the Wells were sunk by the Proprietors, and that he, this Deponent, is quite positive, that the Waters drank by the Subscribers to the said Spa, are pure; and that no Epsom, Glauber, or any other Salts, or any thing whatsoever, has at any time been put into the Wells, introduced or brought into the Pump-Room, for the purpose of mixing with the Waters, and whatever is drank therein is the produce of the Springs belonging to and adjoining the Sherborne Spa, the Pumps being entrusted to his care; he further declares, that the Saline Water is *not* pumped into reservoirs the night previous to drinking, but is constantly running from the Springs into the drifts and shaft beneath the Pump-Room.

JAMES DAVISON.

Sworn before me, one of the Magistrates for the County of Gloucester, this 16th day of June, 1820.

ROBERT CAPPER.

James Davison is in constant attendance at the Sherborne Spa, and will give the utmost information to any person desirous of making enquiries.

The following Letter is worthy of attention; it is that referred to in page 9, and was addressed to Doctor Neale by Mr. Pearson Thompson:—

SIR,

Your friend Captain Smyth has shewn me this morning, the proof of a pamphlet, which I was told you intend pub-

lishing to the world in a few days. Having perused it very carefully, and being willing to imagine that you have asserted many things in it from hearsay only, and not from your own actual knowledge; I take this opportunity of giving you permission to examine all my Father's Wells, in any way you please; and you have perfect liberty to make any experiments on the Waters that flow into them. His Manufactory for Salts will also be open to you, when you may see the Water from which, and the manner in which, his Cheltenham Salts are made. Also all, or any of the men now at work, in and about his Manufactory, as well as those who have been discharged from his employment, shall be sent to you, if you please, that you may examine and interrogate them, in any way you may think proper respecting their several occupations. These offers are made you, that you may not at any future time, when the truth of the contents of your work will be put to the test, offer by way of excuse, that an improper concealment of my father's concerns has been made, or any information relating to them, withheld from you or the public. I cannot conclude this Letter without assuring you that it is not in your power, nor in the power of any individual, to prove one single instance of adulteration, either in my Father's Waters or Salts for the best of all reasons, because none ever existed; and I shall be astonished indeed, if your work on the Cheltenham Waters and Salts, of which so much has been said, ever appears before the Public.

I am, Sir, yours,

(Signed) P. THOMPSON.

20th May, 1820

The foregoing pages had been some days in the press, when the confession of Dr. Neale made its appearance;—I shall plead no apology for giving it once more to the Public, accompanied by a *very few remarks*.

AN ADDRESS

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE moment has arrived when I feel it due to my own character, and to the deference I owe to the public opinion, to declare openly and explicitly the whole circumstances which led to the publication of the pamphlet which has excited so much discussion.

On the 13th day of April last, I met Captain Matthews, (then a stranger to me,) by his own appointment, at the house of Captain Smyth, and at this interview we held a conversation, in the presence of Captain Smyth, as to a publication which I intended making on the nature and properties of the Waters, and on the superior qualities which I had satisfied myself existed in those of the Original Spa, of which Captain Matthews was tenant.

Captain Matthews entered into a discussion of the subject without reserve, and declared to me, in the presence of Captain Smyth, that the soil of Cheltenham only produced THREE species of Mineral Waters, and that the Water served out as number Four was factitious—that is to say, that a quantity of glauber salts was dissolved and added to it, in its passage from the well to the reservoir, where it was kept for delivery.

As from my previous conversations with Captain Smyth, it appeared to me, that the publication intended was a fair and legitimate dis-

cussion of the nature of the several springs, and that it would be to the ultimate advantage of the public to investigate the relative proportions of the contents of these Waters, and state my own reason in support of the opinion I had adopted; moreover, as it seemed that this would be an auspicious commencement towards bringing back public opinion to that identical Spa-Water on which the character of Cheltenham was founded, and as it was Captain Matthews's wish to retrace his own steps as to his having ADOPTED number Four, I readily coincided in promising my assistance. Certain advantages were held out to me, as likely to arise to myself, individually, from this undertaking, as all the expences of advertising, printing and publishing the pamphlet were to be defrayed by Captain Mathews, as well as whatever expences might arise, should I be exposed to legal proceedings from the revenge or resentment of the other Proprietors; in short, I was to be borne out harmless in the affair, and was offered, verbally, a subsequent interest to accrue, conditionally.

