

**A letter from Dr. Dickson to his medical brethren, relative to the School of Physic in this kingdom / [Stephen Dickson].**

**Contributors**

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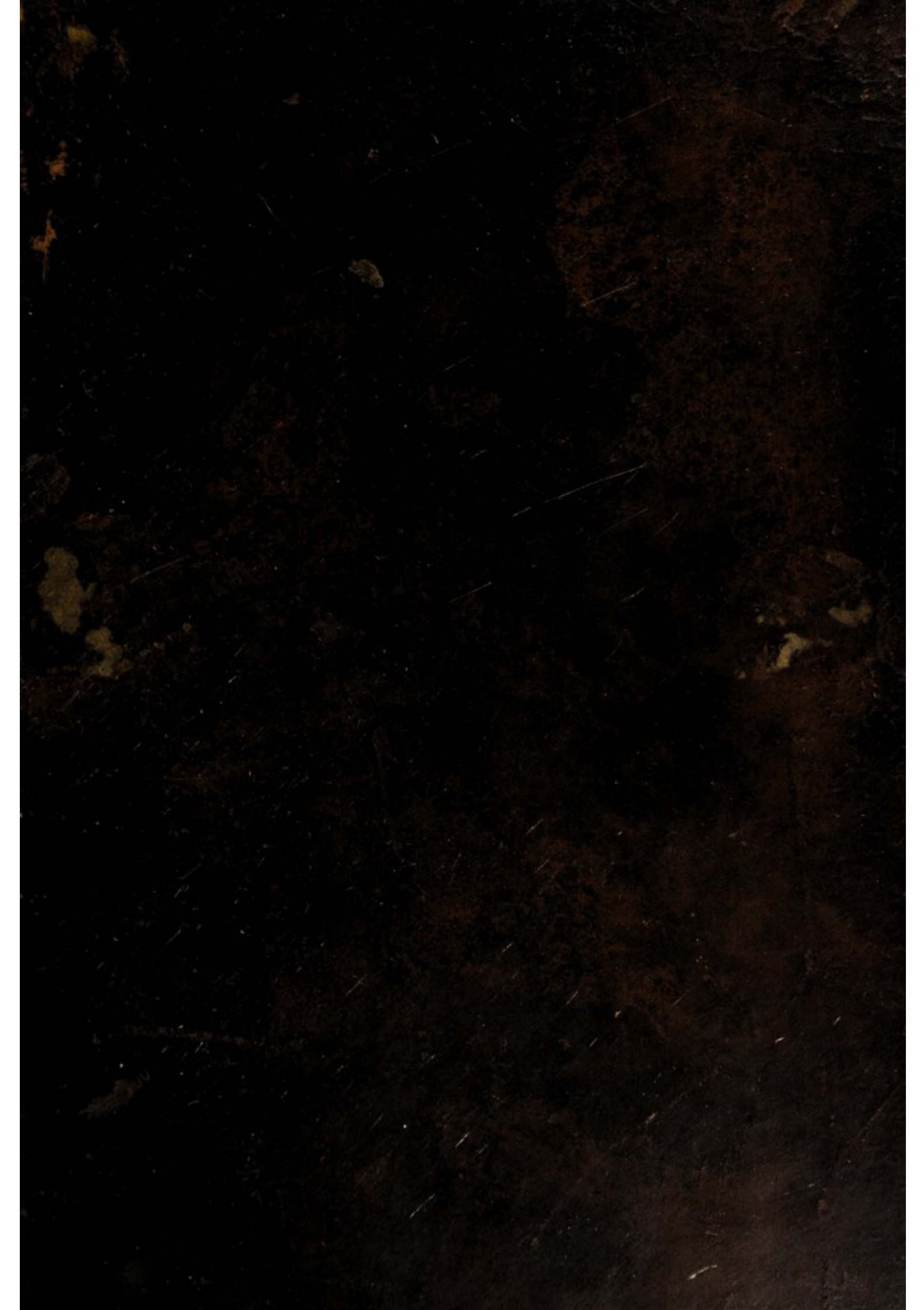
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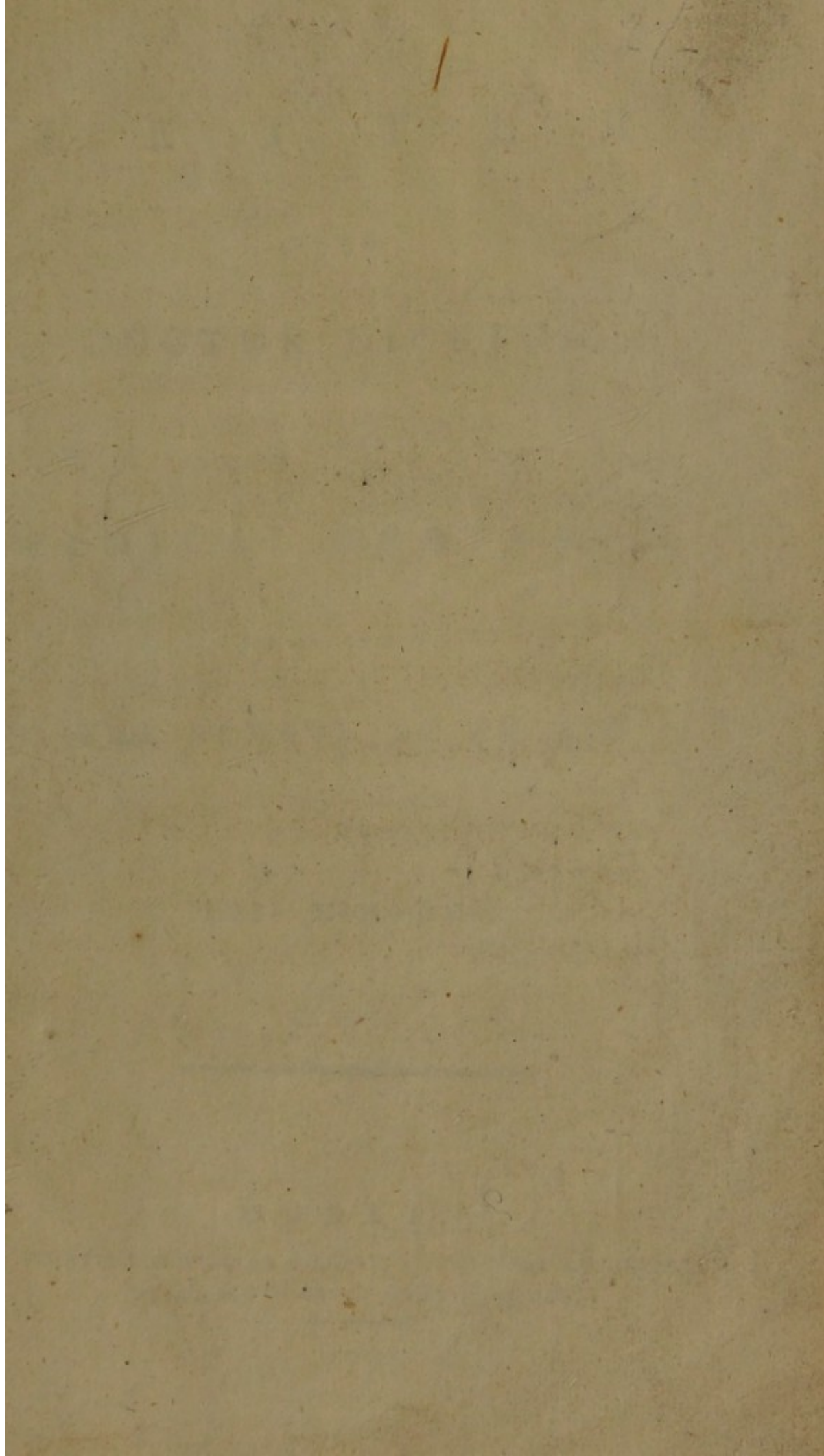
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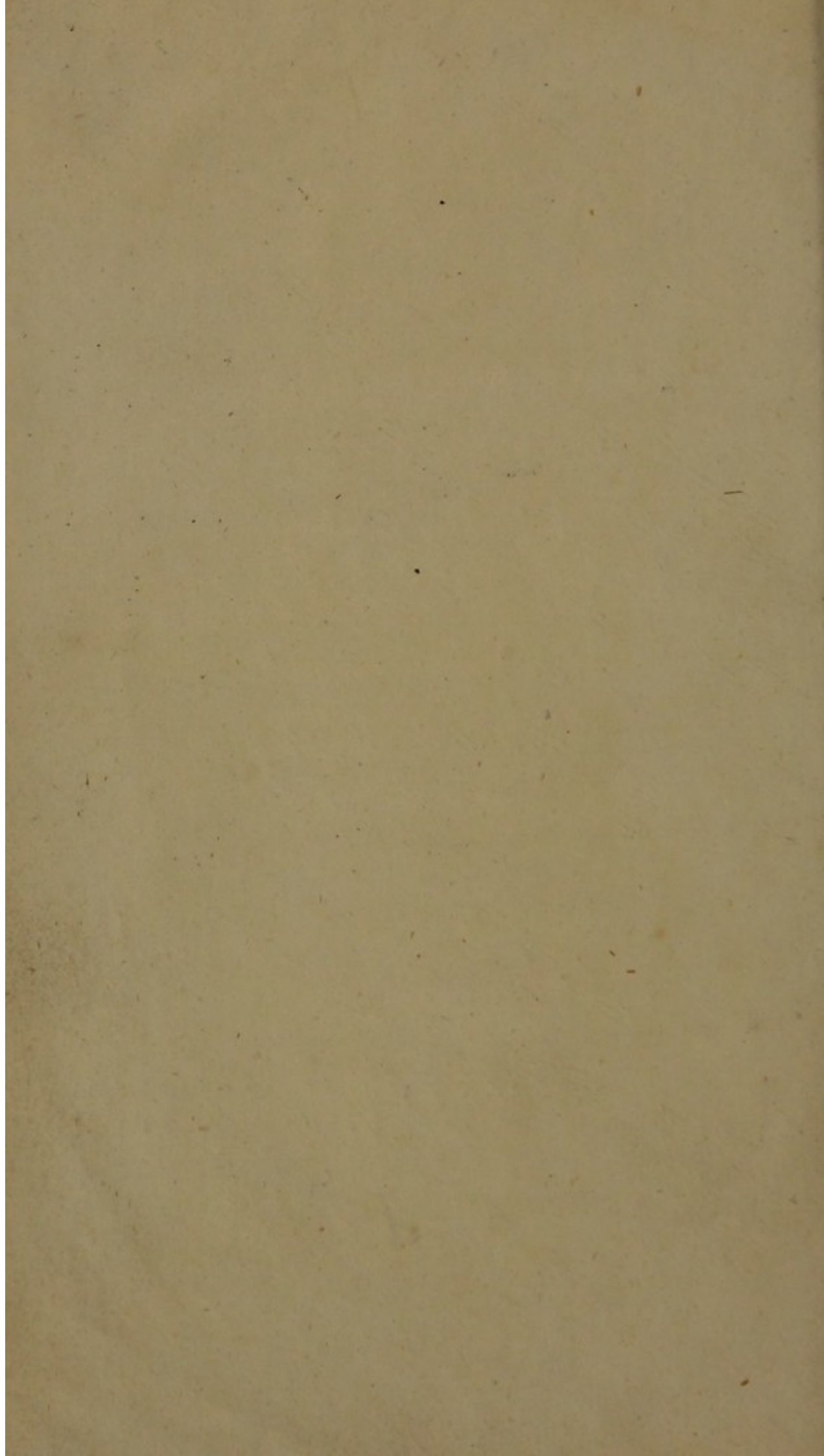


*Arthur Lord Kilwarden.*









A  
L E T T E R

FROM

DOCTOR DICKSON,

TO HIS

MEDICAL BRETHREN,

RELATIVE TO

THE SCHOOL OF PHYSIC

IN

THIS KINGDOM.

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1795.





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# CONSTITUTION

## OF THE UNITED STATES

### OF AMERICA

#### ARTICLE I

##### SECTION 1

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Representatives and Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors in that State.

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# L E T T E R, &c.

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*GENTLEMEN,*

**A**LTHOUGH the improvement of the science of medicine be a common concern of mankind, yet the polity of the medical profession more immediately interests those, whose peculiar knowledge and experience best qualify them to judge of its advantages and defects. To my medical brethren, therefore, I especially address myself while I investigate the means of promoting scientific improvement, and professional respectability.

Establishments of two kinds are eminently conducive to the accomplishment of these objects: first, those whereby adequate instruction is provided for the persons destined to fill the several departments of the medical profession; and, secondly, those whereby the admission of practitioners to these departments may be restricted, and their conduct therein regulated by wholesome rules tending to the mutual good-understanding of the several members of the profession, and to the benefit of the public.



On the former of these topics I am impelled by peculiar circumstances to address myself to you at the present juncture. My object is to render you acquainted with the nature of the provisions and plans which have been made for the establishment of a school of physic in this kingdom, and to call your attention to such circumstances of our present institution as appear to require amelioration.

In treating of this subject I labour under a peculiarly painful necessity of differing materially, and not even so much in point of opinion as in point of fact, from a few respectable gentlemen of our profession. I lament the occasion which has involved me in this necessity. My inclinations lead me to dedicate to other occupations whatever hours I can spare from the ordinary duties of my profession; and I love my associates, and mankind in general too well not to turn aside, if possible, from controversy. But I conceive myself now engaged in a professional duty. May my pen appear destitute of asperity, as my heart is of animosity! For the majority of those members, whether of the college of physicians or of the senate, whose conduct respecting the school of physic meets my decided disapprobation, I not only continue to respect for their professional talents, and their private urbanity, but am even ready to class with those of whom the Tusculan moralist observed, "*boni in errorem, sicut æs Corinthium in æruginem, & incidunt rarius, & facilius revocantur.*"



Previous to my making any observations on the present institution, I solicit your attention to a brief narrative of some transactions, the knowledge whereof I conceive indispensably necessary to enable you to form a competent judgment of the matters which I have to submit to your consideration. This narrative will comprise the history of two distinct periods ; the one from the time of Sir Patrick Dun's scheme to that of the passing of the act for the establishment of a complete school of physic in Ireland ; the other from thence to the present time.

*Narrative of the transactions which conduced to the Establishment of a complete School of Physic in this Kingdom.*

ON the 8th of June, 1704, Sir Patrick Dun, state-physician, and president of the King and Queen's college of physicians in Ireland, perfected an instrument entitled " The scheme which I  
 " intend to have observed for the establishing a  
 " professor of physic in the college of physicians,  
 " be it by act of parliament or otherwise ;"  
 wherein he declared his " desire and intention  
 " to make provision for one or two professors of  
 " physic—and that for salary they should re-  
 " ceive certain rents—then estimated at 200l. per  
 " annum, clear profit,"—at the same time en-  
 quiring " if this may be a competent main-  
 " tenance for two professors, or only for one ?"

Nov,



Nov. 16, 1711, Sir P. Dun by his last will confirmed the aforesaid instrument, and directed that his estate should be so conveyed by act of parliament or otherwise as to fulfil his intentions.

Oct. 15, 1715, a charter was granted by George the second incorporating one professor only under said will; and Dr. Griffith was elected the first professor on the foundation of Sir Patrick Dun.

In the year 1719, upon Dr. Griffith's death, Dr. Grattan was appointed to succeed him. These professors respectively enjoyed the whole income of the estate, from the time of the election of each, during the remainder of his life \*.

In the year 1743, the 15th of George the second, Dr. Grattan being still alive, and three lectureships having been already established in Trinity College in the branches of anatomy and surgery, of chymistry, and of botany, an act of parliament

\* It may not be amiss to observe that these professors did not obtain their rights without some forensic trouble. Two decrees in chancery were given in favour of Dr. Grattan; one whereby he and his successors became vested with the estate bequeathed for the maintenance of professors; and another whereby he was adjudged upwards of 1200l. arrears of his salary, which under various pretences had been withheld from him. Perhaps it was fortunate for him that the expediency of alienating the chief part of Sir Patrick Dun's funds to the erection and support of an hospital happened not to be among those pretences: At least he was fortunate in not living in these times.



parliament was passed “ for vacating the office of  
 “ king’s professor in the city of Dublin upon the  
 “ death or surrender of the present king’s pro-  
 “ fessor, and for erecting three professorships of  
 “ phyfic instead thereof,” which after reciting  
 that the estate had risen in value so as to afford a  
 competent provision for three professors, enacts  
 that there should be three professorships on the  
 foundation of Sir Patrick Dun, in the following  
 branches, viz. the theory and practice of phyfic,  
 chirurgery and midwifery, and antient and mo-  
 dern pharmacy, and the materia medica; and  
 enacts that no professor should hold two of said  
 professorships, nor a lectureship or professorship  
 in Trinity College; and enacts that the real and  
 personal estate bequeathed by Sir Patrick Dun,  
 for that purpose, should be vested in the college  
 of physicians in trust to permit said three profes-  
 sors, and their successors for their several salaries  
 to take the rents and profits thereof equally  
 among them.

