

Address to the inhabitants of Dover and vicinity : to those of the state of New Hampshire at large, and to the people of the United States generally, containing a succinct history and comparison of the Thomasonian and mineral systems of medicine ... Together with a defence of Thomasonianism, in a controversial form ... / By Andrew Watkins, botanic physician.

Contributors

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Publication/Creation

Dover, N.H. : Published by the author. J. Howe, printer, 1835.

Persistent URL

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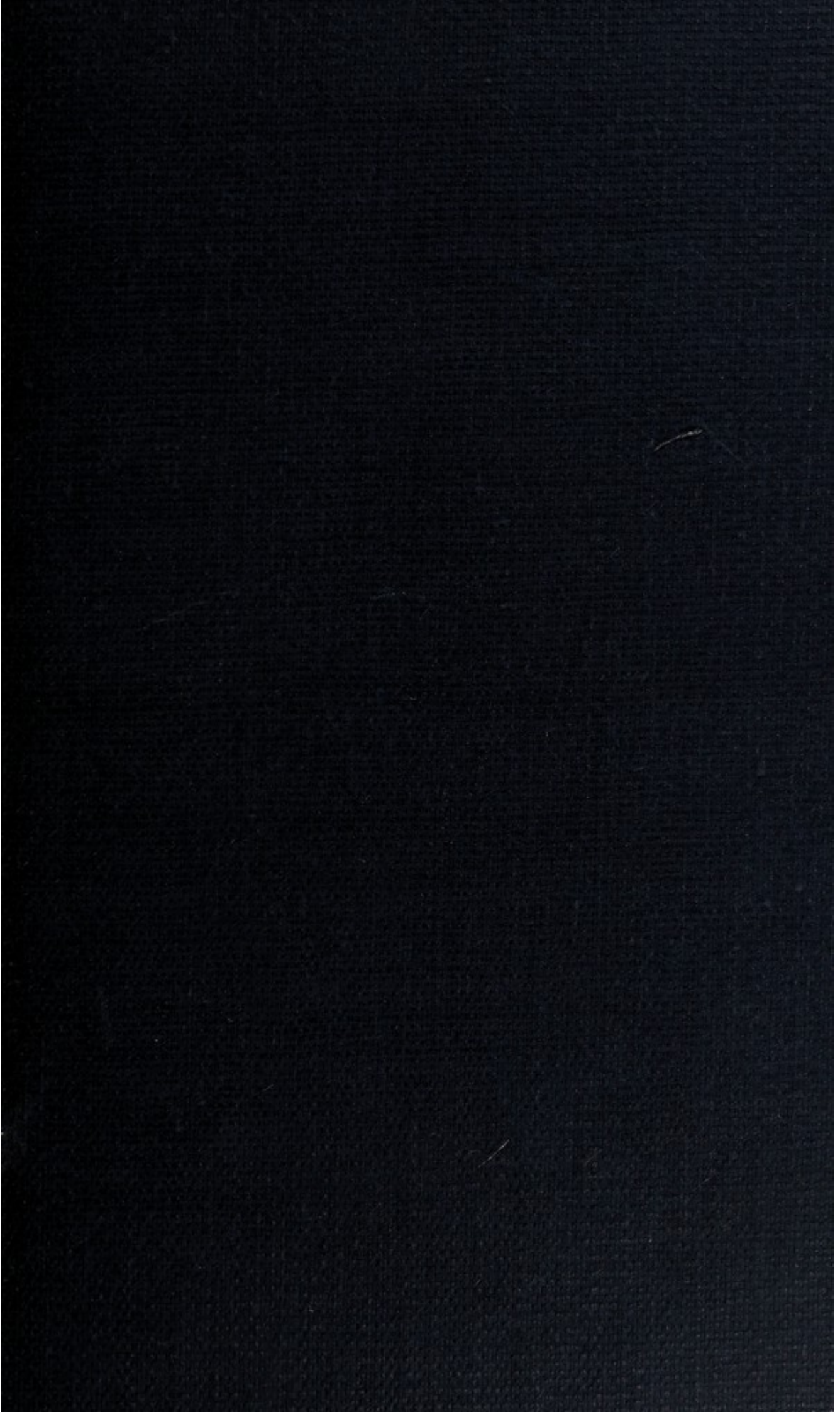
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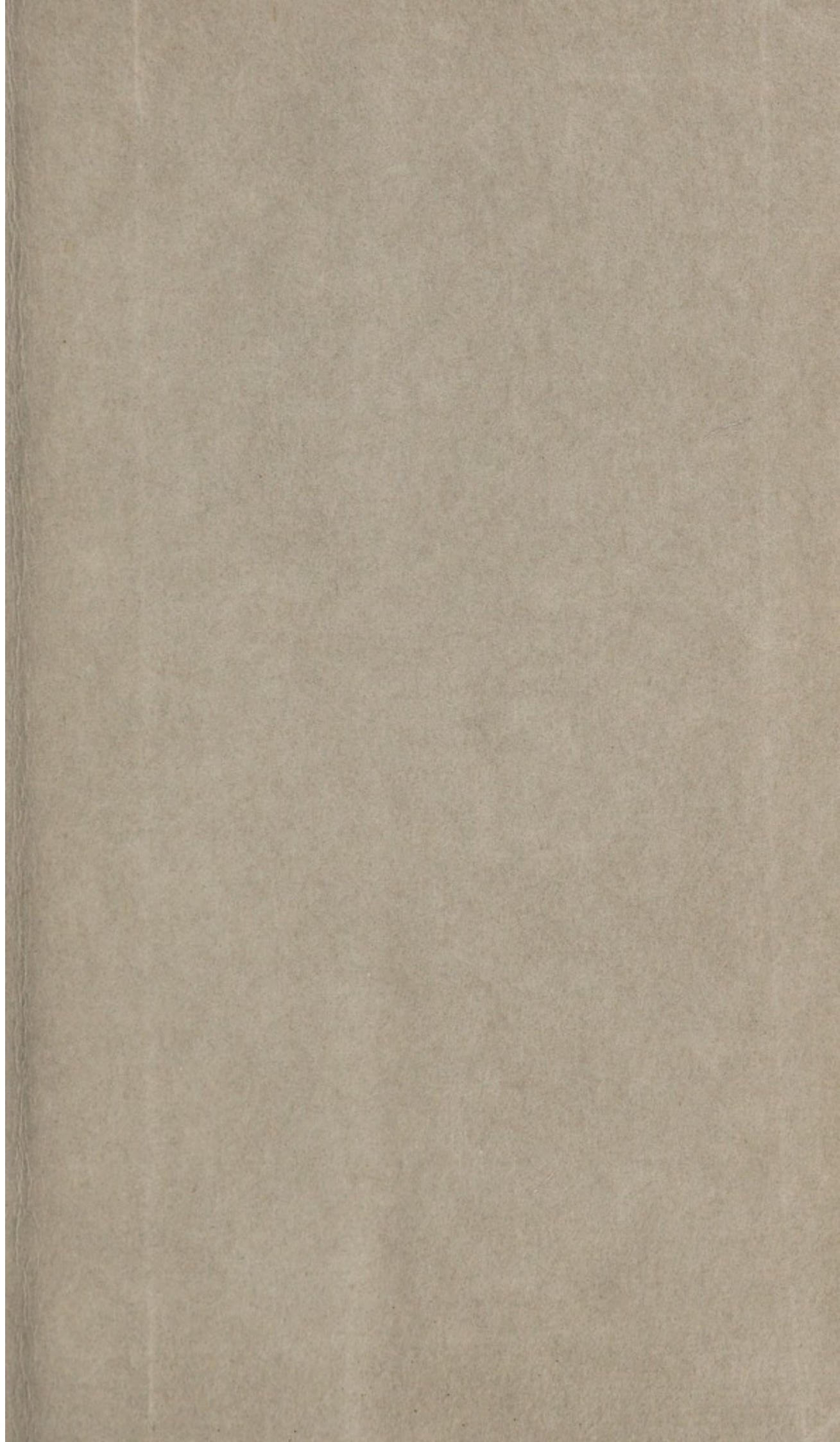