In the week following, on the 18th day of the month, Captain Matthews called upon me, to accompany him to his Wells, and then led me round the grounds to taste the several Waters. In so doing, he took me into a small orchard, in which was a pump, and the machinery employed in mixing up and preparing number Four, and which I understood to be similar to that in use at the other Spas. Next day Captain Matthews sent me four corked bottles, containing the waters of his wells, numbered from one to four inclusive. The pamphlet was commenced, and after several delays, in printing, revising, and altering it was offered to Captain Matthews for his perusal, which he declined: meanwhile the pamphlet had been advertised in the Cheltenham newspaper, and a gentleman, who requested himself to be introduced to me, took an opportunity of stating, that he was a particular friend of Mr. Thompson, who was most desirous of having some idea of my pamphlet before it was actually published. This gentleman called repeatedly at my house, inquiring whether the pamphlet was ready; and when the proof sheets came down for correction, under the impression that this gentleman had been employed by Mr. Thompson confidently, I very imprudently permitted Captain Smyth to shew it to Mr. Thompson, the younger, as a matter of courtesy. Mr. Thompson, it appears

was violently enraged, and came the same day to my house, when, being from home, he asked to see Mrs. Neale, with whom he wished to leave an angry message, threatening me with every sort of legal action, if I dared or presumed to publish the pamphlet. Mrs. Neale having declined receiving this message, Mr. P. Thompson the same evening sent me a letter couched in very imperious terms, which I answered in a similar, and not very conciliatory tone.

Two days after the pamphlet arrived in Cheltenham, a violent handbill was produced by the Proprietors of the Wells, and to my surprise I perceived the name of Mr. Matthews foremost in the list, denouncing me to the public as "a malignant and atrocious fabricator of insinuations against the Waters." To this I replied, deprecating their having gratuitously and spontaneously applied my jocularities to themselves, and pledging myself to produce, in a court of justice, legal evidence in support of my pamphlet. A Public Meeting was called, to which I was invited, but which I of course declined.

These are, I believe, all the material facts connected with the affair, and I lay them thus candidly and openly before the Public, in order that they may form a judgment how far I was warranted in pursuing the line of argument and insinuation which I have followed in my pamphlet. Having been placed, unreservedly, in possession of so important a fact, as to the composition of number Four, that water which is now drank by 95 people out of every 100, and that too, most frequently without the advice or concurrence of any medical man on the spot, it secured to me an imperious duty not to conceal it.

Reflecting upon the whole transaction, and the motives for my own conduct, I cannot see any just grounds for the public outcry, which my friends inform me has been raised to my prejudice. With the feelings of a Professional Man, I was assured I could not in conscience lend myself to support any system, which had for its basis so palpable an imposition, and having had the whole matter so completely placed before my eyes by one of the Proprietors of the Spa, himself, to the conviction of every sense, and with the fullest powers,

to avail myself of it, and having good grounds for believing that the same operation was carried on at all the other Wells, assured too that it was the wish of Capt. Matthews, to retrace his own steps as to the management of the Spa, it was my determination to make it public, whatever might be the consequences to myself, individually; persuaded that the reputation of Cheltenham, as a Watering Place, can only be supported by fair and legitimate means, and that all spurious imitations or fabrications, so far from being innocent, must prove positively injurious in numerous cases, and convinced that all the best and dearest interests of society are united and promoted by a strict adherence to truth, I came forward as the friend of those interests, to enter my protest against a deviation so mischievous.