To these professorships Sir Nathaniel Barry,  
 Dr. Quin, and Dr. Barber were elected.

After a period of about thirty-six years had  
 elapsed, the college of Physicians, with the con-  
 sent of these professors, (who were all then alive,)  
 conceived the design of new-modelling the pro-  
 fessorships to be established after their demise.  
 For this purpose the following measures were  
 taken, which I presume will be most unexcep-  
 tionably



tionably detailed by exact transcripts from the minutes of the college of physicians. These minutes, having been laid before parliament, have already acquired publicity.

Feb. 11, 1783. Dr. Hill being president of the college of physicians, "Doctors Saunders, " Harvey, Hopkins, Plunket, and Cullen, were " appointed a committee to consider of the new " regulation of Sir Patrick Dun's professorships."

March 3, 1783. "The committee reported, " and desired leave to sit again, which was " unanimously granted."

April 17, 1783. "The committee reported, " having made progress, and desired leave to sit " again, which was granted."

May 5, 1783. "The committee reported, and " desired leave to sit again, which was granted."

"Resolved, that the following message be sent " to the provost and senior fellows of Trinity " College.

"The college of physicians, desirous of con-  
 " certing with the members of the university a  
 " plan conducive to the advancement of science,  
 " and the mutual benefit of both bodies, have  
 " appointed their president Dr. Hill, and Dr.  
 " Hutcheson, for the purpose of conferring on  
 " that



“ that subject with such members of the board  
 “ as they shall appoint; and request that the  
 “ board may appoint such time and place for  
 “ the same conference as to them may seem ex-  
 “ pedient.”

“ June 16, 1783. “ Ordered, that the pre-  
 “ sident and Dr. Hutcheson take the earliest op-  
 “ portunity of conferring with the delegates  
 “ from the university of Dublin, and laying  
 “ before them the heads of the intended regula-  
 “ tion of Sir Patrick Dun’s professorships.

July 28, 1783. “ The report of the com-  
 “ mittee read and approved of.” \*

“ The REPORT of the Committee appointed  
 “ by the COLLEGE of PHYSICIANS to consider  
 “ a new arrangement of Sir Patrick Dun’s  
 “ Professorships.

“ The Committee having considered the  
 “ several matters referred to it by  
 “ the college, it appears,  
 “ 1st.

\* This report deserves particular attention, especially such parts of the *plan* it contains, as relate to the distribution of the subjects of medical lectures, and to the salaries proposed to be annexed to the professorships. It appears amongst the college records in a separate fasciculus drawn out by a clerk, but containing several corrections in the hand-writing of the president of the college, and is subscribed with the autography of the respective members whose names are annexed to it.



“ 1st. That the intention of Sir Patrick  
 “ Dun in the devise of his estate for the purpose  
 “ of founding a professorship of physick in Dub-  
 “ lin, was to establish a school of physick in that  
 “ city; as may be collected from the words of  
 “ the original deed, in which Sir Patrick Dun  
 “ himself proposes to establish two professorships,  
 “ if the maintainance shall be sufficient. (*Act of*  
 “ *Parliament, p. 6.*)

“ 2d. That the college of physicians in con-  
 “ junction with the then professor, seeing the  
 “ intentions of the testator in this light, and  
 “ thinking it their duty to further them, did  
 “ some time after the death of Sir Patrick Dun,  
 “ make application to parliament, setting forth,  
 “ that the good and charitable intentions of Sir  
 “ Patrick Dun, would be more effectually an-  
 “ swered, and the public good more promoted  
 “ by dividing, on the next vacancy, the profes-  
 “ sorship of physick into three professorships.”  
 (*Act. p. 20.*)

“ 3d. That accordingly in the year 1747,  
 “ an act was passed ordaining the professorship of  
 “ physick to be divided, on the next vacancy,  
 “ into three professorships, assigning at the same  
 “ time as a ground of the new regulation, ‘ that the  
 “ rents of the estate are considerably improved  
 “ and risen, and likely to rise much higher, in-  
 “ somuch that they, together with the produce  
 “ of



“ of the personal estate, will afford a competent  
 “ provision for three professors.” (*Act*, p. 20.)

“ 4th. That the rents of Sir Patrick Dun’s  
 “ estate have, since the time of the above regu-  
 “ lation, risen considerably; insomuch that the  
 “ intentions of the testator may now be fulfilled  
 “ by the establishment of a complete school of  
 “ physic.

“ 5th. That by the tenor of the above-menti-  
 “ oned act the professors are to be chosen by pub-  
 “ lic examination, a circumstance which the com-  
 “ mittee apprehends has a manifest tendency to  
 “ defeat the benevolent intentions of Sir Pa-  
 “ trick Dun; as it is now well established that  
 “ public examination is a very equivocal test  
 “ indeed of genuine merit; but in the present  
 “ instance is peculiarly improper, as it effectually  
 “ excludes men whose skill and abilities promise  
 “ them success in the practice of physic in  
 “ this city, the committee holding it to be morally  
 “ certain that such men will not subject  
 “ themselves to a public professional examination,  
 “ where inferior abilities may succeed, and the  
 “ ignorant prejudices of the audience effectually  
 “ ruin their professional character.

“ 6th. That by the same act, the lectures are to  
 “ be delivered in the Latin language; another cir-  
 “ cumstance which appears to the committee to  
 “ militate against the original plan of Sir Patrick  
 “ Dun, as it has the bad effect of charging the  
 C “ professors



“ professors with unnecessary trouble in certain  
 “ departments, the knowledge of which may be  
 “ useful to many persons who have not had a clas-  
 “ sical education.

“ 7th. That the lectures are to be delivered  
 “ three days in the week only, and that during  
 “ the college terms. This the committee highly  
 “ disapproves, being convinced that so desultory  
 “ and unconnected a method of studying medi-  
 “ cine in all or any of its branches is inadequate  
 “ to the purpose ; while at the same time it puts  
 “ students to the inconvenience and expense of  
 “ either residing the whole year in Dublin, or of  
 “ making several journies to and from said city :  
 “ add to which that, by the present arrangement  
 “ of college terms, some of the course includes  
 “ such seasons of the year as must make anato-  
 “ mical instruction highly inconvenient and dan-  
 “ gerous, and others which render the practice of  
 “ botany altogether impossible.

“ 8th. That by the above act the lectures are  
 “ to be delivered gratis. To this the committee  
 “ have only to object the universal experience of  
 “ all times and countries ; gratuitous lectures not  
 “ having heretofore been found useful in the  
 “ smallest degree.

“ From all these circumstances carefully weigh-  
 “ ed and examined, the committee is of opinion  
 “ that it will much tend to the advantage of the  
 “ nation



“ nation at large, and of this city in particular,  
 “ if an application be forthwith made to parlia-  
 “ ment by the college of physicians, jointly with  
 “ the present professors, praying such an amend-  
 “ ment of the act as may remedy these inconve-  
 “ niencies, and establish a complete school of  
 “ physic upon liberal principles.—This the com-  
 “ mittee hopes and believes may be effected by  
 “ amending the present act according to the fol-  
 “ lowing PLAN, which is submitted with much de-  
 “ ference to the consideration of the college at  
 “ large.

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P L A N.

“ 1. Six professors to be appointed in place  
 “ of three, who shall teach the following branches,  
 “ according to such distribution among the said  
 “ professors as from time to time shall seem fit to  
 “ the college; viz. anatomy, surgery, institutes,  
 “ and practice of medicine, chymistry, materia-  
 “ medica, botany, natural-history, pharmacy;  
 “ and, whenever means can be devised for the  
 “ maintenance of a sufficient number of patients,  
 “ clinical lectures to be given upon their cases.

“ The six professors to be elected immediately  
 “ on the first vacancy, the income of that va-  
 “ cancy to be equally divided among the six new  
 “ professors, and *the income of each subsequent va-*  
 “ cancy



“ *cancy to be divided equally between the aforesaid*  
 “ *six professors.\**

“ If any medical professor of the university of  
 “ Dublin shall be chosen to fill any of the pro-  
 “ fessorships to be established under this new ar-  
 “ rangement, said professor shall only receive such  
 “ a sum from Sir Patrick Dun’s estate as, toge-  
 “ ther with the stipend received from the univer-  
 “ sity, shall amount to a sum equal to that re-  
 “ ceived by any other professor under said ar-  
 “ rangement.†

“ 2.

\* It deserves here to be *particularly remarked*, that the income of Sir P. Dun’s estate was then 926l. 8s. 8d. per annum; consequently, each king’s professor under this arrangement would receive for salary one-sixth of the whole, or 154l. a year; the exact sum (*viz.* one-fourth of two-thirds of 926l. 8s. 8d. per annum) to which it was actually intended and literally expressed that each king’s professor should be entitled on his election under the act of the 25th of the king, according to the interpretation of that act for which I have uniformly contended; and which act my opponents acknowledge was framed so as to regulate the professors’ salaries agreeably to *this plan*, although they mistake the plan.

It deserves further to be remarked that the income of Sir P. Dun’s estate being now, in consequence of the rise of lands, 1262l. per annum, each *king’s* professor under this arrangement would receive for salary 210l. a year, which is nearly equal to the averaged amount of the present annual salary of each *university* professor.

† This whole paragraph (which is in the hand-writing of the president) appears to have been erased and again restored: The preceding paragraph (which is in the clerk’s hand-writing) has undergone no alteration or correction whatever.



“ 2. The power of election to be vested in the  
 “ president and fellows of the college of physicians,  
 “ the provost of Trinity College, and the  
 “ professor of medicine in said college, or the  
 “ major part of them; and in case of an equality  
 “ of voices on an election, the president of the  
 “ college of physicians, or in his absence the vice  
 “ president to have the casting voice.

“ 3. The electors, or the major part of them,  
 “ to possess the power of removing at pleasure  
 “ every professor for neglect, misconduct, or in-  
 “ sufficiency.

“ 4. No elector's suffrage to be valid in his  
 “ own favour.

“ 5. Each professorship to become ipso facto  
 “ vacant at the end of every seventh year from  
 “ the date of election; at the expiration of  
 “ which time the former professor may be re-  
 “ elected.

“ 6. The lectures of each professor, those on  
 “ botany excepted, to commence on the first  
 “ Monday in November, and continue four days  
 “ in the week at least, until the end of April.

“ 7. Lectures on botany to commence the  
 “ second Monday in May, and continue until  
 “ the end of July.

“ 8. Every



“ 8. Every person who has a medical degree,  
 “ and who has submitted to the examinations  
 “ before the college of physicians required of  
 “ every person previous to his being admitted a  
 “ licentiate in medicine, without exception of  
 “ country or religion, to be eligible to any of  
 “ the professorships.

“ 9. Every vacancy to be advertised imme-  
 “ diately in the London and Dublin gazettes,  
 “ such advertisement to be continued two  
 “ months.

“ 10. The election to be held within three  
 “ months from the vacancy, and every candidate  
 “ to give in his name to the president of the  
 “ college of physicians one month at least before  
 “ the time of election.

“ 11. None of the professors first elected to  
 “ be obliged to begin lectures within less than  
 “ twelve months from the date of their election.

“ ARTH<sup>R</sup>. SAUNDERS,  
 “ WM. HARVEY,  
 “ FRAN<sup>S</sup>. HOPKINS,  
 “ P. PLUNKET,  
 “ EDM. CULLEN.”



July 28, 1783, " Ordered, that four copies  
 " of the above report be immediately made, at  
 " the expenſe of the college; two copies for the  
 " uſe of the college, one for the archbiſhop of  
 " Dublin, and one for the provost of Trinity  
 " College.

" Ordered, that Dr. Hutcheſon and Dr. Hill  
 " wait upon his grace the archbiſhop of Dublin,  
 " to preſent him a copy of the above report.

" Ordered, that as ſoon as the approbation of  
 " the archbiſhop of Dublin, and the provost of  
 " Trinity College be obtained, the neceſſary  
 " papers be put into the hands of council, with  
 " a proper fee, for the purpoſe of drawing up a  
 " petition to be preſented to parliament.\*

Nov. 4, 1783. " A petition of the college to  
 " parliament, relative to a change in the eſtab-  
 " liſhment of Sir Patrick Dun's profeſſorſhips in  
 " the following words was ſigned, and the college  
 " ſeal thereto affixed.

#### P E T I T I O N.

\* It appears that the conſent of thoſe perſonages was ob-  
 tained; for I learn from a manuſcript, the joint compoſition  
 of Drs. Harvey and Perceval, that " the college of phyſici-  
 " ans laid their plan before his majeſty's attorney general, the  
 " preſent chief baron of the exchequer, who approved of the  
 " ſame in the ſtrongeſt terms." The petition which he  
 drew up I inſert.



## P E T I T I O N.

“ To the Right Honourable and Honourable the  
 “ Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes in Parlia-  
 “ ment aſſembled.

“ The humble petition of the preſident and  
 “ fellows of the King and Queen’s college of  
 “ phyſicians in Ireland, with the conſent and ap-  
 “ probation of Sir Nathaniel Barry, Bart. and  
 “ Henry Quin, Eſq. doctours of phyſic, the ſurviving  
 “ profeſſors under the will of Sir Patrick Dun,

“ SHEWETH,

“ That by an act made in this kingdom in  
 “ the twentieth year of his late majeſty’s reign,  
 “ intituled an act for vacating the office of king’s  
 “ profeſſor in Dublin, upon the death of the pre-  
 “ ſent king’s profeſſor, and for erecting three  
 “ profeſſorſhips of phyſic in the ſaid city inſtead  
 “ thereof; the ſaid king’s profeſſorſhip of phyſic  
 “ in the city of Dublin was divided into three  
 “ profeſſorſhips, viz. a profeſſorſhip of the theory  
 “ and practice of phyſic, a profeſſorſhip of chi-  
 “ rurgery and midwifery, and a profeſſorſhip of  
 “ antient and modern pharmacy, and the materia  
 “ medica.

“ That various difficulties have ariſen in car-  
 “ rying the ſaid act into execution, occaſioned  
 “ by the manner of framing the ſame, and that  
 “ it appears to your petitioners to be neceſ-  
 “ ſary that the ſaid act ſhould be altered and  
 “ amended.

“ That



“ That for the purpose of establishing a com-  
 “ plete school of physic in this kingdom, and to  
 “ carry more effectually into execution the be-  
 “ neficent intentions of Sir Patrick Dun, de-  
 “ ceased, the founder of said professorship, it ap-  
 “ pears to your petitioners to be necessary, that in  
 “ the place of the said three professors such pro-  
 “ fessors should be established as should teach  
 “ the following branches, according to such dis-  
 “ tribution as should be from time to time di-  
 “ rected by the president and fellows of the  
 “ King and Queen’s college, and their succes-  
 “ sors, viz. anatomy, chirurgery, institutes and  
 “ practice of medicine, with clinical lectures,  
 “ chymistry, materia medica, botany, natural  
 “ history, and pharmacy, and that the mode of  
 “ election and the times and manner of lecturing  
 “ should be changed *according to a plan* already  
 “ prepared by your petitioners.

“ That Constantine Barber, Esq. doctor of  
 “ physic, late professor of pharmacy and the ma-  
 “ teria medica under the said act, died on the  
 “ 13th day of March last, but the examiners  
 “ appointed by the said act, have not proceeded  
 “ to an election in order to give an opportunity  
 “ of laying a matter of so much importance to  
 “ the public, before this honourable house, and  
 “ that your petitioners, with the consent of  
 “ the said Sir N. Barry, professor of chirurgery  
 “ and midwifery, and Henry Quin, Esq. profes-  
 “ sor of the theory and practice of physic, under

D

“ the



“ the said act of parliament, are desirous to have  
 “ the same altered in such a manner as may  
 “ best promote the establishment of a complete  
 “ school of physic in this kingdom.

“ May it therefore please your honours to take  
 “ the premises into consideration, and do therein  
 “ what to your wisdom shall seem meet.

“ Given under the seal of the King and  
 “ Queen’s college of Physicians in Ireland, this  
 “ 4th day of November, 1783.

“ Signed “ ARTHUR SAUNDERS, Præs.  
 “ F. HUTCHESON,  
 “ E. HILL,  
 “ W<sup>m</sup>. HARVEY,  
 “ FRAN<sup>s</sup>. HOPKINS,  
 “ P. PLUNKET,  
 “ EDM<sup>d</sup>. CULLEN,  
 “ CHAR<sup>s</sup>. W<sup>m</sup>. QUIN, Reg.”

The community was deprived of the benefits of an act framed according to the above plan, by the critical promotion, at this juncture, of the eminent lawyer into whose hands it was confided to a station befitting his superior integrity and talents.