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ADDRESS
TO THE INHABITANTS OF DOVER AND VICINITY,
TO THOSE OF
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AT LARGE,
AND TO
THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES GENERALLY;
CONTAINING
A SUCCINCT HISTORY AND COMPARISON OF THE
THOMSONIAN AND MINERAL
SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE,
SHOWING THE SUPERIOR EFFICACY OF THE FORMER OVER THE
LATTER MODE OF THEORY AND PRACTICE ;
ACCOMPANIED BY PLENARY PROOF TO THIS POINT,
FROM THE TESTIMONY OF NUMEROUS CURED PATIENTS.
TOGETHER WITH
A DEFENCE OF THOMSONIANISM,
IN A CONTROVERSIAL FORM.
WITH MANY ORIGINAL AND SELECTED ARTICLES.

BY ANDREW WATKINS,
BOTANIC PHYSICIAN.

While from the bounteous bosom of our mother earth, we draw nutriment to support health and to sustain life ;—so likewise on the other hand we are furnished with plenteous antidotes for the whole vocabulary of diseases.

DOVER, N. H.

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.

J. Howe, Printer, No. 39, Merchants Row, Boston.

.....
1835.

ADDRESS

TO THE INHABITANTS OF DOVER AND VICINITY

TO THOSE OF

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AT LARGE

AND TO

THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES GENERALLY

FORWARDED

A BRIGHT HISTORY AND COMPANION OF THE

THOMSONIAN AND MINERAL

SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE

SHOWING THE RELATION OF THE DOCTOR TO THE

PEOPLE OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH

ACCOMPANIED BY PLEASANT PROOF TO THE POINT

FROM THE TESTIMONY OF PERSONS WHO HAVE

315948

A HISTORY OF THOMSONIAN



WITH MANY ORIGINAL AND INTERESTING

BY ANDREW W. W.

DOVER, N. H.

While this is a historical record of our medical faith, we have endeavored to
show the relation of the doctor to the people, and we are
at the same time endeavoring to show the relation of the doctor to the people.

DOVER, N. H.

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR

1 Bowdoin Street, No. 10, New York, N. Y.

1851

ADDRESS

TO THE INHABITANTS OF DOVER, &c.

FELLOW CITIZENS.

Having in the course of my practice on the Vegetable Principle in Medicine, at my Infirmary in Harvard street, Boston, Massachusetts, effected many cures of stubborn complaints and of long standing, on persons in various parts of the country, a number of respectable individuals of Dover, convinced of the healing virtues of the Thomsonian System, urged me strongly to visit your place and plant its standard within its boundaries. After mature deliberation, in company with the venerable author of the System, Dr. Samuel Thomson, we recently came to your town for the purpose of making inquiries in relation to the practicability and expediency of establishing an Infirmary here. We were welcomed on our arrival by a considerable portion of you with marked courtesy and with evident wishes that the great objects of our journey might be satisfactorily accomplished. Those gentlemen who received us, having heard some explanations of the Thomsonian principle of medical practice, resolved that in case I located myself here, to use their efforts to sustain and spread the system to the extent of their power. I will not disguise that these indications of personal friendship, together with the expression of a desire on your part, to promote a cause which every philanthropist should have at heart, were flattering to my feelings.

Leaving therefore the metropolis of Massachusetts and its interesting association, a flourishing establishment daily filled with patients, a lucrative and thriving business, and at the sacrifice of other interests not here necessary to mention, in the hope of extending my usefulness more than for pecuniary emolument, I come at your call to settle among you. And in thus assuming

the duties and responsibilities of an arduous profession in a strange land, it is, I believe, not only proper, but incumbent on me, to make such explanations of the course I intend to pursue, and to develop such leading features of this system of medical practice as will tend to enlighten you on the subject, and thus ensure me a kind reception.