The welfare of families and individuals is deeply involved in so delicate a question, and I cannot coincide in the opinion, that the interests of any single town, or any body of men, are to be upheld to the positive detriment of the rest of the community. The Public will soon feel that the conduct I have pursued, is calculated to do service, both to the town and society in general, and by removing, for ever, all doubts and misgivings (which I well know have existed for years in the minds of Medical Men residing at a distance,) that the character of the REAL CHELTENHAM WATERS will be more securely established.

Lastly, I do not conceive that any blame can be imputed to me for having permitted my own individual interests to be mixed up with a public duty, conceiving that they were not incompatible, and hoping that whatever of error may be imputed to me, still that the benefit which I intended and hoped to have conferred on society, will prove an apology,

And remain,

With a firm reliance on the impartial decision of the Public,

Their devoted Servant,

ADAM NEALE, M. D.

Cheltenham, June 17, 1820.

When I first read this extraordinary document, and saw it actually subscribed by Doctor Neale, I did hope it was a forgery---I did hope so, for the honour of human nature---for the sake of our moral character---and for the credit of a respectable profession.---I find that it is otherwise ; and I shall treat it accordingly. In this address, bearing date June 17th, Doctor Neale tells us “the moment has arrived when he feels it due to his own character, and to the deference he owes to public opinion, to declare *openly* and *explicitly* the *whole circumstances* which led to the Publication &c.” One would have imagined that if he considered any thing due to his own character, or to the deference he owed to public opinion *the moment had arrived*, and *passed away* with the Public Meeting, on Thursday, June *the fifteenth*, two days prior to the date of this Confessional ; for the Hand Bill of which he complains, bearing the signature of Capt. Matthews, was published on the 13th : though Doctor Neale suffered it to appear, and the public demand for explanation to be loudly made, yet the *moment* for disclosure did not arrive for nearly a week after the first, and two days after the latter circumstance. There was “something more than natural in this,”—but Philosophy has found it out.

After enumerating *some* of the circumstances, and advantages held out to him, Doctor Neale should have remembered that he had pledged himself “to declare *openly* and *explicitly* the *whole* circumstances !” how came he then to omit all mention of the HUNDRED POUNDS paid *in ten notes of ten pounds each* ? Was not that a *material fact* ?—It would seem as if he thought not, for he tells the world that, “these, he believes, are the material

facts connected with the affair,"—"Stand we on full points here, or are *Etceteras* nothing?—Was it not a *material fact* that Mr. Pearson Thompson had offered him permission to inspect the Wells and Salts and prove whether the practices "*he understood*" to be carried on, were actually in existence; and yet this is not laid "openly and candidly before the Public:"—But every minor consideration is absorbed in the associations springing up from the following passage, "WITH THE FEELINGS OF A PROFESSIONAL MAN! I WAS ASSURED I COULD NOT IN CONSCIENCE!! LEND MYSELF TO SUPPORT ANY SYSTEM WHICH HAD FOR ITS BASIS SO PALPABLE AN IMPOSITION!!!"—What! at the very moment that he was recommending the Public exclusively to adopt the very Wells, where, as he tells us, "*he had the whole matter so completely placed before his eyes!*"—he could not *in conscience* do less than decry the Wells of which he knew nothing—of which he had *refused* to know any thing—in order to support, and raise into exclusive favor, the very waters upon which he founded his knowledge of an imposition being practised!—What *his* "*professional feelings,*" or his "*conscience*" may be, I pretend not to say, I know what *mine* were on reading this passage—but I will be charitable and suppress them. Doctor Neale unblushingly tells us "he came forward as the friend of the interests" of Cheltenham, to tell the world that the Wells in which he *says*, he saw Machinery for the purpose of adulterating the Waters, contain the only genuine Waters! Excellent!—He tells us too, (and be it remembered,) that he is "*convinced* that all the best and dearest interests of society are united and promoted by a *strict adherence to truth*"—He tells us so—He!

but I forbear. In order to preserve the regularity of detail, I shall here insert four additional affidavits, and then return to the candid Refutation of Captain Matthews.