However, the late secretary of state (who in his capacity of provost had, it appears, already signified his approbation of the plan) stepped forward to introduce the measure to parliament.

After



After leave had been granted him to bring in a bill for establishing a complete school of physic in this kingdom, a committee of enquiry was appointed by the house of commons ; before which committee several eminent physicians, and some members of the university were examined touching those points whereon the house appeared to require information. From the records of parliament wherein the evidence given before this committee is perpetuated I derive my knowledge of the parliamentary movements of this period, these transactions having taken place while I was pursuing my studies abroad.

It appears that at this committee several alterations in the plan of the college of physicians were contended for, upon the principle of adding influence and authority to the university and to the provost of Trinity college in the proposed school of physic. They contended for the exclusive privilege of conferring medical honours ; the erection of their own medical lectureships into professorships co-ordinate with those of Sir P. Dun ; and the reduction of the influence of the college of physicians in the election of Sir P. Dun's professors, from the whole college being electors, to three representatives of the college only, in conjunction with the provost and professor of medicine of the university ; while the provost and senior fellows of Trinity college (as superior judges of medical merit) should still preserve the undivided



vided power of electing the university professors, in separate conclave.

The college of physicians, alarmed at these proceedings, appointed a committee on Dec. 3, 1783, consisting of Doctors Harvey, Cullen and Quin, “ to take the transactions of the committee “ of the house of commons into consideration :” On Dec. 5, received and approved of their report : on Dec. 11, nominated Doctors Hutcheson, Harvey and Plunket in addition to those already nominated for the purpose of attending the committee of the house of commons : and on March 2, 1784, “ Ordered that the following resolution be “ presented to the chairman of the committee of “ the house of commons.\*

“ The college of physicians met pursuant to  
 “ the desire of the honourable committee of the  
 “ house of commons, and are unanimously of  
 “ opinion that the right of election in chusing  
 “ Sir P. Dun’s professors should be vested in the  
 “ president and all the fellows of the college of  
 “ physicians, except such of them as are candi-  
 “ dates for the then vacant professorship or pro-  
 “ fessorships, together with the provost of Trinity  
 “ College, and the professor of physic in the same.  
 “ And

\* The minutes of this meeting bear the following signatures :—Arthur Saunders, præ. F. Hutcheson, E. Hill, William Harvey, Francis Hopkins, P. Plunket, E. Cullen, Daniel Bryan, E. Brereton, Robt. Perceval.



“ And the college is decidedly of opinion that  
 “ no other mode of election is equally advanta-  
 “ geous to the institution.

“ And that the power of removal should be  
 “ vested in the visitors of the said college of phy-  
 “ sicians.

“ Signed by order,

“ EDM<sup>d</sup>. CULLEN.”

This remonstrance (which, by the bye, was fruitless) shews how little satisfied the college of physicians were with the schemes of the provost and the university engrafted upon their plan. But the following circumstance deserves at this time *especial remark*; that none of these documents, neither the evidences in the records of parliament, nor the minutes of the college of physicians relative to these transactions, afford any indication on the part of the provost, or of any of the committee of the house of commons, of altering the plan of the college of physicians with regard to the salaries of the professors—other than that by absolutely confining the support of three of the proposed professors to the funds of the university, (in consideration of the university lecturers being constituted professors) a saving or surplus might certainly accrue out of Sir Patrick Dun's funds, by means whereof the establishment of clinical lectures could be assured.

The whole scheme, however, proved abortive for this time, by the house of lords disapproving  
 of



of the professorships on the foundation of Sir Patrick Dun being open to persons of all religious persuasions.

The following year, to wit, on the 5th of March, 1785, the provost sent the draft of a bill for establishing a complete school of physick to the college of physicians for their approbation; which, on the 10th of the same month, was directed to be signified to him.

In the 25th of his present majesty this bill passed into a law, by which the following professorships were directed to be established: on the foundation of the university, anatomy and surgery, chymistry, botany; on the foundation of Sir Patrick Dun, institutes of medicine, practice of medicine, materia medica and pharmacy, natural history, and contingently, midwifery; and provisions were made for clinical lectures.

I have now with exact diligence and scrupulous fidelity, detailed the several transactions which conduced to the present establishment of a school of physick in this kingdom. Disregarding vague rumours and hearsay evidence, I have deduced the whole of what I have advanced from documents of indisputable authenticity. In searching for these I have used no little industry, and in disclosing what I have collected from them, I can truly aver, that I have not omitted a  
single



single material or connecting fact which has fallen within my knowledge.

*Narrative of the transactions which conduced to the passing of the School of Physic Explanatory Act.*

The former period of my narrative, comprehending the steps which led to an important national establishment, is, from its general nature, sufficiently calculated to excite general interest. The details to which I now solicit your attention derive, I fear, a relative importance in my eyes beyond their intrinsic value, from their so materially concerning myself and my friends. They are, however, altogether of a public nature; and it has so happened that they embrace considerations of professional respectability, and of constitutional rights, as well as of individual character. These are important and delicate considerations, and at least adequate to awaken curiosity. I shall proceed, therefore, avoiding as much as possible involving your judgment in the subtleties of legal disquisition, or wearying your attention with the frivolities of corporation politics.

I must premise that there are two points of law whereon a decree of the court of chancery has been grounded, from which decree an appeal to the dernier resort in equity has been lately lodged, and is now pending. The first of these is, To what salary have the king's professors



on the foundation of Sir Patrick Dun been entitled by the act of the 25th of the king, since the times of their respective elections? The second point is, Have the king's professors on the foundation of Sir Patrick Dun been duly elected? Concerning these questions I deem it decorous in the present stage of the business to preserve a respectful silence; and therefore I shall carefully avoid any disquisition of them in the remainder of my letter. But topics, however closely connected with them, which do not involve any judgment of their legal merits, I conceive myself at perfect liberty to discuss.

On the construction of this act for establishing a complete school of physic several doubts arose. In particular two opposite opinions have constantly subsisted, and do still subsist, among different members of the college of physicians, relative to the salaries of the king's professors; which opinions you shall hear.

Observe that at the time of the passing of the act, the income arising from Sir Patrick Dun's real and personal estate was (as mentioned in the preamble of said act) 926l. 8s. 8d. per annum.

According to one opinion it is " enacted by  
 " the authority aforesaid that the said king's pro-  
 " fessors during the life of the said Henry Quin  
 " shall be supported by a *rateable distribution*  
 " among them of that part and proportion of the  
 " estate



“ estate of the late Sir Patrick Dun to which the  
 “ said Constantine Barbor, deceased, late pro-  
 “ fessor of pharmacy and the materia medica,  
 “ and the said Sir Nathaniel Barry, late professor  
 “ of surgery and midwifery under the said act,  
 “ were respectively during their lives entitled :” \*  
 “ And “ that on the death of the said Henry  
 “ Quin, or when by any other means the clear  
 “ rents and profits of the real and personal estate  
 “ applicable to the said professorships shall be suf-  
 “ ficient for that purpose, that then every such  
 “ professor shall receive a proportionable *encrease*  
 “ of salary, not exceeding in the whole to any  
 “ one person whether he shall hold one or more  
 “ professorship or professorships the yearly sum of  
 “ one hundred pounds.” § According to the  
 other opinion, each king’s professor during the  
 life of Doctor Quin should *not* be supported by  
 a rateable share of two-thirds of the estate, but by  
 100l. a year only; and after Dr. Quin’s death or  
 resignation should *not* receive any encrease of sa-  
 lary †.

E

When

\* Act 25 G. III. chap. 42. sec. 5.      § Do. sec. 6.

† Although my present object be simply to state these opini-  
 ons historically, without arguing upon their respective merits,  
 yet it seems necessary to illustrate one circumstance respecting  
 the opinion which I entertain, in order to its being clearly ap-  
 prehended. I have stated that by the act of the 25th of the king  
 four professorships were directed to be immediately established  
 on the foundation of Sir P. Dun. By the same act, however,  
 the college of physicians were empowered to direct, if they  
 should



When doubts have arisen touching matters of law which concerned the college of physicians, that body has always had recourse to some eminent legal council for advice; and has uniformly acted according to such advice, *with the single exception of the case now litigated*. On the 11th of June, 1787, the college ordered that a case relative to the power of the college over Sir P. Dun's

should think it expedient, that any of the different subjects of these professorships should be taught by the same professor. Now such different subjects might be taught by the same professor in either of two ways; by interweaving the different subjects into one course of lectures, or by delivering a distinct course of lectures on each subject. If the professor were to pursue the former plan, he would not undergo greater trouble than any of his colleagues, and therefore would not be entitled to a greater salary. If he should deliver two or more distinct courses of lectures, his labour would be proportionably augmented, and his remuneration should be rateably enhanced. On this account the act directed that the two-thirds of the annual income of Sir Patrick Dun's estate appointed for the original support, or primary salaries of the king's professors, should be distributed among them—not equally, but *rateably*, that is, if their labours should be unequal, proportionably to those labours in compensation for which salaries were allotted to them at all. With the same view the act further directs that upon the falling in of Doctor Quin's third every such professor should receive a *proportionable* increase of salary; leaving it to the discretion of the college of physicians to adjust the proportion according to the respective labours or merits of the different professors; at the same time, however, guarding against an overgrown salary, or monopoly of the funds concentrating in any one professor, by limiting such *increase* to the yearly sum of 100l. each, even though a professor should teach more branches than one.

*Rules for the construction of Deeds (applicable to*



Dun's funds be referred to a committee ; and in April 1788 the college instructed their law agent to put, among other queries, the following to two council of the highest eminence in character and station, viz. What salary is each of the king's professors entitled to during the life of Doctor Quin? After the death of Doctor Quin, one of the same council, and three others of the first repute were further consulted on the subject of the professors' salaries. To state, under the present circumstances, the opinions of these eminent lawyers, would, perhaps, be trespassing on forbidden ground : I shall therefore only say that they were all unequivocal, and coincident.

I pass over all preliminary account of the various proposals, arguments and negotiations of the contending parties in the college of physicians. Suffice it to say that sometimes one party appeared predominant, and sometimes the other. The last victories declared in favour of the king's professors on the 3d, and on the 21st of November, 1794. To frustrate these, however, *two steps* were projected, and successively announced by the opposite party ; first an appeal to the visitors of the college of physicians, and secondly the introduction to parliament of a declaratory or explanatory bill definitively everfive of the professors' claims. At this juncture one of the oldest members of the college, a man of singular uprightness, and who had not hitherto espoused either party, came forward to compose the differences which he apprehended



hended were proceeding to an unwarrantable length. On the 10th of January, 1795, at a meeting of the college of physicians he moved and the college unanimously Resolved “ That *no steps* be  
 “ taken in consequence of the resolutions entered into by this college on the 3d and 21st  
 “ of November last, respecting the claims of the  
 “ king’s professors on Sir Patrick Dun’s estates,  
 “ until they have been determined by a court of  
 “ equity, or by a reference, the award to be  
 “ made a rule of court.

And “ That in case no bill shall have been  
 “ filed, nor any reference entered into by the  
 “ professors for said purpose within the space of  
 “ two months from the date hereof, that said resolutions respecting said claims of the professors  
 “ on Sir Patrick Dun’s estates be rescinded, and  
 “ become null and void.” Thus was this mutual compact ratified by a solemn act of all the contending parties : and this ratification was authenticated by the signatures of all the members present.

On the 21st of January, 1795, a bill was filed in the court of chancery by the present king’s professors, and the executor of the deceased Dr. Brereton, against the college of physicians, praying “ That plaintiffs may according to their respective titles and interests from the respective periods of their elections be decreed to their respective rateable distributions among them of that  
 part



part and proportion of Sir P. Dun's estate which Dr. Barber and Sir Nathaniel Barry were during their lives entitled unto, and since the decease of Dr. Quin to such encrease of salary appointed for them as they shall appear to be entitled unto, or which plaintiffs under the circumstances of their case ought reasonably to insist upon, plaintiffs being desirous, even to their own loss, to concur in all reasonable measures for promoting the school of physic; and that plaintiffs' right under the act of parliament may be declared and established; and that the college of physicians be decreed to execute the trust in their body vested for the benefit of plaintiffs respectively, and that an account be taken of whatever may be necessary to defray the expence incurred or contracted for the support of clinical lectures for the present year, and after payment thereof that the remaining surplus be distributed amongst plaintiffs in proportion to the respective amounts of their full demands, which plaintiffs declare they are willing, upon the terms aforesaid, to accept of, in lieu and full discharge of their said demands for arrears; and also that they are willing to resign for the aforesaid purposes, in addition to the annual surplus at present accruing, such part of their future encreased salary of 100*l.* per annum as may be necessary for the support of clinical lectures conducive to the success and advancement of said school of physic."\*

After

\* This is the substance of the prayer: some technical tautologies are omitted.



After the cause was thus regularly attached in a court of equity, and not only before its determination, but before the college of physicians had time to put in their answer, *a step* was taken! *One of the steps* projected, and agreed to be suspended! By one of the members who signed the resolutions of the 10th of January!

“Prodigiosa fides, et Tuscis digna libellis!”\*

Over this part of my narrative the remembrance of former esteem struggles to draw a veil. But the effects are notorious, and justice exacts the disclosure of the cause.

A bill was drawn out, in the *hand-writing* of one of the fellows of the college of physicians, a professor too, on the foundation of the *university*; and thus indited, *without the knowledge of the college, or of the king's professors*, was introduced into the house of commons, with the title of “a bill to explain an act for establishing a complete school of physic in this kingdom,” the sole and avowed purport whereof was to declare that to be law, and to be always construed and considered as having been law, which the best lawyers in the land had declared was neither law nor equity, and which, whether it were or  
were

\* I am not studying to flatter *Doctor Perceval* by representing him as altogether an *Ergennas*.



were not, was at that moment the subject of judicial cognizance. \*

The college of physicians, even when they resisted our claims, professed to reserve the decision of the controverted question to a *judicial* trial, not to a trial of *political* interest: and they shewed their sense of this conduct, (a privity with which, even some of the bill-writer's own party disclaimed) by a *very marked* resolution.

The house of commons permitted council to plead at their bar in our behalf. But of what avail is eloquence where there are none to hear? Had our advocates the tongues of angels they could neither persuade the absent, nor teach the empty benches to retain and record their arguments.

On the succeeding day, however, the bill was opposed in committee; opposed with equal legal ability

\* " Be it enacted, &c. that the yearly salary provided for  
 " each of the king's professors by the said act of the 25th  
 " year of his present majesty, whether arising from the ratea-  
 " ble distribution in the said act mentioned, or from the said  
 " distribution and the proportionable encrease therein also  
 " mentioned, was not intended to exceed in the whole the  
 " yearly sum of 100l. and that no king's professor elected or  
 " to be elected by virtue of the said act shall be entitled, or  
 " be deemed, construed, or considered to be entitled, or to  
 " have been entitled, under or by virtue of the said act, to  
 " any greater salary or allowance than one yearly sum of  
 " 100l. any thing in the said act to the contrary notwith-  
 " standing "



ability and constitutional zeal by one of the first authorities on such subjects in the senate, who asserted that parliament could not enact it without a direct and gross violation of the principles of legislation. As the judicial power, he observed, ought never to assume the province of legislation, so neither ought the legislative to interfere in the distribution of justice.\* He held this bill to be a measure of the most dangerous and unconstitutional nature, and therefore thought it his duty as a member of that house and as a man of profession to oppose it, even without entering into the intrinsic merits of the regulations it proposed, unless a clause should be admitted saving the rights of the parties in the depending suit. Such a clause, however, the supporters of the bill pertinaciously resisted, as tending in a great measure to defeat the end for which the bill was introduced. At the conclusion of the debate it again appeared that there was not a sufficient number of members present to constitute a house!

The next day the bill underwent the form of being read a second time, without any correction, or even observation; after which this hybrid embryo,

\* This important constitutional doctrine is not only laid down by the best writers who treat of those subjects, but is constantly recognized and revered by all who have any claim to political character. In a debate in the English house of commons on the 8th of this month, Mr. Pitt emphatically declared, "that a question of property ought not to be swayed by legislative interference."



bryo, begotten between the legislative and the judicial authorities, was permitted to slumber in its native matrix until a singular interposition stimulated it into completion.

I must explain how this happened. At the hearing of the cause of the king's professors against the college of physicians, on the 11th of May, 1795, after the lord chancellor's decree had been made, I was publicly informed "that I might either have a re-hearing, or I might appeal." At the same time, however, it was recommended to the opposite party to submit to parliament "an explanatory bill to settle the business." Accordingly the hint was taken; and while the council in whose advice the king's professors confided were deliberating to which of the two modes of redress thus pointed out it was most adviseable to repair, or rather just as it had been determined to apply for a re-hearing in the court of chancery—the explanatory bill was read a third time in the house of commons, sent up to the house of lords, and received the first reading in that house immediately.