Indeed, when I survey the vast resources of your State, her extensive manufactories, her cultivated soil, her augmented population, and her literary and civil institutions; when I call to mind the great men she has produced in the *councils* and on the *battle fields* of our happy country, the descendants of *Stark*, I am certain will examine the cause in which I am engaged with candor and patience at least, and not condemn without evidence.

In the prosecution of the objects of my establishment here, I shall rather endeavor to sustain the Thomsonian than to prostrate other systems; and therefore it becomes important to take a brief and cursory survey of the state of medical science as it has existed in all ages of the world, for the purpose of making some deductions and applications which have a direct bearing on the subject.

At what time medicine existed as an art for individuals to follow as a *profession*, is not precisely known. The healing art was undoubtedly coeval with the history of man. Among the Egyptians, the Jews and the surrounding barbarous nations, it was practised in a rude, uncultivated manner, and was blended by their priests, for selfish purposes, with absurd and ridiculous charms and incantations, to dupe the great mass of the people. The stern and polished Greeks entertained likewise, false and blind notions respecting it. After some time, however, among the latter people, sprung up Hippocrates, justly denominated the Father of Medicine, because he reduced it into a science, whereby it was formed into something like a system. And it is a fact worthy here of notice, that there is a material point of resemblance in the system of Dr. Samuel Thomson and this ancient philosopher, to wit, they both maintain that health is life and heat, and disease, cold and death. After Hippocrates, through all periods of the history of Greece down to the destruction of the Roman Empire by the Goths and Vandals, there lived

different doctors, each with a system of his own, founded on absurd theories and abstract speculations, as opposite to each other as the antipodes. On the prostration of the *Great Empire*, by the northern barbarians the lights of science were extinguished at a blow, and medicine was buried in the grave of oblivion. Learning banished from the seat of the *Arts* and *Arms*, took refuge among the Asiatics, where a remnant of the science was a long time preserved and improved upon by them, by the use of some botanical specifics. In the sixteenth century Paracelsus and others, advanced new doctrines and brought into use mercury and the lancet, which have slain their thousands and tens of thousands. The subsequent invention of the art of printing, and consequently the revival of literature and the arts, produced an interchange of thought and opinion among mankind, which dispelled the darkness that hitherto had prevailed on the subject. In the seventeenth century Dr. Harvey communicated the important intelligence to the world of the circulation of the blood. This discovery was attended by the most singular effects, inasmuch as it levelled into dust all prior existing medical institutions. Since that period to the present hour, neither in Europe nor America among the faculty is there any uniform system established on the subject of Medicine. All is with them experiment! uncertainty! dismay! despair and death! Now, fellow citizens, what do we learn from these facts? In the first place history shows us, that in all ages where the mass of men have put their consciences in the keeping, their property under the control, and their lives at the disposal of the privileged orders in society, they have been subjected to a despotism as absolute as that which the master exercises over the slave. And until mankind in the present age shall exercise their prerogative of thinking and acting for themselves, especially on the all-important subject in question, though they may not be aware of it, they are nevertheless under the same bondage, to which I have adverted. In the second place we see, that in each period of time from the earliest dates, each generation has had a theory of its own, which has been buried in the same grave with it. Scarcely a single medical doctrine has survived the century that gave it

birth. And this is equally true with the doctrines of the faculty of the present age. If you consult the works of established authority among them, you find contradictory rules for the treatment of the same disease, and different drugs diametrically opposite in their properties and effects prescribed for a cure. If you confer with the most eminent of the profession, you will discover that no two agree in opinion as to the character of disease, and the nature of treating it, excepting in one particular. They do coincide with each other that disease is a poison. They also admit that mercury, their grand specific, is a poison. And they administer this mineral in all complaints and in large quantities. And what is their reason for so doing? Why, that one poison counteracts the effects of another poison! Strange logic this, and stranger reason and philosophy! Mercury counteracts the disease, by spreading it in the human system, and then destroying the unhappy victim of it, and their own approved standards tell them so. What then can be their reason for filling the body with a drug so fatal in its effects, I leave you to judge. It is not true, however, that substances possessing the same properties will counteract the effects of each other. No law of philosophy or chemistry will sustain such a position. For example: If you wish to extinguish fire would you add to it a portion of caloric? or to resuscitate a drowning man would you plunge him in the element that has nearly caused his death?