THOMAS MANNING, Pumper at the the Montpelier Spas, Cheltenham, maketh oath and saith that he has been employed at the Montpelier Spas by Mr. Thompson, since the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eight, and that he is positive that the Waters drank at those Wells are pure, and that no Epsom, Glauber, or any other Salts, or any thing whatsoever, has at any time been put into the Wells, or introduced, or brought into the Pump-Room, for the purpose of mixing with the Waters, and whatever is drank therein, is the prodce of the Springs belonging to the Montpelier Pump Room, the pumps being entrusted to his care. He also declares that the solution which is asked for and given in a morning to the Company, is a solution of Cheltenham Salts made by evaporating the Cheltenham Water, at Mr. Thompson's Manufactory, and not of Glauber, or Epsom Salts.

THOMAS MANNING.

Sworn at Cheltenham, this 19th day of June, 1820.

JAS. CLUTTERBUCK,

SAMUEL BENDAL, maketh Oath and saith, that he has been employed by Mr. Thompson, as a well-digger, from time to time, since the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Nine, that he is quite positive all the Waters that are drank at the Montpelier Pump-Room as well as the Waters which are conveyed to Mr. Thompson's Manufactory for

Salts are pure, and the natural products of the Cheltenham Spas, that Mr. Thompson has at least Eighty Wells over an extent of two Hundred Acres of Land, the greater part of which he has himself assisted in digging.

SAMUEL BENDAL.

Sworn at Cheltenham, this 19th day of June, 1820.

JAS. CLUTTERBUCK.

GEORGE WILLIAMS. maketh Oath and saith, that he has been employed by Mr. Thompson since the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eight, to superintend his Manufactory for Salts, that he is quite positive that all the Cheltenham Salts that have been made by Mr. Thompson have been made wholly from the Waters of his Spas which are daily pumped into the Manufactory by two Men who are employed solely for that purpose and that no Epsom, Glauber, or any other Salts have at any time been put into the Cheltenham Water which has been sent down for boiling, or introduced in any way into Mr. Thompson's Manufactory.

G. WILLIAMS.

Sworn at Cheltenham, this 19th day of June, 1820.

JAS. CLUTTERBUCK,

TO THE PUBLIC.

DOCTOR NEALE having published an Address to the Public, wherein he states, that "the moment has arrived in which he feels it due to his own character to declare openly and explicitly the whole circumstances which have led to the publication of his pamphlet,"—and having thought proper most grossly to traduce me, I feel it due to my character—to my family—and to my friends—to declare, yet *more*

openly and explicitly, every thing that occurred between Doctor Neale, Captain Smyth, and myself, not only before, but since the publication of his pamphlet—and I pledge myself to the Public by the recollection of a long life of honourable reputation, for the incontrovertible truth of the following statements, which I persuade myself, will at once show to the world how far I have been the unsuspecting dupe of Captain Smyth and Doctor Neale.

In the month of March, during Capt. Smyth's memorable canvass for the situation of M. C., I had some conversation with him, in the course of which he stated, that *he could be of essential service to the Old Well, if he were made some compensation for it*; that he would go to Bath, Clifton, London, and other places, and that he would send every body to the Old Well: that *he should be satisfied with five shillings in the Pound*, upon the Subscriptions that should be received through his recommendation, but that he would leave *any further recompense* to be given him as I pleased, at the end of the year.—To this I replied, that I did not think the plan would answer, for that the expences would be greater than the benefit derived; but that, at all events, he had better stop till the election was over, and if he succeeded to the office of M. C. he would not be in need of any such remuneration. In a few days after, I went to London, where I remained for three weeks, and on the day after my return I received a message from Capt. Smyth, requesting, as he was lame, that I would call on him at his house; I accordingly called in the morning, when he stated, that "*as I had served him to the utmost of my power in his canvass, he now had an opportunity of returning the obligation, as there was a Pamphlet coming out by Dr. Neale, which spoke favourably of the Old Well, and which would be extensively circulated in London, Dublin, Edinburgh, and other places which would be very expensive; and that Dr. Neale expected for his trouble, the sum of ONE HUNDRED POUNDS: and likewise a compensation at the end of the year, for all the Patients he recommended to the Old Well.*"—This I positively affirm was the first intimation I ever had of Doctor Neale's intention.—Captain Smyth then said it was necessary that I should see Dr. Neale on the business as soon as possible; and I had better drink tea with him in the evening, when he would send for Doctor Neale to meet me there; to this I assented:—and in the evening, before Doctor Neale came, Captain