From the nature of the support which this bill received, it was vain to hope that it would be postponed, to allow an opportunity for that re-hearing, the advantage of which I had such cause to expect would have been extended to me and my coadjutors, not less than to other suitors in the court of chancery. It only remained then

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for



for the king's professors instantly to appeal to the *jurisdiction* of the lords, so as to induce a necessity in that supreme seat of justice of forbearing such an interposition of their legislative authority as would anticipate the judicial decision they were constitutionally called upon to give. The appeal was accordingly lodged; and the clause saving the rights of the professors in the depending suit, which had been so obstinately and strangely refused in the lower house, was immediately and unanimously adopted. The bill, thus altered, received the royal assent on the 5th of June, 1795.

By the precipitation of this bill through its last stages, the king's professors were excluded from the benefit of a re-hearing in the court of chancery, an exclusion which involves a *singular and serious grievance*, the exposition of which, however, at this time, I am informed would not be proper.

I have now shewn that the explanatory bill originated in bad faith, that it was introduced to parliament upon unconstitutional grounds, and that the passing of it, immediately after the decree in chancery, even with the clause saving the rights of the professors, operates as a judicial grievance. In these observations I have carefully avoided the main question, How far the principle of the bill was founded in equity? because the discussion of that point might involve the merits of  
of



of the suit now pending in the supreme court of judicature.

But before I dismiss the subject of this bill entirely, I must acquaint you how the parties who *interested themselves* in the defeat of the professors claims contrived to derive sinister advantages from the extrajudicial arts to which they resorted to accomplish their ends. They seized the occasion for infusing injurious prejudices into the minds of the public against the claims and against the conduct of the king's professors. This they effected principally by the three following contrivances :

In the first place the gentleman who moved for leave to bring in the explanatory bill, stated to the house of commons that it was true a suit was pending on this subject in the court of chancery, for a bill had been filed by the king's professors against the college of physicians; but that these professors were preparing to put in an answer to their own bill, and, unless prevented by his remedy, would swallow up the funds of a charity. In the course of a subsequent debate on this subject another member of the house of commons mentioned nearly the same thing. The latter gentleman, indeed, upon being informed of his error, had the candour to correct his former statement. But this acknowledgment was not heard by many upon whose minds the former misrepresentations had made strong impressions.

And



And here it becomes me distinctly to state the fact of this imputed fraud. After the filing of the professors' bill I publicly and repeatedly declared to the college of physicians my own determination and that of my colleagues not to interfere in the framing of the college's answer, and none of us did interfere, further than by recommending that the college should resort to the most eminent council they could engage, that two or three of the oldest members of the body should form a standing committee to instruct the agent and council, and that this committee should have free access to every document, whether in the possession of the president or treasurer, which they might think proper to consult.

The next contrivance to which recourse was had for establishing a prejudice against the king's professors was the dissemination of a printed paper entitled, "Statement of the undersigned members of the king and queen's college of physicians in Ireland relative to the application of the estates of the late Sir Patrick Dun;" and subscribed "W. Harvey, Francis Hopkins, Patrick Plunket, Robert Perceval, James Cleg-horn."

It requires some ingenuity to discover the *ostensible* principle upon which these gentlemen stepped forward on this occasion. The professors had openly remonstrated against the passing of a bill which



which tended to contravene the testator's express disposition of his estate, to overturn the order and prohibit the decrees of justice, and to deprive themselves of a possibility of vindicating their vested rights. But in this remonstrance they had not alluded in the remotest manner to any of those gentlemen, whether in their individual or their corporate capacity. As individuals those gentlemen were not called upon, not concerned. As corporators it became them to deliver their opinions in their corporation, where if true and proper they might be adopted and declared by the body, if false and improper they might be refuted, and consigned to silence before they could have perpetrated injury. It is indeed no easy matter to detect (what should be most obvious) the *ostensible* motive of this extra-corporate confederacy. Perhaps they feared that an immaculate and omnipotent parliament might impute corruption and profligacy to the college of physicians, and consign it to a fate similar to that of the cities of old in the plain of Jordan, unless five righteous men should come forth to redeem its character.

To expose all the misrepresentations of this statement would be a tiresome and disgusting task, and would lead me too far from my present purpose. A specimen or two will sufficiently evince the spirit with which it was composed, and the foundation of the prejudices it contributed to establish.



In this statement it is advanced “ That the act  
 “ of the 25th of his present majesty was grounded  
 “ on plans laid before parliament by the university  
 “ of Dublin, and by the college of physicians,  
 “ which concurred in stating that the salary of  
 “ each of the professorships then to be established  
 “ should amount to 100l. annually, and no  
 “ more.”

The preamble of this act declares upon what it was grounded, namely, the petition of the college of physicians, praying that the former act should be altered and amended “ *according to a plan* “ prepared by said petitioners.” This plan had been concerted with the members of the university, by the conference of delegates from both bodies; and, when completed, had received the approbation of the archbishop of Dublin and the provost of Trinity college, as appears from the minutes of the college of physicians of May 5, June 6, and July 28, 1783, already cited. Now see what *this plan does actually state* relative to the salary of each of the professorships then to be established. Turn to the first section of the plan, and you will see that the whole income of Sir P. Dun’s estate was to be divided equally among the six professors proposed to be established. The income was then 926l. 8s. 8d. per annum. The salary of each professor therefore (upon the demise of Doctors Barbor, Quin, and Sir Nathaniel Barry) must have been 154l. a year at the least. And the income of the estate being now



1262l. 14s. 2d. per annum, the salary of each would now have been 210l. a year, or thereabouts.

Next, the statement asserts, " That on the 23d  
" of May, 1791, a claim of a greater salary than  
" 100l. per annum was *for the first time* made by  
" some of the king's professors."

The direct contrary of this assertion appears from the minutes of the college of physicians of June 1787 and of April 1788; from the query put to two council of eminence and in station at the bar, by the college, on the latter of those dates, viz.  
" What salary is each of the king's professors en-  
" titled to during the life of Doctor Quin?" and from the following acknowledgment of the college in their answer to the professors' bill: " De-  
" fendants believe that sometime in 1788 some  
" claim to a rateable distribution of the before-  
" mentioned two-thirds of said estate was made  
" by the then professors, and that the said profes-  
" sors did insist upon a right unto same during the  
" life of said Henry Quin, instead of the annual  
" sum of 100l. only."

Further, the statement asserts, " that an act  
" was passed in the thirty-first year of his present  
" majesty *for the purpose of defeating that claim*  
" which had been for the first time made on the  
" 23d of May, 1791."

The veracity of this assertion may be sufficiently exhibited by the following fact. On the



23d of May, 1791, the act of the 31st of his present majesty alluded to *was passed and printed*. Moreover I did on that day argue in the college of physicians upon a particular clause of said act then existing, namely, that the yearly salary of 100l. therein mentioned, being stated to be a *farther* allowance, evidently presupposed an *original* allowance to the king's professors arising from the rateable distribution among them of two-thirds of the estate, and therefore referred to that *encrease* of salary not exceeding 100l. a year to which the professors had then recently become entitled by the death of Doctor Quin.

But I am not contented with an arithmetical demonstration of the studied anachronism of this assertion. I shall prove to you not only that this act of the 31st of his present majesty was not introduced or passed for the purpose of defeating our claim, but was introduced expressly for other purposes, and had no avowed reference whatever to our claim.

The college of physicians having taken a house and fitted it up as an hospital without the approbation of the late secretary of state, were informed by the register of Trinity college, " That the  
 " provost and senior fellows had been advised by  
 " the college council, that the college of physicians  
 " were not authorised by the words or meaning of  
 " the act of the 25th of the king," to act as they had done. Accordingly the lease of the house was surrendered



rendered, and the following season, viz. the winter of 1790-1, no clinical lectures were given. But the secretary of state being informed (as is stated in the preamble of the act of the 31st of the king)

“ That the said lectures are indispensably necessary to the success of a school of physic, and that difficulties have been found in providing proper accommodations, and convenient rooms in any hospital in said city for giving the said lectures,” and being also informed\* that the university professors had hitherto refused to give clinical lectures in their turn, without an additional salary, brought a bill into parliament to enable the college of physicians to take a house, and fit it up as an hospital, in like manner as they had before done without due authority, and to compel the several professors to give clinical lectures alternately without any farther allowance.

To be satisfied that *the regulation of clinical lectures* was the only object of the legislature in passing this act, turn to the journals of the house of commons, March 28th, 1791, page 1070, where you will read—“ The right hon. Mr. Secretary of State reported from the committee appointed to enquire into the execution of an act entitled, an act to establish a complete school of physic, *so far as it relates to clinical lectures*, and to consider the best mode of pro-

G

“ moting

\* By a communication from the college of physicians, in consequence of a memorial of the king's professors.



recital in the preamble of 31.5.3. of V. Surplus funds being £8000  
from whence it has been inferred that the Prop. Salaries  
be only £100 per an. — The Adj. of the amt. of the Prop. Salaries  
out of the purview of the Act.

“moting the execution of said act, so far as  
“same relates to the said lectures, the resolutions  
“which the committee had directed him to re-  
“port to the house, which he read in his place  
“and afterwards delivered in at the table where  
“the same were read.”——“Ordered, that  
“leave be given to bring in a bill pursuant to  
\* “said resolutions.”

Were it my present object to refute this  
unfortunate statement, I could produce instances  
of similar misrepresentations averred or insinu-  
ated in almost every paragraph of it. But in ex-  
posing even what I have done, I feel a reluctance  
which nothing but the present necessity of speak-  
ing out could have overcome; for however strong  
the presumption may be that the composer of this  
paper swerved intentionally from the truth, I am  
entirely disposed to believe that the rest of the  
confederacy who signed it, were themselves de-  
ceived. To them therefore I only impute the  
error of advancing unqualified assertions to the  
prejudice of others, without having duly examin-  
ed the foundation whereon they rested.

Unwilling as I am to dwell on topics of this  
nature, I must yet acquaint you with the third  
scheme, which was devised and executed for en-  
gaging the public as parties against the king's  
professors. The gentlemen who *interested them-*  
*selves* in the defeat of the professors' claims, pro-  
cured evidence to be given at the bar of the  
house



house of commons by *three of themselves*. A distinguished law officer publicly reprobated this partial evidence of *interested parties* : and with justice. Men are examined—not upon oath—touching matters whereon they had already committed themselves as partizans—by others of their party with whom they had previously communed—not liable to be cross-examined by their opponents—nor to be confronted with such evidence as they might be able to adduce ! Who could expect that the truth and the whole truth could ever be extracted by such a process ?

To enter into minute comments on oral evidence might favour of captious animadversion, or vexatious controversy. I shall therefore confine myself to two examples in illustration of different parts of the position I have laid down.

One of the confederates deposed, “ that the minutes of the college of physicians of May 23, 1791, had been torn out of the minute-book ; that one of the present king’s professors had at that time opposed the claims of the then king’s professors ; that he was register, and had occasionally the custody of the book during that year.” —The truth is, that no leaf ever was torn out of the college minute-book ; that, in consequence of some omission of the register for the time being, the minutes of that day were not entered ; and that the present professor alluded to was not register during that year. The circumstances of this



this transaction were fully unfolded at a meeting of the college of physicians; and at a subsequent meeting of that body, the gentleman who had given testimony in the house of commons, lamented, with becoming candour, that he had not sooner discovered the error, into which some vague rumour concerning this affair had misled him. Observe, however, that the character of the professor was vilified in the *senate*, and justified in a *corporation*. See how incommensurate the injury is to its redress! Certainly this publication of the fact is the least retribution to which that gentleman is entitled.

Another instance of an opposite nature, and I have done. When one of the *university* professors, (the very man who penned the explanatory bill,) was bearing such testimony as he conceived might induce the house to believe that the *king's* professors ought not to receive any greater salary than 100*l.* a year, he was interrogated, at the instance of a member who was not of his privy council, concerning the amount of the salaries of the *university* professors. To this question he replied, with characteristic astuteness, "that the university professors enjoyed no fixed salary, but " were paid by a fluctuating fund allocated for " their use." It would have ill suited his purpose to acknowledge that the average amount of those salaries was upwards of 200*l.* a year. to each, unless he had proceeded to point out, what no doubt his delicacy prompted him to avoid,



avoid, such an inferiority in the talents and labours of the king's professors beneath those of the university, as not to entitle them to half the emoluments of their colleagues.

How far the prejudices derived from these sources of misrepresentation have extended, it is neither possible for me to adduce proof, nor proper to insinuate suspicion. Certain, however, it is, that they have extended; and to such an height, that the claims of the king's professors founded on the intentions of Sir P. Dun appropriating his estate expressly to the maintenance of professors, founded on the plan devised by the college of physicians which they petitioned parliament to adopt, founded on the opinions and advice of the most eminent lawyers in the kingdom, have been petulantly represented "as a very ungracious attempt on the part of the professors, and one very ill-founded!"

These animadversions, and especially the insinuations which have been made concerning myself as the first mover in this business, demand a few explicit remarks, in which I trust I shall be indulged without the imputation of egotism.

The success of the school of physic in this kingdom has been uniformly a favourite object of my thoughts and exertions. The honourable testimonies of those exertions borne by the students who witnessed them, in their addresses to me on  
my



my promotion to the practical chair, are better documents to refer to, on this head, than the warped statements, hearsay evidence, or invidious complaints of political intriguers.

Previous to my first election in the year 1786, I read *the act* of the 25th of the king, to which *the advertisement* of the college of physicians giving notice that such election would be held, *distinctly referred*. I then construed those parts of the act which relate to the salaries of the professors as I have ever since done. I did not even rely on my own judgment, but applied for a legal opinion, which coincided with my own interpretation. But the difference between the salary which the college announced for each professor, namely 100l. a year, and that which the act appeared to give at that time, namely 154l. a year, seemed not very great; because I also apprehended, as did most of the members of the college of physicians, that although the college should allot only 100l. a year for each professorship, they were empowered, and they manifested their inclination if so empowered, to allot a like annual sum for clinical lectures; now these lectures being appointed to be given alternately by the professors, in periods comprising the half of each medical session, a king's professor giving clinical lectures under this arrangement would receive in the year a salary of 150l. The difference between the salaries thus devised by the college of physicians, and those appointed by the act was not sufficient to induce me to institute



stitute a contention which might impede the establishment of a salutary public institution. In this conduct did I appear to prefer my private interest to the success of the school of physic?

I have asserted that the college of physicians manifested their inclination to grant salaries, if empowered, for the giving of clinical lectures. I add the following circumstance in corroboration. So early as the 10th of November, 1786, I was deputed by the college of physicians “to wait on the provost to request his opinion whether the college of physicians were empowered to grant salaries to clinical lecturers; and whether, if they be, the college of Dublin university ought and would coincide with the trustees of Sir Patrick Dun’s funds by granting salaries to the university professors, when it should come to their turn to give clinical lectures?”

To this query the provost replied in the negative. But the college having afterwards entertained opinions in opposition to those of the provost on other points, consulted council of the first eminence (in April 1788) on the whole subject of the professors’ salaries. How then did the college of physicians act? They attended to the advice of council, in refraining from granting additional salaries for clinical lectures; but they disregarded the advice of the same council, in refusing to grant the professors the whole of the salaries, for their other lectures, to which it  
then



then appeared they were legally entitled. What was the conduct of the king's professors? They not only continued to make every exertion in the departments which they respectively filled as professors, but they gave clinical lectures in rotation; while the university professors, who, by the act, were under equal obligations in this respect, still refused to give such lectures without an additional salary. In this conduct did the king's professors appear to prefer their private interest to the success of the school of physic?

Next advert to the conduct of the king's professors after the decease of Doctor Quin. In the act which was passed immediately afterwards for the purpose of facilitating and ensuring the establishment of clinical lectures, a mistatement crept ~~into~~ into the preamble, respecting the amount of the annual surplus of Sir P. Dun's funds after the payment of the professors' salaries. The professors, however, postponed the vindication of their claims, and joined in consultations for the establishment of clinical lectures under any dispensation, taking care that the republic of medicine should suffer no detriment, even though they were to sacrifice much of their individual advantage upon the altar of public benefit. In this conduct did the king's professors appear to prefer their private interest to the success of the school of physic?

I trust I may say, without incurring the imputation either of vanity or arrogance, that since the commencement



commencement of the institution my *zeal* for its success has been not only eminent, but uniform. I leave to others to contrast it with the sullen torpidity, or avowed indifference which, for a series of years, marked the conduct of those gentlemen who of late have thought proper to plume themselves on their *public spirit*.