But passing over the discussion of this topic let me add, that in the uncertainty of the *Materia Medica* the sick man looked in vain for relief from the hands of the faculty; the humble inquirer after truth became perplexed and confounded. It was in this state of things in the latter part of the eighteenth century, that Dr. Samuel Thomson, who had long doubtless been a careful observer, though not an inactive agent, of the defects of the old school of medicine, set himself seriously to reform its manifold abuses, by introducing another opposed entirely to its leading principles. It was a great task, but like the imperial Roman, *he came—he saw—he conquered*. He grappled with a giant's might with the prejudices of the times, and with the club of Hercules slew the hydra headed monster disease, that had for ages stalked over

the land in the full pride of its power, nourished into strength by mercury and the lancet. The host of pale spectres, with their ghostly forms, who minister in the court and around the altar of death, shrunk back in terror and fled in confusion at his approach.

Endowed with qualities of invention and discovery not only beneficial to their possessor, but useful to the community at large, reared in the great school of nature, and early imbued with the laudable desire to ascertain the medical virtues of the Flora of our country on the one hand, and the praiseworthy design to substitute her simple and safe remedies for the good of mankind, for the complex and hazardous mineral antidotes on the other, he devoted his childhood, youth, manhood and old age, to the accomplishment of this single purpose, and therefore at the present moment may be called as perfect a medical botanist as we have in the country. Believing also that talents are not the exclusive property of those who have been reared in classic shades, nor that a medical diploma locked up in the Latin tongue, though it may confer exclusive privileges, will always impart useful information, he rejected the servile and dangerous systems of modern practitioners, and boldly instituted one of his own, of which he is the unaided, sole and indisputable author. He also selected for his medicines a class of plants whose healing virtues had hitherto slumbered in obscurity, unknown to man, and thus he can of right claim the merit of the discovery of their virtues. How far his theory and practice of medicine, founded as it is on the administration of the above stated vegetable simples alone, has proved successful, the gratitude of thousands, snatched from the grave through their influence, will testify. The voices of this generation will be audible in his praise, and when he shall have been gathered to the tomb of his fathers, in all coming time posterity will rise up and call him blessed. If success be a criterion of the value of his system then it is truly an inestimable one, for it is moving with the celerity of light over the country, making converts wherever it spreads, and redeeming the people from the bondage and darkness which the technical jargon and mystery of the faculty had enveloped and enslaved them. Even the venerable and

scientific Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, long an eminent professor in ancient and classic Harvard University, and known all over the Union as a leading physician, together with others scarcely less celebrated in their profession, has commended his system in strong and *laudatory* terms. But this great reform was not effected without difficulty, opposition and danger to its author. Like all great innovators it was the fate of Dr. Thomson too to feel a portion of the vengeance of that party whose theories he had shown to be unsound. Like a certain religious revolutionist of the sixteenth* and a certain political one of the eighteenth† century he was the selected victim of the wrath of the adherents of corrupted systems. He was arrested, plunged into a dungeon on a groundless and false charge; the press was closed against him for either explanation or defence—foes thickened around him; darkness overshadowed and danger and death were near him. But the day of his deliverance at last arrived. He *was tried* and *honorably* acquitted. And now what a glorious vision opens to view! His cause is every where triumphantly spreading. All over the country, east and west, north and south, from Louisiana to Maine, the Thomsonian banner is waving, gathering together thousands under its folds. State Botanic Societies are formed, and United States Botanic Conventions have, and will hereafter assemble, from which facts have gone forth and will continue to go forth, proving incontestibly the superiority of his medical remedies; yet even now, I regret to say, that there exists an organized opposition to his cause among the faculty and others who have pursued him with unrelenting severity, and who probably will be the last to ground their arms. Notwithstanding that noble doctrine in our Constitution, that government is instituted for the common good, and that no association or corporation of men have any title or right to privileges beyond the rest of the community, the medical faculty have managed to procure legislative enactments in the several States whereby they receive exclusive advantages over the Thomsonians in that protection and patronage government affords them which is denied the other class. Laws, manifestly so unjust and

* Martin Luther.