Smyth said to me, "*the work is ready for the public, and no time is now to be lost* ; Doctor Neale is poor, and wants money." I then asked what I should give, he said One hundred pounds *down* ; which I promised to give when I returned from Town, where I was going a second time. On Dr. Neale's arrival, Captain Smyth informed him that he had made the proposal to me, and that I had consented to it ; but it must be observed, that I knew nothing more of the contents of the Pamphlet than that it was favourable to the Old Well ;—nor did any conversation pass between Doctor Neale and myself as to the nature of the publication. Captain Smyth stated to Doctor Neale, in my presence, that he had agreed with me, as to the sum he was to have, and the further sum at the end of the year. Dr. Neale assented without asking any question, or in any way stating the contents of his book. We then parted ;—but Captain Smyth afterwards waited upon me, and wished to have a private conference with me, which Mrs. Matthews prevented. After my second return from London, I waited on Doctor Neale, at his house in the High-Street, and gave him the promised Sum of One Hundred Pounds, in ten notes of £10 each, of the Bank of Messrs. Turner and Co. *and stated when I gave it, that it was given solely because I had given my word to that effect, through Captain Smyth.* Doctor Neale took the money and put it under his writing-desk, and merely made some remarks on the Analyses of Doctor Fothergill and Messrs. Brande and Parke, in favour of the Old Well.—Subsequently to this payment of £100, Captain Smyth told me that Doctor Neale ought to have some further remuneration out of the profits arising from the patients coming to the Old Well through his recommendation, when I agreed that Doctor Neale should have half the receipts that exceeded the receipts of 1818.—I now declare that *I never promised in any way, even by implication, to bear Doctor Neale harmless in case of a prosecution brought against him by the other proprietors,—nor was I to be in any way responsible for the expense of the publication, nor did I ever see it before it was given to the world.* Neither did I at any time directly or indirectly assert to Doctor Neale or Captain Smyth, that the water, No. 4, of Mr. Thompson's Spa, or any of the waters of the Sherborne Spa, were factitious. It is, indeed true, that I did, *at Captain Smyth's particular solicitation,* accompany Doctor Neale to inspect my Wells and to taste the Waters ; but I most positively deny having

said any thing about using Glauber or other Salts in No. 4, of the Old Well: tho' I do admit, that I told Dr. Neale that concentrated Cheltenham Water was put into the cistern to add to the strength of the water, but never into the well. With respect to Dr. Neale asserting that I had shewn him the machinery used for No. 4, I most unequivocally declare that assertion to be false; the proof of which is, that there never was any machinery whatever in use on my premises, unless the cistern used for containing the water, in its way to the Pump-Room, may be called machinery. Captain Smyth came to me sometime previous to the publication of Doctor Neale's pamphlet, and said, "You have promised Doctor Neale half the receipts above the produce of 1818, in consequence of his exertions in favour of the Old Well, but *life is uncertain*, and Doctor Neale ought to have something secured for his services *after your death*. Have you any objection to sign an agreement to that effect during your lease?" Captain Smyth then produced papers from his pocket, and I firmly believe that one of them was an agreement to bind my successors to the conditions then proposed by him—but which I declined signing, or otherwise acceding to.—On Friday last, subsequent to the Public Meeting of the 15th inst. Captain Smyth called upon me to inform me that Doctor Neale was in danger of being arrested, and said, how was he to get bail? To which I replied, he knows that best himself.