I have now some confidence that the observations which I shall submit to you on the scheme of the school of physic in this kingdom will be considered as the result of liberal conceptions, not less than of mature deliberation. Of their propriety, you, gentlemen, are the best judges; and I entertain strong expectations that, whatever your opinions may be, such improvements will be adopted in the constitution of this important national establishment as may correspond with the general sense of the members of the medical profession. I proceed, therefore, to call your attention to such circumstances of our present institution as appear to require amelioration.

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#### OF THE DEMARCATION OF PROFESSORIAL DUTIES.

SIR P. DUN in his scheme proposed that lectures should be given on anatomy and chirurgery, botany, and materia medica.

By the act of the 25th of the king, professorships are established, on the foundation of the  
H university,



university, of anatomy and chirurgery, of botany, and of chymistry ; on the foundation of Sir P. Dun, of the institutes of medicine, of the practice of medicine, of materia medica and pharmacy, of natural history, and whenever the college of physicians think fit, and the funds allow, of midwifery. Clinical lectures also are directed to be given by the several professors on both foundations alternately.

It matters not upon what foundation a professorship is established, provided it be adequately supported. Of the professors on the foundation of the university, the anatomist and the chymist possess the necessary apparatus for carrying on their lectures with effect ; but the botanist is still destitute of the means of demonstrating the structure, growth, and characters of vegetables. Yet the cultivation of this elegant and useful science is a duty incumbent on the university, and the provisions for this purpose, which they have so fine an opportunity of establishing under the auspices of the present professor, would form a lasting monument to their honour. Perhaps a few words in explanation of this subject may not be thrown away.

The science of botany comprises two objects, the physiology and the arrangements of plants. The laws by which nature governs the vegetable kingdom, it is the province of the botanical philosopher to discover from the phænomena which disclose



disclose them, and to announce by displaying those phænomena and explaining their connexion. The discriminating marks by which all the various plants that cover the earth are systematically classed, and the identity of each ascertained, it is no less necessary for him to explain and exhibit. Can this be done without a collection of vegetables properly selected and arranged for the manifestation of those phænomena and the exposition of those discriminating marks? I think a botanical garden indispensably necessary for a botanical professor. But with regard to the extent of such a garden, my views are not extravagant. The professor is not expected to make experiments in agriculture, in planting, or in horticulture: he needs no collection of exotics, no groves, no shrubberies, no lawns, no nurseries. He requires such an extent of ground only as may afford room for perspicuous divisions of the different compartments wherein his materials are to be arranged, and for a competent variety of soils and exposures to suit different vegetables of native growth. I speak not on my own judgment only, but on that of others better versed in considerations of this nature, among whom I have authority to mention the professor of botany himself, when I affirm that a well-chosen and well-arranged collection of indigenous plants sufficient for the instruction of students in the elements of botany might be comprised within the compass of three acres of ground, and supported at an expence of one hundred pounds a year. This expence the university



university is called upon to defray; and I have sanguine hopes that it will not be called upon in vain, when the circumstances which I have now stated shall be duly laid before it, and taken into consideration. I must do the university the justice to say that the impediments which have hitherto prevented the establishment of a botanic garden have not originated in any disinclination on its part to forward so desirable a measure. For in March, 1789, the board of Trinity college avowed their readiness "to appropriate an annual sum of 70l. "for the perpetual support of a botanical garden," and in December, 1792, "engaged to "allocate a fund producing from 100l. to 120l. "a year for the same purpose." But hence has arisen the regretted delay of this appropriation. The board have not been aware that the fund which they avowed their intention of devoting to a garden for their botanical professor is sufficient, without any adscitious aid, to the completion of their design. They have therefore entered into various negotiations with the college of physicians, and with the Dublin society, in expectation of receiving aid from the funds of which those bodies respectively are trustees. But various opinions and interests have rendered those negotiations fruitless: and the university to this moment suffers the imputation of neglecting one material branch of its duty, while it possesses both the means and the inclination adequately to effect it. I will suppose the money



money agreed by the university to be allocated for a scientific botanic garden, saved and accumulated since March, 1789, in like manner as the money granted by parliament for an agricultural botanic garden, was saved and accumulated for five years. Previous to December, 1792, a sum of 260l. or thereabouts, and from thence to the present time another sum of about the same amount must have accrued; so that upwards of 500l. should now be considered as being in hand. This, with 100l. or 120l. a year, is competent to the establishment and support of a scientific botanic garden upon the most eligible plan.

The next open for improvement regards the lectures on natural history. This subject is at present consolidated with materia medica and pharmacy, the professor treating of the whole in one course of lectures. But in my opinion it is of sufficient extent and importance to require being treated of in a separate course. Natural history comprehends the knowledge, and distribution of all the subjects of the animal and mineral kingdoms; not to speak of the vegetable which is exclusively appropriated to a peculiar department. But here too a subsidiary establishment is requisite. A cabinet or museum is not less necessary for a professor of natural history, than a garden for a professor of botany; and until such an aid be provided it would be vain and frivolous to alter the present disposition. When I speak of a  
cabinet



cabinet or museum, you will not imagine that I mean a collection of curious gew-gaws, wampum belts, south-sea neck laces, Indian idols, and ogham epitaphs. I mean a collection which, though it may be expensive, will require less expense than science to compose it; a collection of which the treasures consist in the spontaneous productions of nature, and the utility in the illustration of her works by their philosophical arrangement. Such a collection would be worthy a college of physicians to undertake, and would indeed reflect honour on them to establish. But should the scientific labour appear too arduous to the present fellows, they might at least manifest their scientific zeal and *public spirit*, by dedicating to a purpose so immediately subservient to science and the public good, such sums belonging to the corporation as of late have been annually lavished in supplies for the domestic conviviality of some of their *public-spirited* agitators. A subscription thus commenced, would, I am persuaded, not long remain unsupported. I am far from despairing to see philosophy hailed, and her votaries encouraged in this country; and I call upon you all, gentlemen, my brethren of every department in the medical profession, to lend your aid in promoting measures which tend at once to enlighten the public mind, and to enhance our common estimation in society.

With regard to the provision in the act allowing the college to elect a professorship of midwifery



wifery on the foundation of Sir P. Dun, I am clearly of opinion that if the college should think fit to establish such a professorship, they ought to annex it to one of the others, either to that of the institutes, or of the practice of medicine, so that a mere general sketch of the principles of midwifery might be conveyed to the students of physic, in the same manner as chirurgery is touched on by the professor of anatomy. The practice of midwifery consists essentially in manual operations, and is therefore strictly a branch of the chirurgic art. Hence midwifery is properly taught by the college of surgeons. But to fix a doctor of physic in a professorial chair *in Trinity college*, for the purpose of giving efficient instructions in the *practice of midwifery*, would be scarcely less ridiculous than to fix him for the same purpose in the centre of his majesty's fleet. Midwifery, by general custom, constitutes a distinct department of the medical profession; and certain it is that a student cannot acquire the necessary rudiments, much less an adequate dexterity in this department, unless he repair to the lying-in hospital, and employ his eyes and hands in the business of his art.

It remains for me to advert to the present scheme of giving clinical lectures, namely by the several professors of both foundations, in rotation. This plan I have no hesitation in condemning. It was founded in the ill-judged parsimony of saving the salary of one or two professors, whose  
express



express duty it should be to give clinical lectures. But it was neither sanctioned by the advice of the college of physicians, nor warranted by the example of any other medical school in any part of the world, nor has experience proved it with us advantageous, or even practicable. In fact, this plan neither has been, nor could have been implicitly followed. The age and infirmities of the most distinguished ornament of our institution did not more contribute to this physical impossibility, than *other circumstances which I forbear to mention.*

That a tax of this kind should be laid on certain of the professors is indeed unreasonable. The anatomist should not be called away from his *minute dissections*, nor the chymist from his *tedious processes*, which are *necessary preparatives* for their respective lectures. Neither can it consist with the advantage of students that they should. The practice of medicine is the consummation of our art; that to which every branch of medical study is or ought to be subservient. But is it to be supposed that of two men setting out equally qualified by talents and knowledge, he whose whole study and experience are engrossed by the practice of physic, will not become a superior clinical practitioner to him whose principal pursuits are prosecuted in the dead-room or the laboratory? I speak here in a general way, disclaiming any unpolite allusions; for certainly the present professors of those branches are as  
good



good physicians as they are, the one an anatomist, and the other a chymist. But I should pay but a poor compliment to those powers of self-improvement which they respectively manifest, if I were not to suppose that either of them would acquire still more deserved eminence as a physician, if he were to devote still more time and study to the practice of physic.

But if it be improper to exact from the professors of anatomy and chymistry attendance on an hospital, and courses of clinical lectures; how much more so must it be to require this duty from professors whose pursuits are manifestly uncombined with the practice of physic? The present professor of botany in Oxford (so justly celebrated for his labours in that science) would be deemed incompetent for such a station in *our* university. A Banks, or a Solander could not succeed to *our* chair of natural history. Vain would be the recommendation of such talents and acquirements as those of Tournefort, Ray, Derham, Celsius, Pontedra, Vaillant, Du Hamel, Hales, Kalm, Buffon, Pennant, Karsten, in candidates for professorships of botany and natural history in *our* school of physic. Why? Because the time and study necessarily preparative to the practice of physic would in such candidates have been more wisely, and I will venture to say more usefully employed; would have been dedicated solely to those pursuits whereby the philosophers whom I point out as objects of emulation acquired per-



sonal reputation, while they enriched the sciences to which their talents were devoted. Mark now the tendency of our parsimonious policy. The professor of botany or of natural history must deliver clinical lectures. To discharge this duty faithfully, he must have studied and laboured as a clinical practitioner, and must persevere in that study and labour. He cannot then afford time, supposing him to possess talents, to acquire that superior skill in his peculiar department, which is as necessary to pre-eminence as passing through the portico of virtue was, amongst the ancients, to admission into the temple of fame. Thus we either appoint a professor, the weight of whose extra-official duties prevents him from acquiring eminence in his peculiar department ; or if a man have already acquired eminence by the devotion of his whole life to a peculiar branch of science, we hold him ineligible to be a professor of that branch, because he does not vaunt himself qualified to deliver clinical lectures.

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OF THE PROVISIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF CLINICAL LECTURES.

THE committee of enquiry of the house of commons instituted in 1783 examined several eminent physicians relative to the best means of establishing clinical lectures. From the records of their evidence it appears that they were unanimous in recommending, that particular wards in  
some



some hospital already established in Dublin should be set apart during the winter half year as clinical wards. Two points were continually pressed upon the committee; the advantage of selecting from a large hospital the patients whose cases would be most instructive to students, and the facility of accomplishing this scheme at a small expense.

The late Doctor Brereton was of opinion that clinical lectures might be established with scarce any expense, by simply authorising the clinical lecturer to prescribe for a certain number of patients ordinarily maintained in some established hospital. And this opinion appears to have made a remarkably strong impression upon the mind of the late provost; for, five years afterwards, when he was dissatisfied with the conduct of the college of physicians in taking a house, fitting it up, and supporting it at a considerable expense as a clinical hospital, he examined different physicians, before the board of education appointed by the house of commons, touching the expense of giving clinical lectures, on the cases of patients in some hospital already established. In particular he put one question to me, and repeated it, with much circumspection in the choice of his expressions, of which question and my answer he caused the following minute to be made in words deliberately dictated by himself:—"Examinant being  
 " asked whether carrying on clinical lectures at  
 " an hospital appointed for that purpose only, is  
 " as economical as carrying on those lectures at  
 " any



“ any other hospital where no separate beds are  
 “ to be provided for the subjects? says, that  
 “ in the case last stated there would be no ex-  
 “ pence at all.”

The late Dr. Hutcheson and Dr. Harvey, when examined with Dr. Brereton in 1783, conceived it proper that additional wards should be fitted up in some established hospital, and separate beds provided for the subjects of clinical lectures. The expense of supporting these beds during the medical session Dr. Hutcheson calculated at 7l. or 8l. a bed. Dr. Harvey made a calculation of nearly the same amount. Fifteen pounds a year, he stated, would support a bed in a well-regulated hospital. But as clinical lectures are given during half only of the year, half only of this sum is required. The clinical wards of the great infirmary of Edinburgh contain thirty beds, but we do not require so many. Two hundred pounds a year, or 250l. at the utmost, would be amply sufficient for the establishment of clinical lectures on the most eligible plan. Such was the testimony in 1783 of Dr. Harvey, who was at that time well-acquainted with the regulation of hospitals, and uninfluenced by party views,

These calculations answer with tolerable correctness, even for the present time when the necessary articles of food and medicine are advanced in price. The whole expense of an extensive hospital of which I am a governor, during the  
 last



last year was 2776l. including not only the salaries of officers, nurses and servants, but a considerable sum expended in repairs of the building. The number of beds supported was 172. So that the whole expense was about 16l. a bed; and this for a class of patients whose diet is more full than that of other descriptions of patients in general, and whose principal drugs (mercury and bark) are amongst the most expensive articles of the materia medica. In the same hospital the outfit of 100 beds is 700l. Thus we are in perfect possession of data for calculating the amount of competent provisions for clinical lectures on the cases of patients in separate wards in some hospital already established.

It only remains to enquire, what number of beds ought such wards to contain? Of this we may form a judgment from the following considerations. It being necessary that each professor should have a distinct hour in the day allotted to his lecture, one hour only is set apart for the hospital. But of this hour ten minutes at least must be consumed by the students in going thither from the college after the expiration of the lecture occupying the preceding hour, and ten minutes more in returning to be in time for the commencement of the succeeding. There remain then but forty minutes to be divided amongst the clinical patients. Now if these patients be selected for the importance of their cases, I affirm that it is impossible for the physician wisely and conscientiously



conscientiously to perform his duty if he devote less time, upon an average, to each than *three minutes* in examining the different symptoms, dictating reports of them to be entered down by the students, forming his own judgment of the case, and prescribing the proper regimen and medicines. I am satisfied that I under-rate the portion of time to which each sick man has a moral claim upon him into whose hands his life and death are confided ; and I believe that very few persons labouring under such diseases in private would conceive it possible that justice could be done them in a visit of five times the length, even by the most celebrated and skilful physician.

But supposing this short time sufficient for the experienced practitioner, can it be expected that the tyro will be equally quick-sighted and sagacious? Can it be expected that he for whose instruction this establishment is designed, who is avowedly only learning the appearance of diseases, and whose attention at the bed-side must be partly engaged in noting down the physician's report, will really derive adequate instruction from this transient glimpse? The clinical physician should not only set an example to students of pondering upon the lives of their fellow-creatures, but should convince them that correct clinical practice consists in the careful examination of a few patients, rather than in the cursory survey of crowds. To these considerations may be added, that incidental, well-directed observations on the cases of patients,



tients, made at their bed-sides, might convey more valuable practical information than copious premeditated discussions in a lecture-room. This practice would also require some additional time.

Thus it appears that the number of patients who should be selected in an hospital and set apart in clinical wards for the instruction of students in this city ought not in general to exceed twelve. The expense of fitting up twelve additional beds in an hospital is 84l. and the expense of supporting them during the medical session about 100l. a year, being at the rate of 8l. or 9l. a bed for the half year.

Having shewn what the utmost expense of the establishment for clinical lectures ought to have been ; I must now turn your attention to what it has actually been.

Previously, however, it is right to observe that the legislature had appropriated one-third of the income of Sir P. Dun's estate from the time of the death of Doctor Barbor to that of the election of the new professors (which amounted to 326l. 12s. 6½d.) to the support of clinical lectures. It had also “ authorized the college of physicians to appoint the said clinical lectures to be “ given in such hospital or hospitals in the city of “ Dublin as shall be found most convenient for “ that



“ that purpose.”\* Taking these circumstances into consideration, I, very early after the election of the professors, proposed that the college of physicians should appoint clinical lectures to be given in Mercer’s hospital ; that to this end application should be made to the governors of that hospital, signifying to them the desire of the college to contribute towards the funds of the hospital (out of the surplus appropriated by parliament for the support of clinical lectures) a competent pecuniary consideration for the additional expense and trouble which might be occasioned in the hospital, by the clinical lecturer, for the time being, prescribing for certain number of patients in place of the ordinary physician of the house, and by the clinical pupils being admitted to attend him in his visit to such patients. It is obvious that had this scheme been carried into execution the fund for the support of Mercer’s hospital would have been increased ; the patients would have been at least as well attended ; and clinical lecturers might have been immediately established, under the most favourable circumstances, at a very trifling expense. Why then was this scheme not adopted ? Did the governors object ? On the contrary, they afterwards formally declared their readiness to admit the professors of the school of physic and their pupils into the hospital. Who then opposed their admission into “ an hospital on an extensive plan  
“ capable

\* Act 25 G. III. ch. 12. sec. 34.