† John Hancock.

repugnant to the Constitution I believe to contain within themselves the seeds of their own dissolution; and the time is therefore coming, and even now is, when such odious restrictions will be forever removed from the rights of a large portion of the community. Indeed, in many of the States such acts have been modified; in some, they have been repealed; which facts are precursors, that liberal principles are on the advance and will ultimately overturn in this country all narrow, selfish, and *anti-republican* ones.

There is yet another topic to which I would willingly be spared an allusion, but duty to myself and to the Doctor requires me to mention. The author, after an infinite deal of labor, which consumed nearly forty years of an active life, and also large sums of money, obtained a patent from the United States government securing to himself the fruits of his discoveries in medicine. By that instrument he is empowered to sell rights and constitute agents for preparing and administering his medicines. Many persons having obtained agencies exceed the powers granted therein, which compels the grantor to revoke them, which by the terms of the instrument he has a perfect right to do; notwithstanding which these dishonorable individuals, instead of rendering him an account of their doings as agents, assume to be proprietors, and thus continue on in a series of trespasses on his rights. It is believed no honorable man would be guilty of such unfair conduct. Nevertheless there are many who call themselves such who do not scruple to pursue the course I have described. Such proceedings, however, will shortly be investigated before the judicial tribunals of the land, suits having already been instituted for that purpose. No individual whose agency has been revoked has any right to open a Thomsonian Infirmary in the community, and it is believed that you will not countenance by your patronage any such establishment. I come among you as the legally constituted agent of Dr. Thomson, and shall practice as I always have done, purely and solely in conformity to the directions laid down in his Guide to Health. I shall keep constantly on hand a full supply of the genuine Thomsonian Medicines, prepared by himself, and I would add, that none others are pure. Those prepared

by the apothecaries and others whose agencies have been revoked, are not considered safe to be taken.

With regard to the principles upon which this system is founded, it is not necessary here to enlarge upon them. They are, however, be it said, extremely simple, easily explained, and soon understood, so that a person of ordinary capacity, who may wish to purchase a family-right, can in a short time administer with perfect safety to his own family the medicine, which is a vast economy in the expenditure of funds, that generally go into the coffers of the regular physician. The corner stone on which the system is founded is, that life is heat, and cold, death. That all disease proceeds from a common cause, to wit, obstruction in the human system, which is produced by canker or cold. To remove this, heating medicines are applied, which promote respiration, open the pores of the skin, restore the digestive functions and expel the disease from the body. All poisons, whether mineral or vegetable, are entirely discarded; nor do bleeding, blistering, cutting, physicing or starving, constitute any portion of the practice of the founder.

In conclusion, fellow citizens, let me say that for the last three-and-twenty years of my life I have been perfectly conversant with these remedies, and the manner of their application; that I have witnessed their efficacious results in almost every quarter of the globe, and have prescribed them myself in various parts of the world—and that I know from the best evidence in existence, *personal experience*, that they are equally safe, powerful and speedily salutary in their operation. Many years since, in Philadelphia, I was myself assailed by a cold which terminated in a severe rheumatism that reduced me to a mere skeleton. The most skilful physicians in that city were called to attend me. I was under the care of one of them about sixteen months constantly, and the ordinary means of cure, to wit, the use of mercury, emetics, blistering, the lancet, and starvation, were resorted to, but so far from gaining strength I was reduced to the brink of the grave. In a condition wretched beyond description, Dr. Samuel Thomson, like an angel of mercy, came to my relief, through whose healing remedies I was in a short time restored to health. Moreover, for two years

past my Infirmary in Boston has been constantly thronged with patients, nearly all of whom have been cured or greatly benefited, and what is a remarkable fact, susceptible of proof, but two patients have died there under my care during this long period of time; one, an aged man, whose constitution had been broken down by protracted and complicated complaints, and whose case was hopeless when he applied for aid;—the other, an infant, who had been attacked by a lung fever, and whose case was equally desperate—both of whom, I may here add, as it were, were forced on my hands.