I now fearlessly submit this statement to the Public, with a reliance upon the justice of those amongst whom I have passed so many years of my life in credit and esteem.—I now defy my calumniators to controvert one assertion contained in this defence of my character;—and I have a confident hope that when every circumstance is taken into consideration, I shall be entitled to the sympathy rather than the censure of the world.

Cheltenham, 21st June, 1820.

J. MATTHEWS.

Statement of Mrs Matthews.

MRS. MATTHEWS asserts that on the second day after Captain Smyth lost his Election as M. C. he met Mrs. Matthews in the Cambray-Street, when he requested to have a private conversation with Mrs.

M. in the course of which he stated that "in consequence of the connections he had formed during his late Canvass, and from his Irish connections, he could materially benefit the Old Well, by going to Bath, Leamington, Clifton, and London, from which places he would send Subscribers to the Old Well, and that as Captain Matthews had served him so essentially during the late Election, he would not ask Captain or Mrs. Matthews for any specific sum, but would leave it to their consideration to remunerate him at the end of the year."—To which communication Mrs. Matthews merely replied that she would mention it to Captain Matthews.—He then said that in the event of any thing happening to Captain Matthews, *it would be in his power to take the active part*, and be of service to Mrs. Matthews in the management of the Well.—Mrs. M. replied "she hoped no such event was at hand, but if it should unfortunately occur, she had a Brother to whom she could look for assistance." Captain Smyth afterwards waited on Captain Matthews and wished to have a *private conference* with him, but which Mrs. Matthews prevented, and "insisted on knowing the nature of their private Meetings, as she conceived he had introduced her husband to a man, who by writing against the Cheltenham Waters, would ultimately ruin the Town.—That to such people as Captain Smyth and Doctor Neale, who possessed no property in Cheltenham, it was matter of no moment, but that she, Mrs. Matthews, considered the consequence of such publications as Doctor Neale intended, as very serious." Capt. Smyth replied that Mrs. Matthews wished by her conduct to prevent her husband deriving that benefit from the publication which it would be productive of, to Captain Matthews, in a very great degree. Mrs. Matthews then said that she wished to derive no benefit from sources by which others would be injured; and, especially, that neither Captain Matthews nor herself wished to injure Mr. Thompson's Well.—On which Captain Smyth observed "why should you be so tenacious of injuring Mr. Thompson, when he has raised his fabric upon your husband's shoulders?" Mrs. Matthews concluded by saying, the property purchased by Mr. Thompson, had been set up to public sale—and that as the Proprietors of the Old Well had not thought it advisable to purchase it, Mr. Thompson was justified in making the most of it. He then said, that if he might not communicate with Capt. Matthews alone, and not in the presence of Mrs. M. that he must look

upon the business between Doctor Neale and Captain Matthews at an end.—To which Captain Matthews replied “certainly—but that as the £100 had been promised, it should be given:—with respect to the Pamphlet, if one Sixpence would promote or retard the Publication of Dr. Neale’s Pamphlet, he would not give it.”

Cheltenham, June 21, 1820.

TO THE PUBLIC.

After an acquaintance and friendship with Captain Matthews of some years standing, I feel it a painful duty to be forced to stand forward thus publicly to rebut his harsh charges and most *cruel* insinuations against my *Character*.

For a long time Captain Matthews had been in the habit of conversing with me confidentially, as to the affairs of his Well, and I had offered him freely any occasional ideas of my own, as to improving its success; with which intention also I had recommended such of my friends as came to Cheltenham to subscribe to Captain M.’s Well. In return, during my Canvass and ballot for the M. C. Captain M. had exerted himself very warmly in my behalf, and thus we were living in a mutual interchange of good offices.