“ capable of receiving patients afflicted with dis-  
 “ eases of every description, which, being made  
 “ the constant subjects of inspection and instruc-  
 “ tion conveyed in clinical lectures, would tend  
 “ more to the advancement of medical science and  
 “ the establishment of a complete school of physic  
 “ than any other institution?” I must tell you. One  
 of the *public-spirited* gentlemen who signed the  
 “ Statement,” from whence I have quoted this  
 paragraph, and who was then attending physician  
 of the intern patients of the hospital. It was the  
 blunt and peremptory declaration of this gentle-  
 man “ that the college of physicians might ap-  
 “ point clinical lectures to be given in Mercer’s  
 “ hospital if they thought proper; but that if  
 “ any clinical lecturer should come to that hospi-  
 “ tal he would take care to shut the door in his  
 “ face.” These were his words; for such an  
 impression did they make on me, that though ut-  
 tered so long since, their characters are as distinct  
 in my recollection as if the sounds were yet ting-  
 ling in my ears. I ventured to express my doubts  
 that, if the college were authorized to appoint  
 clinical lectures to be given in an hospital, any  
 person would be warranted in resisting such ap-  
 pointment and the giving of such lectures. The  
 point however was not urged, in tenderness to  
 the physician of Mercer’s hospital, who in thus op-  
 posing the means of an establishment which “ *in*  
 “ *his opinion* would tend more to the advance-  
 “ ment of medical science and the establishment  
 “ of a complete school of physic than any other  
 K “ institution,”



“ institution,” seemed like the mortified lover

“ Who beheld his vain embraces mock’d,

“ Just as he seem’d to clasp the long’d-for object ;”

his affections now manifesting as violent repulsion from this prime conductor of medical science, as they had before exhibited attraction towards it.

These anecdotes disclose the origin of those obstructions whereby the first and most excellent plans for the establishment of clinical lectures, conceived by Doctor Brereton, and adopted by the secretary of state, were smothered in their birth. It yet remains to be developed why Dr. Hutcheson’s and Dr. Harvey’s plan of supporting clinical lectures, by maintaining patients in appropriate wards in some hospital already established, was not carried into execution. The history of this transaction I shall now unfold. On the 28th of March, 1786, the college of physicians “ ordered that the professors be a committee to consider of the best means for establishing clinical lectures.” On the 8th of May following “ the professors gave in their report “ with respect to the best means of establishing clinical lectures,” when the college “ ordered that the same committee be empowered to treat with the governors of any hospital which might seem to them most convenient for the establishment of clinical wards ; provided however that before they enter into any conclusive agreement they report their proceedings to the college for their approbation.”

On



On the 4th of November, 1786, “ the committee  
 “ appointed by the college for treating with the  
 “ governors of any hospital for the establishment  
 “ of clinical lectures are empowered finally to treat  
 “ with the governors of Mercer’s hospital, provi-  
 “ ded the sum to be expended in consequence of  
 “ this resolution do not amount to more than the  
 “ sum specified in the 35th section of the act for  
 “ establishing a complete school of phyfic in this  
 “ kingdom.” Thus it appears that matters were  
 again in train for promoting the interests of the  
 school of phyfic. The governors of Mercer’s  
 hospital waved their objections against the admis-  
 sion of febrile patients into the house, and were  
 perfectly satisfied that the clinical professor of the  
 school of phyfic and his pupils should have free  
 access. What now remained to obstruct those pro-  
 visions “ which would tend more to the advance-  
 “ ment of medical science and the establishment  
 “ of a complete school of phyfic than any other  
 “ institution?” Again the *public-spirited* remon-  
 strant interposed, and again marred the success of  
 the school of phyfic. Entrenching himself in the  
 wards which from their spaciousness were best  
 suited to febrile patients, and venturing to consi-  
 der them as private property, he refused to con-  
 cede them, even for half the year, to promote the  
 advancement of the school of phyfic and the public  
 good. Thus he reduced the governors to the ne-  
 cessity of allotting for clinical lectures merely “ a  
 “ cold garret not fit for the purpose.”

The



The college of physicians, thus foiled, unfortunately had recourse to a separate establishment for clinical lectures; took a house in Clarendon-street; and fitted it up as a clinical hospital, at an original expense of 241l. 17s. 9½d. In this hospital seventeen beds were maintained during six months in the year. The whole expense of this establishment, the first year, (exclusive of the outfit) was 307l. 2s. 7d½. that is eighteen pounds a bed for the half year! The second year the expense for the same number of patients was 345l. 0s. 10½d. that is twenty pounds a bed for the half year! This extravagance was too flagrant; and a committee of the college of physicians having been appointed to examine the accounts of this hospital, reported, August 14, 1790, “ That the ex-  
 “ pence for maintaining therein a certain number  
 “ of patients for a certain time considerably ex-  
 “ ceeds the expense of maintaining a like number  
 “ for the same time in other hospitals.”

A new plan was now devised, and published under the sanction of the college of physicians, by *Dr. Percival*; a plan which promised superior advantages of instruction, considerable retrenchment of expense, and especially a very great reduction of the demands on Sir P. Dun's funds. This plan was acceded to by the college of physicians in the belief of assurances repeatedly advanced with the utmost confidence, that subscriptions to a large amount could be procured for the *permanent support* of an hospital, wherein during the winter half year a certain



certain number of the patients were to be made the subjects of clinical lectures. It was therefore proposed that one thousand pounds should be raised by mortgage, or gradually saved out of the surplus of Sir Patrick Dun's funds, and applied towards the purchase of some hospital already existing, or  
 “ the erection of a building so constructed as to  
 “ make part of an hospital on a more extensive  
 “ plan for the reception of patients afflicted with  
 “ all kinds of disease which are the objects of the  
 “ physician's practice;” \* and until this could be effected, it was agreed that the college of physicians should take a house in some convenient situation, and fit it up as an hospital upon a similar plan. Next, “ It is proposed that this hospital  
 “ shall be supported partly by the rents of Sir  
 “ P. Dun's estates, and partly by public subscription. The average yearly maintenance of a  
 “ patient on an allowance the most liberal may  
 “ be estimated at 19l. It is presumed that so  
 “ much of Sir Patrick Dun's estates will be applied to the support of the hospital as will enable it to maintain a patient during a year for  
 “ every 15l. that may be subscribed annually by the  
 “ public. On this principle it is proposed that subscribers who shall contribute 15l. annually, or  
 “ 150l. as a life subscription to the support of the  
 “ hospital, shall be entitled to keep a bed constantly  
 “ occupied for the whole year; and that those  
 “ who

\* See plan prefixed to Dr. Perceval's “ lectures introductory to a course of clinical lectures.”



“ who subscribe two guineas or more annually,  
 “ or twenty guineas or more rateably as a life  
 “ subscription, shall have a right of recommend-  
 “ ing a single patient in the year for every two  
 “ guineas that they subscribe, or in proportion to  
 “ their life subscription. By this means the funds  
 “ of the hospital will always be adequate to  
 “ its support, provided that patients recom-  
 “ mended by annual subscribers remain in the  
 “ hospital no longer than seven weeks.”

Upon the credit of the representations con-  
 tained in these proposals, the late secretary of state  
 was induced to bring a bill into parliament, which  
 passed into a law, the 31st of the king, authorizing  
 the college of physicians to take the necessary  
 measures for carrying this plan into effect.

A house was accordingly taken in Lower Ex-  
 change-street, to which the remains of the peculated  
 furniture of the former hospital were removed,  
 and in which new furniture was supplied and  
 repairs executed at an additional expense of 250l.  
 16s. 11d. Thirty-one beds for patients were fitted  
 up in this hospital, the utmost expense of maintaining  
 which *during the whole year* (according to Dr. Per-  
 ceval's scheme held out to the public) was to be 589l.  
 But as it was not proposed to burden Sir Patrick  
 Dun's funds with a greater tax than 4l. for every  
 15l. subscribed by the public, it was presumed  
 that 465l. a year would be subscribed by the pub-  
 lic,



lic, and that the utmost annual demand upon Sir Patrick Dun's funds for the support of this hospital, even supposing it to contain thirty-one beds filled during the whole year, would be 124l.

To this plan I had only objected the improbability of its receiving adequate support from the public.\* Doctor Perceval however was confident of obtaining this support, and his assurances induced me to accede to an experiment of the plan. Accordingly I permitted him to mention in his publication on this subject the following note: "Such persons as are disposed to countenance the establishment proposed in this plan, by becoming subscribers thereto, are requested to intimate their intentions to Doctor Dickson, 22, Trinity college, or to Doctor Perceval, 22, Suffolk-street."§ See now what faith has been kept with the public, and with me.

### First

\* The event has shewn how well founded my objection was. From the opening of the hospital to the present time, the whole amount of the public subscriptions for the maintenance of patients has been 96l. 10s. 0½d. even with the aid of a subscription of twenty-eight guineas from the private funds of the college of physicians. I do not include the money granted out of Sir Patrick Dun's funds, nor the fees of pupils.

§ It may not perhaps be amiss to observe, that although I was made acquainted with the particulars of the plan which I have noticed here, yet I never saw this work of Doctor Perceval's until it had been printed. I was not present in the college of physicians on the 12th of October, 1790, when the report of  
the



First with the public, who were invited to subscribe to the hospital on the assurance that “ the average  
 “ yearly maintenance of a patient, on an allowance  
 “ the most liberal may be estimated at nineteen  
 “ pounds.” The current expense of the hospital for the first year commencing November 1, 1792, (exclusive of the outfit) was 609l. 17s. 7d. The number of patients maintained in it during the whole year was, on an average, twenty ; that is thirty during the winter half year, and ten during the summer half year.† Thus it appears that the average yearly maintenance of a patient in this hospital, for the first year, was actually above thirty pounds! The current expense of the hospital for the second year was 722l. os. 4d. The number of patients maintained in it during the whole year was, on an average, sixteen ; that is twenty-two during the winter half year, and ten during the summer half

the committee was given in, and if I had seen, before their being given into the college, or before their publication, several expressions contained in that report, I should have objected to them ; for example, the following indelicate and groundless insinuation :—“ Baths for the use of the sick ;  
 “ with other provisions for cleanliness, ventilation, and preservation from contagion which do not exist in any hospital  
 “ now established in Dublin where clinical lectures could with  
 “ any degree of convenience be given !”

† See minutes of the board of governors of Sir P. Dun’s hospital, 3d May, 1793.—Of these minutes I incidentally observe, that the calculations they contain appear to me, in general, very fallacious. The errors, however, lean all to one side ; it may therefore be relied on that this average of the number of patients is not under-rated.



half year. Thus it appears that the average yearly maintenance of a patient in this hospital, for the second year, was actually forty-five pounds!

Now see what faith has been kept with me, as a coadjutor in the scheme, as a trustee of Sir P. Dun's funds, and as a professor zealous for the interests of the school of physic, not less than for my own. By the plan to which I acceded not more than four pounds a bed was required out of Sir P. Dun's funds, in aid of public subscriptions, to support a patient in it constantly, during a year. Those funds therefore should have been taxed the first year only 80*l.* and the second year only 64*l.* and clinical lectures should have been given upon the cases of a certain number of the patients during the winter sessions. The charge actually made upon Sir P. Dun's funds for the support of clinical lectures in this hospital the first year, commencing November 1, 1792, was as follows:

Current expenses of the winter			
half year	—	—	436 1 6½
Expense of such winter patients			
as continued in the hospital during			
the summer months		50 0 0	
Expense of officers, servants and			
nurses during the summer		48 17 11	
		<hr/>	
Total	£.	534 19 5½	
		<hr/>	
L			Thus



Thus thirty patients were made the subjects of clinical lectures the first year in this hospital at the expense of 17l. 10s. a bed for the half year!

The charge actually made upon Sir P. Dun's funds for the support of clinical lectures in this hospital the second year, commencing November 1, 1793, was as follows :

Current expenses of the winter			
half year — —	470	3	1
Additional balance since charged	20	10	3
Expense of such winter patients			
as continued in the hospital			
during the summer months	24	9	11
Expense of officers, servants and			
nurses during the summer	58	4	8½
	<hr/>		
Total £.	573	7	11½
	<hr/>		

Thus twenty-two patients were maintained as subjects of clinical lectures the second year in this hospital, at the expense of more than 26l. a bed for the half year!

Does it seem possible that any aggravation of these abuses can remain to be told? yet the fact is, that although these twenty-two patients were thus sumptuously (as one would imagine\*) entertained by

\* Some of them were really so. For example, Dr. Cleghorn treated one female to upwards of six dozen of Port wine in the course of his quarter's attendance.



by Sir Patrick Dun's funds professedly for the support of clinical lectures, *no clinical lectures were given!* It seems that Doctor Cleghorn was to have commenced the course; but at the usual time, only one pupil, he alleges, applied to him for clinical lectures, in addition to one who actually attended the hospital. These applications, however, the professor thought proper, of his own authority, without consulting the college, or even his colleague in office, to reject; and clinical lectures were not given, during that winter, though Sir P. Dun's funds were taxed 573*l.* for their support!

The last charge actually made upon Sir Patrick Dun's funds for the support of clinical lectures in this hospital, the third year commencing November 1, 1794, is as follows:

Current expenses of the winter

half year	—	—	34 <sup>1</sup>	19	3
Taxes, not included, about			15	0	0
Expense of winter patients continued in the hospital during the summer, and of a supernumerary nurse, about		—	7	0	0
Expense of officers, servants and nurses during the summer			48	17	11

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Total £. 412 17 2

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The



The average number of patients who were made the subjects of clinical lectures during last winter was only fourteen; these therefore were maintained at the expense of more than twenty-nine pounds a bed for the half year !

It is not to be objected to these calculations that extern patients have been prescribed for, during part of the time, and the expense of their drugs not separately considered. In the hospital to which I have already alluded, a considerable number of externs receive medicines ; yet the whole expense of the hospital, including the drugs dispensed to externs, as well as the salaries and maintenance of officers, nurses and servants, and the repairs of the building, does not exceed the rate of sixteen pounds a year for each bed in the hospital. During the last winter medicines were not dispensed to externs at Sir P. Dun's hospital, yet each patient in the house cost Sir P. Dun's funds upwards of three and a half times the sum for which a patient has been maintained during the same time in a well-regulated hospital, where medicines have been afforded to externs.

Extravagant and perverted as this dispenditure of the funds bequeathed " for the maintenance of professors" has been, abuses yet more gross in pursuance of the same plan were meditated. Although the act of the 31st of the king expressly limited to *one thousand pounds* the whole of what should be applied out of Sir P. Dun's funds " in  
" or



“ or towards the purchase of an hospital,” or,  
 “ towards erecting an hospital in some convenient  
 “ place in the city of Dublin for the purpose of  
 “ giving clinical lectures therein, and for pro-  
 “ viding a piece of ground for erecting the said  
 “ hospital upon,” it was nevertheless projected  
 that a lot of ground should be taken at the reere of  
 Townsend-street, 200 feet in front, at the annual  
 rent of one pound sterling a foot, to be paid out  
 of Sir P. Dun’s funds, for the purpose of erect-  
 ing thereon an hospital.\* Thus in the first place  
 it was projected to expend *two thousand pounds*  
 (two hundred pounds a year at twenty years pur-  
 chase) in providing ground alone, although the act  
 allows only one thousand pounds for that purpose  
 and for contributing to the erection of an hospi-  
 tal : And in the next place it was projected to fix  
 the site of this hospital (avowedly intended to be  
 a receptacle for persons ill of contagious dis-  
 eases) in the most unfit spot for such a structure  
 in the whole city ; a place where marsh and ani-  
 mal miasmata of every species of malignity must  
 be concentrated, by a swamp on one side, the re-  
 liques of every tide on the other, the offals of an  
 adjoining market, the effluvia of three hundred pati-  
 ents in an opposite infirmary, and the filth and con-  
 tamination of numberless inhabitants of the most  
 licentious habits in surrounding close and dirty  
 lanes,

\* Proceedings of a committee entered in Sir Patrick Dun’s  
 hospital minute-book, June 11, and Oct. 8, 1794.



lanes, where, as Doctor Perceval himself has testified,\* “ an infectious fever, perpetuated by un-  
 “ wholesome regimen and want of cleanliness,  
 “ prevails continually, so that he has known six-  
 “ teen persons in the space of a few months in-  
 “ fected with this disease in one house, on La-  
 “ zor’s-hill,” the widest street in that district. I  
 aver that an hospital for the reception of persons  
 ill of contagious diseases established in such a  
 place would be a nursery of pestilence, a nui-  
 sance of such magnitude as to threaten this city  
 with the direst of misfortunes. §

But enough of the detail of these executed and  
 projected schemes of which the folly is even their  
 least reprehensible characteristic. I should be  
 sorry, indeed, to consider them as part of a sys-  
 tem of jealous *individual policy*, that aimed at strip-  
 ping professional rivals of part of their means of  
 competition, and converting the produce into ex-  
 pedients for establishing private patronage, and  
 vaunting public spirit. †

But

\* Lecture, p. 11.