During my residence in Boston I have publicly challenged the governments of the most approved medical institutions in the State, under a forfeiture of from one to ten thousand dollars, to remove to my Infirmary one half of any number of patients in their hospitals, and I would cure in less time, more than the regular physicians could of the portion left with them. This challenge has long been printed in the newspapers of that city, but the faculty have yet remained entirely silent in relation to the same. The inference from this fact is, therefore, that fearing the Thomsonian remedies would win the prize, to preserve their credit they think it best to take no notice of it. But whether silence in this case be not tantamount to defeat, I submit to your better judgment to decide.

Finally, let me add, that the seeds of Thomsonianism, sown by its venerable founder, have neither fell among rocks, nor among thorns, but into good soil, into whose bosom they have struck their deep roots and reared their high heads to the clouds, and they will thus continue to produce rich harvests in due season. Nor will storms nor tempests ever again disturb their majestic grandeur, nor scathe their wide spreading branches.

“Long shall they live and every blast defy,
Till time’s last whirlwind sweep the vaulted sky.”

ANDREW WATKINS.

CERTIFICATES.

The subjoined voluminous mass of evidence in the shape of Certificates from Patients relieved and cured at my Infirmary, is *demonstrative proof* of the undeniable virtues and consequently the inestimable value of the Botanical Remedies ; and should there be a reader who, after a candid perusal of them, can doubt respecting their efficacy, in the emphatic language of a certain personage, *he would not be convinced though one should rise from the dead!*

A. W.

I was greatly afflicted with rheumatic retrocedent gout, and confined to my bed nine weeks ; during which time I was exercised with much pain, and a general debility of the system ensued ;—affections of the stomach, knees, ancles and toes followed. It seemed that human aid was unavailable ; but by applying at the Infirmary of Dr. A. Watkins, Harvard Street, Boston, I found after four courses of medicine administered by him, that I was enabled to follow my usual avocations of business. I make this public declaration of my own experience, that others laboring under similar complaints may find relief, if not a radical cure, by applying at the above establishment.

JESSE BROWN,
Roxbury, Mass.

I was much debilitated and suffered extremely with excruciating pain, from a disease seated in the groin, which confined me to the bed during several weeks in the winter season ; and though attended by several members of the faculty, called eminent, I could get no relief until I applied to Dr. A. Watkins, who cured me in fourteen days. I have since been about my ordinary business, a laborious one, (building bridges and wharves) and have enjoyed rugged health ever since.

ASA MANSUR,
At the Canal Hotel, Boston, Mass.

I, Daniel Bryant, aged 19 years, hereby certify, that I had a fever sore on my thigh for 10 years, with five large sores on the same, continually discharging matter. These produced stiffness and shrinking in the knee. Pieces of bone came from it, and the same bled profusely at times, so much so that it greatly weakened me. One bone was extracted two and a half inches long and one and a quarter broad. The cavity after this healed entirely and the leg and joint were reduced to their proper size and action. The leg has now attained to its natural strength. This cure, performed by Dr. A. Watkins, is astonishing, and almost incredible, but not the less true, as all persons may be convinced by applying to the subscriber, who is now a student with A. Watkins.

DANIEL A. BRYANT.

I hereby certify that some years since I had a severe fit of sickness from dyspepsia and other complaints, which reduced me to a very feeble state of health. I had the best of medical aid in vain. Having a favorable opinion of the Thomsonian Medicines, I applied to Dr. A. Watkins in the Spring of 1835, and having gone through several courses of medicine at his Infirmary, I was completely cured and have remained so ever since.