This being premised, I shall now mention in due order what points in Captain and Mrs. Matthews’s statements are correct, and what erroneous. First then, I did offer my active co-operation and services in support of the Well, as is correctly stated by Mrs. Matthews, but not on the terms of a *poundage of Five Shillings*, as mentioned by Captain M. but that I expected to be made a partaker of the benefits arising from the Well, if I became a party concerned; but on

Mrs. Matthews declining my services, I, from that moment, relinquished *all* views of participating in the concern; however I still continued, from feelings of gratitude and friendship, very anxious to render Captain Matthews my best services. It was with this view, *solely*, I introduced him to Dr. Neale, conceiving his *pen* and professional *abilities* might, if dedicated to Captain Matthews's interest, be of essential benefit. At which introduction, a conversation respecting the Soil and Waters of Cheltenham took place, and Captain M. most distinctly stated, that only *three* species of Water existed in the soil, and that the Water No. 4, was factitious, which he explained by saying that a quantity of Salts were dissolved and added to it; and on Dr. Neale asking him in my presence if all the Waters No. 4, were prepared in the same way, he answered "certainly, it must be so, there being only three kinds of Water to be procured from the soil." As to the sum of £100, it was a voluntary offer on the part of Captain M. to Doctor N. nor did I ever state that Dr. N. was a poor man, because I knew nothing of his circumstances; and in point of fact, the question of pecuniary remuneration proceeded entirely from Captain M. and not from Doctor Neale; and on Captain M. referring to me on the subject, and offering a portion of increased profits, Doctor N. waived his acceptance, as being *much* beyond what he considered any services of his might deserve. When the Printed Address to the Public, signed by the three Proprietors appeared, Doctor N. immediately brought it to my House to know my sentiments thereon, and I then assured him that I would not believe Captain M. capable of such tergiversation, and advised the Doctor to write a note instantly to Captain M. to know whether he acknowledged the signature. Captain and Mrs. Matthews hastened immediately to my house, and, he, Captain Matthews, then

acknowledged to me that he had indeed done it, but that it was utterly impossible for him to avoid it, for had he not done so, he would have been suspected of having employed Dr. N. to write. I then told Captain M. that he ought sooner to have cut his hand off than signed any such paper. Mrs. M. then said he had been well advised in what he did; and Captain M. added that he had been urged in vain for three hours, and that when at last he added his signature, it was sorely against his own feelings: which assurance I continued to rely upon, because after the public meeting on the 15th, when I saw Captain M. on the morning following, in the High-Street, he took me into a glover's shop, called the Cheltenham House, and then put into my hands a letter written from Mr. Harris, in London, to Mr. P. Thompson, containing the result of a conference with Mr. Campbell on the subject of an intended prosecution by the three proprietors against Dr. Neale, and which he, Matthews, was then carrying to the house of his own professional advisers; and this letter he requested me to show to Dr. Neale, in order to put his mind at rest relative to legal proceedings, as he, Captain M. declared he would not join them in signing any more papers, and as the contents of this letter proved that the Lawyers in London were strongly of opinion that it would be very unwise to commence proceedings, although such an action might lie, and quoting the instance of some Porter Brewery bringing an action against a party who said they put other materials besides Malt and Hops into their beer; this letter I did in fact show to Doctor Neale, and thereafter returned it into Captain Matthews's hands, who was waiting for it in Miss Roberts's shop. The last and most material point, as affecting my character, and which I most solemnly and explicitly declare to be *altogether false*

is the insinuation of Captain M. that I carried him a paper, which he asserts he firmly believes was an agreement for him to sign to bind himself and his successors to some alledged pecuniary recompense for Dr. Neale; I *never* had such a paper in my contemplation, *far less* in my possession, nor did such an idea ever, at *any time*, enter into my *mind*;—I have thus fairly, and explicitly, and I must add with most severe and painful feelings, made my statement of facts to the Public, and as I trust exonerated myself completely from all the objectionable points that attempted to be affixed to my character by Captain and Mrs. M.—In conclusion I beg to say, that this *shall* be my *ultimate reply* to *any invidious insinuations*, and I now add, that I am most ready and willing to appear before any Committee of Gentlemen that may be appointed, to make my solemn Oath to the truths of the facts herein stated. Still I conceive that my bare assertions will not be the less credited, because I have never yet committed any one act to forfeit the respect and confidence of my friends, or the general good will of the public; and I remain in full confidence, in the purity of my actions, your obedient Servant,

J. G. SMYTH.

CHELTHENHAM, JUNE 22, 1820.