§ A phlegmatic physician, with an eye to business in Tri-  
 nity college, might amuse himself by calculating the probable  
 effects of a brisk North-east wind blowing over such a mass of  
 infection, and sweeping through the adjacent courts filled with  
 a thousand youths, the flower of the nation; at the same  
 time deducing consolation for the general calamity from the  
 old adage, “ ’tis an ill wind that blows nobody good.”

† It was evidently *pure public spirit* unconnected with any  
*private* concern, which induced the framer of those highly  
 wrought-up



But there is one point of view in which I must consider, and reprehend them; I mean as they belong to the unwise and illiberal *corporation policy* of drawing lines of circumvallation around the medical department, for the purpose of cutting off all communication upon the footing of reciprocity with the surgical department; and in pursuance of that spirit secluding physicians from the knowledge of surgery, and depriving surgeons, as much as possible, of the opportunity of being witnesses to the practice of physic. An hospital is projected to be established, not upon the plan of that celebrated one of Edinburgh, which receives indiscriminately patients who are objects of medical and of surgical treatment; but exclusively “for the reception of patients afflicted with all kinds of disease which are the objects of the physician’s practice.” In my opinion the professions of physic and surgery may be considered  
as

wrought-up plans by which Sir P. Dun’s hospital has been regulated, (how consistently with individual and corporate obligation, let the reader judge,) *privately* to solicit, *with his own hand* to endite, and *personally* to become accountable for the fees of a *private act* of parliament, purporting to be *explanatory of the public act* of the 25th of the king for establishing a complete school of physic in this kingdom. Attempts indeed have been already made in the college of physicians, to exonerate this *public-spirited* gentleman from the weight of those fees which amount to 141l. 10s. 3d.; but in vain. The sense of the college has uniformly opposed in all its stages *this step*, conditioned against on the 10th of January last, and reprobated on the 16th of February, almost as soon as perpetrated. If no  
appeal  
261.



as distinct parts indeed of one great medical system, which however mutually inosculate in various ramifications of practice, and are vivified by one vital stream of knowledge that must circulate alike through all their branches. This comprehensive knowledge is not only necessary in those mixed or complicated cases where the combined aid of the physician and surgeon are required, (as in hydropic swellings, constitutional ulcers, acute diseases terminating by critical abscess, or aggravated by supervening mortification;) it is often more important where the physician or surgeon is called on separately to act. From the physician's ignorance, or want of consideration of the diseases which are the objects of the surgeon's practice, the most fatal, and sometimes too the most disgraceful consequences have ensued. Strangulated hernia has been mistaken for colic, psoas abscess for rheumatism, necrosis of the tibia for confirmed lues, and lues itself in various forms for different disorders curable without the aid of ~~surgery~~ <sup>mercury</sup>. On the other hand a knowledge of the practice of physic is no less necessary for the accomplished surgeon. I omit to mention those slighter medical complaints which the domestic surgeon is constantly called upon to treat in private families. Look to our fleets and armies, which are committed almost exclusively to the care of surgeons, and see how much greater occasion there is for their medical, than for their chirurgical skill in the management of those important trusts. Permit me to mention a  
fact



fact or two, in order to put this matter in a stronger light.—In the years 1740 and 1741 Admiral Vernon's squadron in the West Indies contained 15,000 seamen and marines:\* of this number 11,000 were sent to the hospital, beside the number which died on board their own ships, and two hospital ships. §—In November, 1779, when our grand channel fleet arrived at Portsmouth, a tenth part of all the men were sent to the hospital. †—In June 1780 at St. Lucia there died from 50 to 55 men, every week, in an army of not quite 2000 men. ‡ During three years and three months from the beginning of 1780, in the fleets and hospitals with which Dr. Blane was connected under Lord Rodney there died 4348 men; viz. of wounds 500, killed in battle 648, of disease 3200. ||—Who that considers these circumstances can fail to be struck with the intimacy of the connexion which must subsist between the professions of physic and surgery, and with the propriety of combining as closely as possible the different establishments provided for the instruction of students in the principal objects of each?

I shall close the discussion of this subject by hinting at an object which I consider as of very great importance, and which I have reason to

M

think,

\* Campbell's Lives of the Admirals.

§ Hume on the Yellow Fever.

† Lind's Relation to Blanc.

‡ Blane on the Diseases of Seamen.

|| Ditto.



think, (from my knowledge of the particular opinions of some gentlemen, and of the general liberality of others,) might without much difficulty be attained. I mean the approbation of the governors and present professional attendants of Mercer's hospital to its being rendered the great theatre of instruction in the practice of physic and surgery in this city. If the schools of physic and of surgery were made in some measure to coalesce by medical and surgical clinical lectures being given in the same hospital, under the direction of the respective colleges whose province it may be to superintend them, I am persuaded that the sphere of benevolence of the hospital would be enlarged, the reputation of the schools of physic and surgery enhanced, and the public good materially promoted.

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OF THE SALARIES OF PROFESSORS ON THE  
FOUNDATION OF SIR PATRICK DUN.

A wealthy man suffering the tortures of the gout, and pining in the gloom of blindness, felt his sympathy for the gouty and the blind so strongly aroused, that he bequeathed almost the whole of a considerable fortune to be expended in providing a comfortable retreat for a certain number of this description of his fellow-creatures. It was not that he expected by this establishment to deduct two from the catalogue of disorders which afflict the human race. He felt and provided



provided for *men* of whose misfortunes his own taught him adequately to contemplate the measure. The bequest was singular; but the testator was not mad; nor has the law invalidated his will; nor parliament presumed to infringe upon his intentions, or to alter in the slightest degree his disposition of his estate.

A sympathy for persons of whom we have no knowledge, persons not even yet in existence, but whom fancy portrays in our own situation, encountering the same troubles ourselves have done, is no uncommon feeling in the human breast. I must turn your attention to another remarkable illustration of this sentiment.

Above a century ago a Scotch physician, of the name of Patrick Dun, came over to this country in quest of that competence which his own denied him. He was an upright and a learned man, and by patient perseverance and superior skill at length acquired considerable eminence and wealth. He received the honour (as it was then held) of knighthood, was appointed state physician, and was the first president of our college of physicians. In the evening of a well-spent life he turned his thoughts to the pecuniary embarrassments which had entangled the outset of his career, and had well nigh frustrated the laudable hopes he afterwards so ~~successfully~~ realized. His imagination represented to him a physician, such as he had been, formed by nature and by study to deserve well



well of mankind, and he resolved to be the patron of such a man, even when he should be incapable of receiving the acknowledgments of his gratitude. Accordingly he bequeathed a real estate of rising value, together with his house and library, “to make provisions for one or two  
 “professors of physic, who should read public  
 “lectures” on different branches of medicine: thus benevolently combining provisions for the extension of medical science and the promotion of public good, with those by which he purposed liberally to assist aspiring merit. Not unmindful of the ties of consanguinity, he directed that any persons lineally descended from certain of his relatives should, if qualified, have a preference in the participation of his bounty. And anxious lest this bounty should be inefficacious by being inconsiderable, he suggested to the guardians of his will his doubts if this rising estate, then estimated at 200*l.* per annum clear profit,—“if this  
 “may be a competent maintenance for two professors, or only for one?” The bequest was singular, but the testator was not mad; nor has the law invalidated, but, on the contrary, confirmed his will.

If we could suppose those transactions to have taken place in a country governed by a parliament of Huns or Vandals, we might conjecture that the ordinary reverence paid to the testaments of persons of sound mind and memory might be insufficient to protect a fund destined for the support



support of literary *men* from alienation, and even legal plunder. But in Ireland, governed by a parliament of virtuous and enlightened legislators, at the close of the eighteenth century, it seems *strange* that physicians elected by competent judges on their oath, as the best qualified candidates, to professorships on the foundation of Sir Patrick Dun, should not only be denied a partition of the annual income of his whole estate, but even of two-thirds, which they claim as the relique of legislative interference; nay should be limited by an act of parliament passed in the 35th year of his present most gracious majesty to a thirteenth part each of that annual income which Sir Patrick Dun bequeathed to one or two professors; should be limited to 100l. a year at the end of that century at the beginning of which the testator doubted whether less than 200l. a year ought to be considered as a competent maintenance for a professor on his foundation! This I say seems *strange*! But I beg pardon: I acknowledge that I am no politician. I am a plain man, accustomed to look for right and equity in law and in politics, as I look for fidelity in public trust, and honour in private conduct.

I am inclined to think it may admit of proof that the provision of “a competent maintenance” for Sir Patrick Dun’s professors would be not merely just, but expedient. The establishment of a school of physic in this kingdom is allowed to be a measure of public utility. The public  
then



then is interested in procuring learned and experienced men to fill the several professorial chairs. Of such men, however, the service cannot be expected unless it be compensated. The liberal professions should be liberally supported ; because the labour expended on each particular exertion of professional skill may be considered as being composed of the labours of preceding years expended in acquiring qualifications for that exertion. It is on this account that the heads of the legal and clerical professions have been always so abundantly rewarded. In like manner a physician prescribing for his patient, and still more a professor teaching others to prescribe, ought to receive a very different compensation for his service from that by which you purchase the labour of a coal-heaver. Mark now the actual difference. This illiterate, inartificial labourer earns in London ten shillings a day : And half that sum (which makes about 100*l.* a year) is allotted as a recompense for the skill and labour of a professor of physic in Dublin. How then ! Is the philosopher less respected in Ireland, than the heaver of coals in England ? Or does it form a part of Irish policy to permit the lamp of science, while it diffuses illumination through the kingdom, to be itself exhausted ?

But I have heard it urged by political arguers, (men who estimate genius and learning, as they do their estates, by the issues and profits they may be tortured to produce,) I have heard it urged, I  
say,



say, that the professorships in Edinburgh, where a school of physic has been successfully established, are not endowed by greater salaries than those fixed on for ours; and that we can only expect to rival that celebrated seminary by regulating the practice in ours with reference to theirs.\* These men talk of a school of physic as of a great factory for the making of doctors, and estimate the value of such an institution by the quantity of the raw material it contains, and the amount of the exportable commodity annually wrought up in it. They calculate the encrease of national wealth which would accrue from money expended here by foreign students of physic; and, attributing the success of medical education in Edinburgh to the smallness of her professors' salaries, they expect that Dublin may be brought to rival her in fame by imitating her in parsimony.

Without entering into any controversy concerning the comparative value of the trade, and of the philosophy of medicine, I could tell these œconomist politicians the real cause of the celebrity of Edinburgh, and disclose a secret by which Dublin might be put in competition with that city in medical repute.

Edinburgh

\* "Fixed on with reference to the practice in the university of Edinburgh, where a school of physic had been successfully established." (*Statement of the undersigned, &c.*) Quære, the comparative value of 100l. in Edinburgh in 1740, and in Dublin in 1795?



Edinburgh owes her celebrity to the unremitting exertions of her learned and wealthy professors, the rewards of whose professorial labours enable them to devote the chief part of their time and thoughts to their professorial duties ; and to the valuable aids of instruction which they possess in philosophical apparatus, cabinets of anatomy, and natural history, a botanical garden, a medical library, and an infirmary which contains all the indigent objects of medical and chirurgical practice in the city.

Now hear the secret whereby Dublin may be made to vie with Edinburgh as a school of physic. In the first place enable all the Dublin professors to dedicate the chief part of their time and thoughts to their professorial duties by competently rewarding their professorial exertions. The quantity of labour of a lecturer in one country who addresses five hundred pupils, and that of a similar one in another country who addresses only five, may be precisely the same. Now if every pupil of each pay a certain fee or honorary toward the remuneration of his lecturer, it must be obvious that while the industry of the former requires no further encouragement, that of the latter stands in need of additional support to enable him to cope with his well-paid rival. The former may be considered in the light of an established trader who finds a ready market at his door to the full extent of his commodity ; the latter as an ill-situated competitor whose goods, though of equal purity,



purity, lie upon hands for want of purchasers. This competitor, it is evident, must either break, or give up his trade, unless the public assist him by an adequate bounty.

I shall mention a case directly in point, to illustrate the necessity of endowing a professorship liberally in order to establish a rival school of physic. Towards the decline of life of Dr. Grattan, who was then sole professor on the foundation of Sir P. Dun, and enjoyed the whole income of his estate, three foreigners determined to come over to Ireland, on the event of the expected vacancy, for the purpose of submitting themselves to a public examination as candidates for this professorship. These were no common adventurers. *Van Swieten*, *Albinus*, and *Haller* : men of whom any one would in all probability have established here, as he did elsewhere, a seminary of renown, and anticipated by half a century the illumination of our philosophical horizon. The wisdom of parliament, however, interposed, divided the professorship and its salary into three parts, and thus frittered away the temptation which would otherwise have fixed one of the most illustrious ornaments of medical science in our country. What was the consequence? Vienna possessed *Van Swieten* ; Leyden, *Albinus* ; Göttingen, *Haller* ; and Dublin—three professors who were certainly very able men, but who were utterly devoid of zeal for the support of a school of physic, and who were at first necessitated to

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seek



seek competence, and afterwards habituated to acquire wealth, in the ordinary toils of professional occupation.

I proceed to disclose the other expedient for enabling Dublin to contend with Edinburgh in celebrity of medical instruction. It consists in providing, without further jobs or delays, those subsidiary establishments which are necessary appurtenances of a school of physic. Let clinical lectures be given in some hospital already established, where students may have an opportunity of being instructed not only in medical but in surgical practice. Let a botanical garden be provided. Let cabinets of zoology and mineralogy be formed. Let the medical library be enlarged. And let the professors be supplied with whatever philosophical apparatus they may require for exploring the discoveries to which their investigations may lead, and illustrating the phænomena which it is their province to unfold.

It is time to draw to a conclusion. I have endeavoured to engage your attention, gentlemen, with a view of submitting to your judgment, and connecting with your feelings a subject which I conceive to be in some measure of general moment, but which certainly is of peculiar importance to our profession. You are now called upon to lend your aid in establishing adequate provisions



provisions for the cultivation of medical science, and in discountenancing the oppression of those who are the chief labourers in the field, and who have already borne the heat and burden of the day. Compare the advantages and emoluments of the profession of physic, with those of her ecclesiastical, and legal sisters. Say, is our profession less liberal, less useful to the community? Then tell me, should we allow her little revenues to be alienated without a murmur, her diminutive property to crumble into dilapidation without an effort to preserve it? Was there ever an attack made on any part of the possessions of the clergy, without exciting a general clamour of the whole body? Has the income of any of the places filled by the heads of the law ever been suffered to be diminished? What then! Is physic alone, because unconnected with politics, and therefore intrinsically the most independent and dignified of the liberal professions, to be plundered of her lucrative places, and artificially degraded in society, without even a remonstrance against that policy which aims at detaching her from the embrace of philosophers and gentlemen, and consigning her once more to the management of empirics and slaves?

A venerable physician bequeathed his estate to one or two professors of physic. But a salary of five or six hundred pounds a year, annexed to  
places



places in the profession of physic, was looked on as a phænomenon, as such a temptation to learning and good-breeding to augment their acquisitions as might perhaps give our profession too much eclat. The value of the professors' places was then reduced to 300l. a year. Experience, however, proved that this reduction was insufficient to exclude literary and honourable qualities, though it was effectual in excluding professorial zeal, and collegial celebrity. The value of the places was next reduced to about 200l. or as some pronounce, and as the last act would have it, to 100l. a year. Now let me ask—Do you believe that any of those men who have been so active in procuring this reduction, seriously expect that a physician, qualified for the station of king's professor, can be found to devote the chief part of his time and talents to the duties of that station for a salary of 100l. a year, with the fees of pupils, which have never amounted, in any year, to any professor, to 50l. and sometimes have been nothing, or next to nothing? If there really be a man who has such expectations, he must form very different conceptions of the duties of a professor, or of the value of an hundred pounds from those which I entertain. For my part I have no hesitation in declaring, that, with zeal which yields to none for the success of a school of physic in this kingdom, I cannot afford to devote the chief part of my time and talents, such as they are, for such a requital. The honour of my station



tion will not contribute to the support of my personal rank, nor to the maintenance and education of my family ; and ardently as I aspire to literary and professional fame, I cannot but feel the full force of Plutarch's observation, that " honours  
 " should be conferred, not as the recompense,  
 " but as the distinction of meritorious exertion :"

Ου μισθον της πραξεως, αλλα συμβολον την  
 τιμην ειναι.