TO THE PUBLIC.

My notice of Captain Smyth's Statement of yesterday shall be short and conclusive. He has not denied the material facts alleged in my Statement of Wednesday last, but at the same time he has endeavoured to invalidate some of my assertions. Firm in the consciousness of having adhered to the

truth---and truth alone, I shall now content myself with vouching in the most positive and solemn manner, for the assertions I have already made; and submit the subject to the candid and impartial decision of the public, to whom I pledge myself, by the unsullied character I have hitherto maintained, for the veracity of all that I have advanced.

J. MATTHEWS.

23rd June, 1820.

As the name of Captain Smyth has been so unavoidably brought before the public, I beg to propose three questions, which it much concerns him to answer most explicitly :—when that is done, I shall name the authority upon which I entertain them for a moment.—I say nothing of Captain Smyth's remonstrances with me against the publication of this Pamphlet, but I beg him to consider well the answers he may deem it advisable to submit to the public.

Did Captain Smyth ever state that “ he had had repeated applications made to him to stop the publication of Dr. Neale's Pamphlet, but he should not, though he knew it would injure the town—for that they had put *him* (Captain Smyth) *out of Two Thousand a Year*, and they might take the consequence ?”

Did he ever tell a certain Proprietor of Land and Houses that his Property would be worth fifty per cent. less, in consequence of Doctor Neale's Publication; or that Mr. Thompson ought to have bought it up, if it had cost him One or Two Thousand Pounds ?

Did he ever write a letter partially to that effect ?

Will Doctor Neale please to state whether he ever said that his publication would reduce Mr. Thompson's property five-sixths ?

Let the Public observe, that THE SUM OF ONE HUNDRED POUNDS WAS PAID BY CAPT. MATTHEWS to Doctor Neale on the NINETEENTH DAY OF MAY; AND ON THE VERY NEXT DAY, the TWENTIETH, the Pamphlet was shown to Mr. P. Thompson, in a libellous state—for *what purpose* the world may decide.

I cannot take leave of this very painful subject,—because every thing that lays bare the infirmity of human nature is painful,—without expressing a confident hope, that the Remarks which I feel called upon, by an imperious sense of duty, to oppose to the malignant calumnies sent forth, may not be attributed to any other than public motives. If any of my observations have been personally severe, I can only say, that I have not sought the occasion of their being so ;—and I do above all things entreat, that no person or persons may, “ gratuitously and spontaneously apply my jocularities to themselves.”

“LET THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DOING WRONG, WEAR THE CAP, IF IT FITS THEM.”—Be it as it may, I must boldly avow, that, had the nearest and dearest friends of my heart subjected themselves to the mere suspicion of having wantonly sought the destruction of a community,

for their own sordid and selfish advancement, emolument, or profit, without being able by the most incontrovertible proofs to purge themselves of so foul a stain, I would cast them for ever from me;—I would scorn them as much as they were base;—detest them as much as they were vile;—and joining my contempt to the indignation of that injured community, I would exclaim,

“Oh, Heaven! that *such companions* thoud’st unfold,

“And place in every honest hand a whip

“To lash the Rascals naked thro’ the World!”

ERRATA.

Page 5, l. 16, for “*the Springs whereof no longer exist,*” read “*the PRISTINE springs whereof, &c.*”

Page 8, l. 16, for “*was shown,*” read “*were shown.*”

Page 15, l. 23, for “*effect a negotiation*” read “*affect a negotiation.*”

[ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]

Robinson, Printer, Cheltenham.