I have now, gentlemen, pointed out (and happy shall I be if I have done so to your satisfaction !) the means whereby, in my opinion, the interest and reputation of our profession may be enhanced, the progress of philosophy in this country accelerated, and the good of mankind in general promoted. The attainment of these objects cannot but be dear to men of cultivated and liberal minds. To lend your aid in attaining them I now call upon you, earnestly call upon you as the friends of practical science, and the votaries of active benevolence. There can be no doubt but the great councils of the nation will hearken and accede to your general voice, if you express it as your general opinion—That the interest of the community must be materially promoted by the establishment of adequate provisions for improving and diffusing the knowledge and practice of physic, surgery, and pharmacy in this kingdom :—That men who are qualified to improve and employed to diffuse the knowledge and practice  
 of



of the several branches of the healing art deserve well of the community, and ought to be rewarded in proportion to the importance and labour of their exertions:—That where the number of students who contribute to the emolument of professors is small, liberal salaries ought to be annexed to professorships, in order to secure the zealous aid of men of talents, learning, and experience:—And that the improvement and diffusion of the knowledge and practice of the several branches of the healing art in this kingdom indispensably require, in addition to the aids of instruction already provided, the establishment of a scientific botanical garden, of a cabinet of natural history, and of clinical wards for the accommodation of patients, on whose cases medical and surgical clinical lectures may be given, in one convenient hospital in this city. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

WITH PROFOUND RESPECT

AND CORDIAL ATTACHMENT,

YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,

DUBLIN,  
June 30, 1795.

STEPHEN DICKSON.



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## SENTENCE OF THE COURT

*Of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland,*

HELD AUGUST 20TH AND 22ND, 1795,

ON THE TRIAL OF

DR. EDMUND CULLEN, AND DR. STEPHEN DICKSON,

*For Charges of Misconduct in the government of the Hospital for  
holding Clinical Lectures, preferred against them by the*

Provost and Senior Fellows of Trinity College,

upon the Information of Dr. James Cleghorn

and Dr. Robert Perceval.

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THE VICE PRESIDENT having produced to the College a letter from the register of Trinity college, stating that a complaint had been laid before the provost and senior fellows by Dr. Perceval and Dr. Cleghorn, against two of the King's Professors, who gave clinical lectures last winter, relative to their conduct in the government of the hospital for holding said lectures, and that the provost and senior fellows having considered an answer to said complaint, were dissatisfied with the conduct of said professors, and had referred the controversy to the college of physicians, together with such documents as they had received on the subject; and the college having attentively examined these documents, and having resorted to all such evidence as they conceived most likely to assist them in deciding on this controversy, do now, after the most solemn investigation, and the most mature deliberation,

RESOLVE,



## RESOLVE,

THAT the first charge contained in said complaint or memorial,—“ That the king’s professors, contrary to an order  
“ of the college of physicians, and to the manifest injury of  
“ the school of physic, did at no time last winter support  
“ thirty patients as subjects of clinical lectures,”—cannot have the slightest degree of criminal relation to the conduct of said king’s professors, as it has appeared by the most incontrovertible evidence that they did not, during their attendance, refuse admission to any patient capable of being made the subject of clinical lectures. And further, the college wish now to state explicitly, that they could not mean by any resolution of theirs to recommend to the clinical physician to attend thirty patients within one hour, the time expressly reserved for that purpose by the faculty of physic. They are of opinion, that a great latitude ought to be allowed to the clinical physician, both as to the nature of the diseases, and the number of patients, that he may deem it prudent to make the subjects of his clinical practice.

THAT the second charge contained in said complaint or memorial,—“ That the king’s professors have suffered the  
“ hospital to decay by admitting no patients since the first of  
“ May last, by which the plan adopted by the college of  
“ physicians, and approved of by the late provost is defeated,  
“ and good faith is broken with the students of medicine to  
“ whom tickets of admission to the hospital were delivered  
“ for one year, from the first of November last,”—does not appear sufficient to affix any criminality to the conduct of the king’s professors: They were not authorised to admit any patients into the hospital to be supported out of the funds of Sir Patrick Dun during the summer; and it appears by the report of a committee of the board of governors of Sir Patrick Dun’s hospital appointed the first of May, 1795, that there were no funds arising from public subscription for the maintenance of patients: And as to the latter part of this charge, the college are clearly of opinion that it is unfounded, as sufficient and credible testimony has been adduced to prove  
that



that the students of medicine did not conceive good faith to have been broken with them, and that they considered those tickets delivered to them, and signed by the clinical physician alone, as certificates of admission to the clinical wards and to the clinical lectures during the medical session only.

THAT the third and last charge urged in this complaint or memorial,—" That it had been agreed on that in order to " forward the scheme of a permanent hospital, three guineas " in addition to the fee for clinical lectures should be demanded from each student attending the hospital, to be applied " to the summer maintenance of patients; but the king's " professors who attended the hospital last winter omitted to " demand any fee for the general fund, to the manifest injury " of the institution,"—appears to them *equally unfounded with the other charges*, as the college never gave any directions on that head except for one year; and they are still farther confirmed in the propriety of adhering to their original idea of directing the king's professors to demand only three guineas from the clinical pupil, as it has appeared that the demand of six guineas, the sum which the provost and senior fellows have directed the university professors to require, has excited much discontent among the students, and occasioned a considerable diminution of their number.

AND finally it is resolved, that it appears to this college that the king's professors who attended the clinical hospital last winter, discharged the several duties which they owed to the clinical patients and to the attending pupils *WITH CREDIT TO THEMSELVES, AND WITH ADVANTAGE TO THE GENERAL INTERESTS OF THE SCHOOL OF PHYSIC.*

JOHN W<sup>M</sup>. BOYTON,

*Vice President of the College of Physicians.*

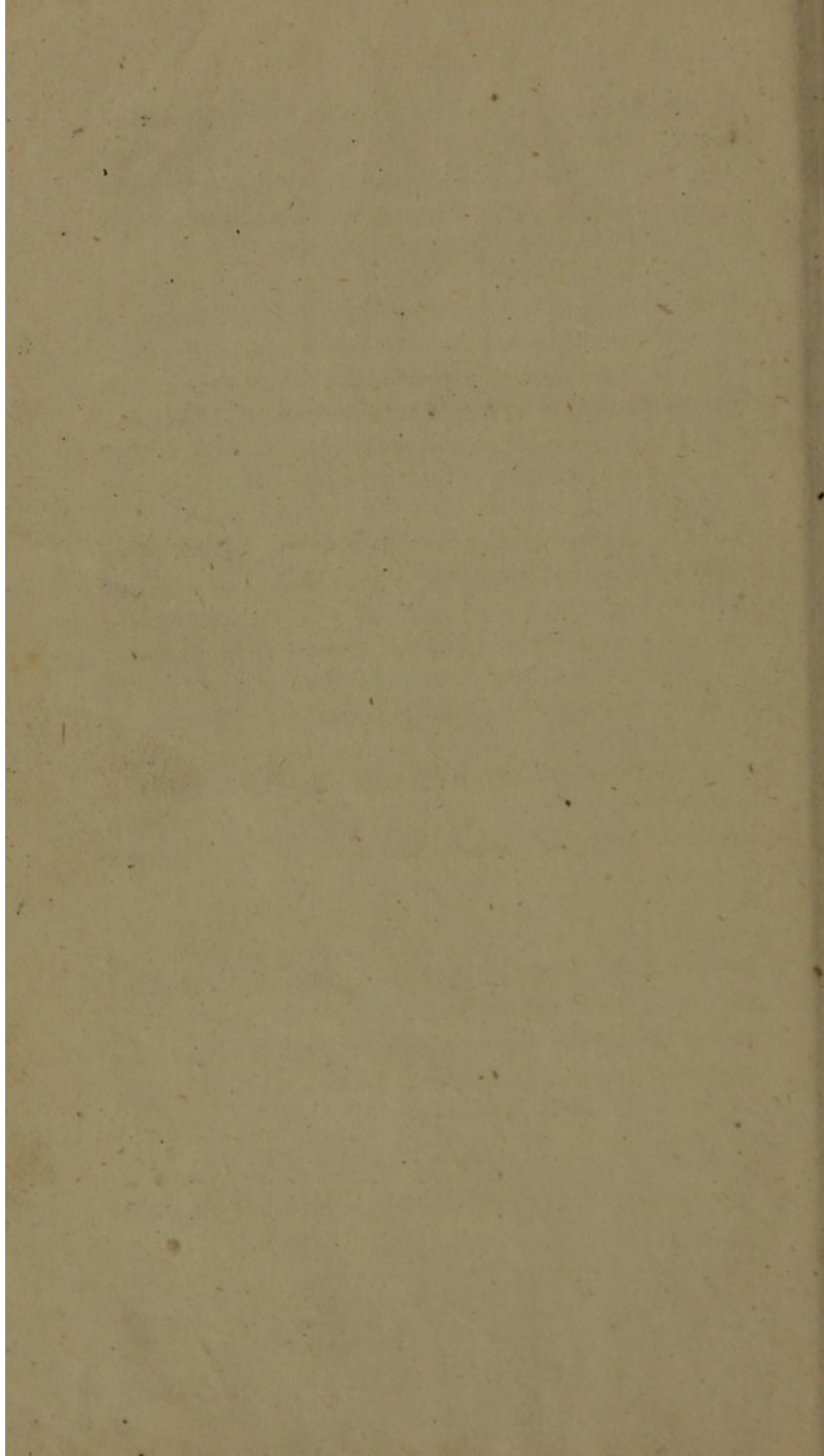




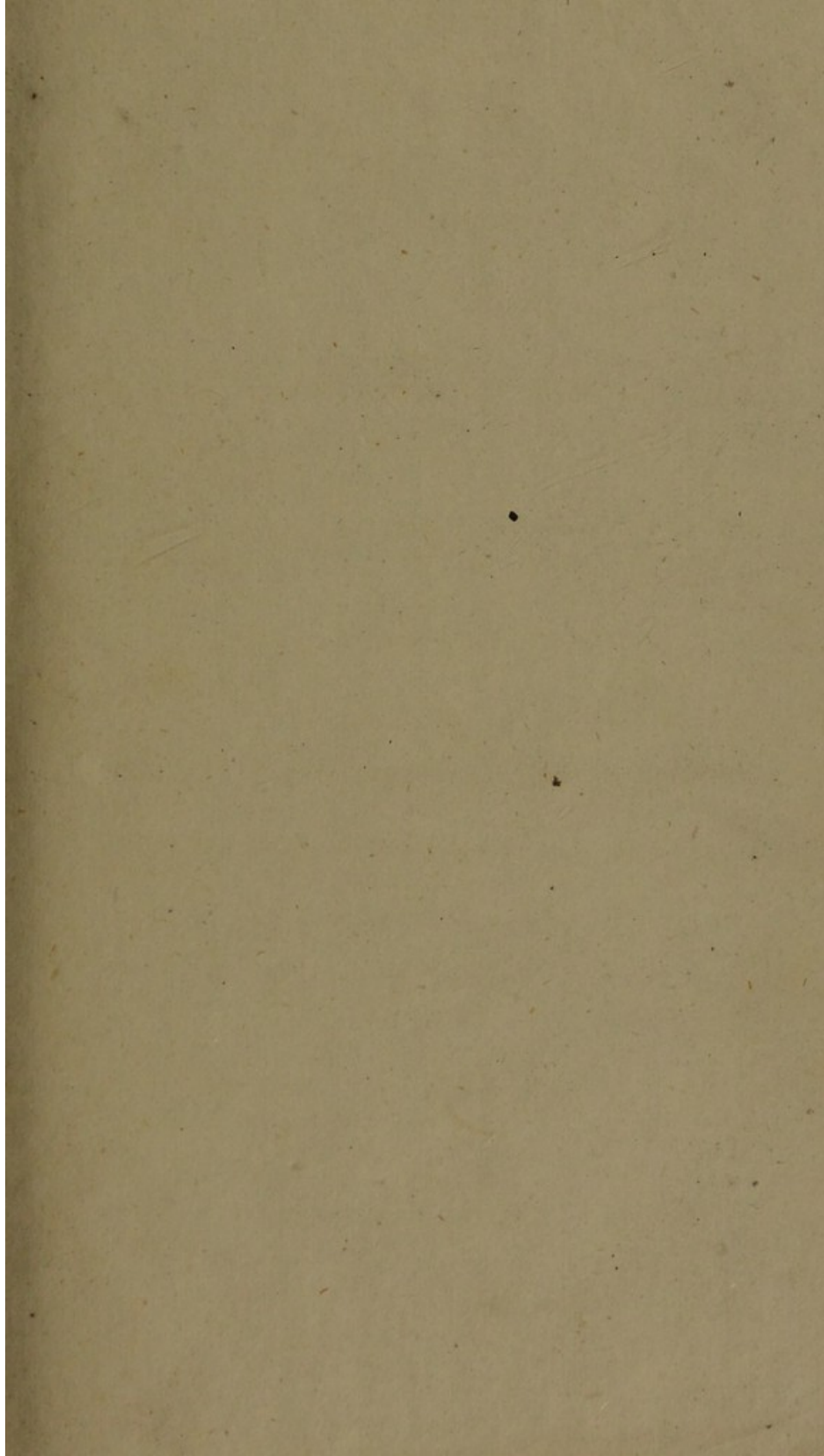




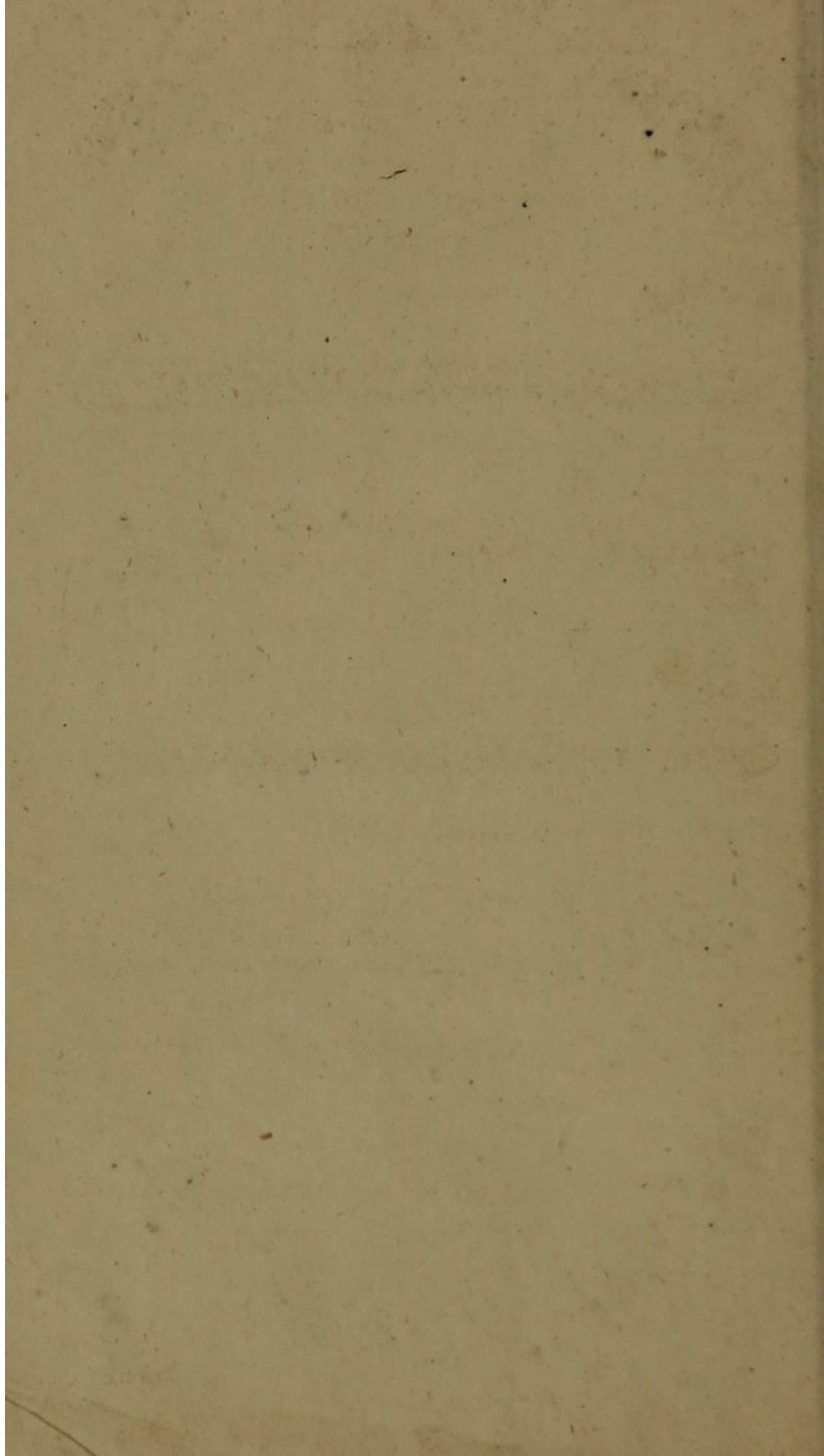














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