CAROLINE WINN,
Pleasant street, Boston, Mass.

This may certify that I was afflicted with the dangerous and appalling disease, *Delirium Tremens*, which caused entire loss of appetite and prostration of strength. Having received no relief from the faculty I was taken to Dr. Andrew Watkins, who in three weeks time restored me to health. I have been to work for some months since at my trade of a house carpenter and have continued strong and hearty to this time.

ISAAC HAZELTON,
No. 78, Commercial street, Boston, Mass.

Boston, August 27, 1835.

This may certify that having been quite ill a long time with pains in the stomach, and otherwise indisposed, I applied to Dr. Andrew Watkins, and under his direction went through only one course of medicine, which effected

a thorough cure. I would recommend all invalids to him for relief.

GEORGE W. SMITH,

Boylston Street, Mass.

I had a violent pain in my head, unusually severe, which caused me entirely to relinquish my work. Having taken much medicine from the faculty to no purpose, I was recommended to Dr. A. Watkins, who gave me one course of medicine that restored me to good health. I returned forthwith to work and have been well ever since.

PATRICK BAXTER, Stone Cutter,

Corner of Beach and Front Streets, Boston, Mass.

I hereby certify that I had a very severe pain in my ankle, which was much swollen, and extremely sore, which prevented its use. Nor did I have any rest day nor night. In this deplorable situation I applied to Dr. Andrew Watkins, and after being with him one week the swelling, pain and soreness all left me. I returned home and took some medicines, and applied them, agreeably to his directions. In a few days I was free of all pain and became perfectly well.

MARY ANN MELLEN,

Charlestown, Mass.

I hereby certify that for many years I was at intervals severely afflicted with rheumatic pain, particularly in the small of my back. In the winters of 1834 and 1835 I was again attacked as before stated with pains in the back and shoulders, accompanied by coughs of long standing. I applied to Dr. A. Watkins and was perfectly cured by him after taking a few courses of medicine.

WILLIAM WISWELL,

Corner of Battery March and Broad Streets.

I was afflicted for a long time with *Salt Rheum*, which spread over my head and took off all the hair and produced a complete scab on the same. It branched over my face, limbs and body. In the spring of 1834, after taking a few courses of medicine of Dr. A. Watkins I was perfectly restored to sound health.

LACINDER KAHER, by her husband, A. K.

No. 74, Sea Street, Boston, Mass.

I hereby certify, that in 1834 I was so much afflicted with the rheumatism that I was unable to do any business at times, which was that of laboring on the wharf; but after taking a few courses of medicine, together with steaming, of Dr. A. Watkins, I recovered entirely and have enjoyed good health ever since.

ANDREW KAHER,
No. 74, Sea Street, Boston, Mass.

I called at Dr. Andrew Watkins' Infirmary for advice, being much afflicted with the rheumatism in my shoulder. He steamed me in the evening; and I laid in comfort all night. The next day he gave me a course of medicine which took about four hours. I went home and agreeably to advice returned the next day and took a steaming and got immediate relief.

GALEN HOLMES,
No. 59, Bowdoin Street, Boston, Mass.

I, Lemuel Putnam, of Boston, Mass. in Fayette Street, hereby certify that I was very unwell for several weeks with *vertigo* in the head, accompanied by loss of appetite, prostration of strength and general debility, which prevented my attending to business regularly. In this condition I applied to Dr. A. Watkins, who gave me one course of Medicine only. This, together with a few vegetables I took after, completely restored me to health, which I have enjoyed ever since. I do therefore, cheerfully recommend all invalids to the true Thomsonians, those whose agencies have not been revoked, and to none others, that they may not be deceived in purchasing spurious Medicine of them and the apothecaries.

LEMUEL PUTNAM.

I, the subscriber, do hereby certify that I was much afflicted for four years with consumptive complaints that reduced my strength to such a degree that the physicians who attended me pronounced my case incurable. I was given over to death, both by them and by my friends. In this apparently hopeless state, I heard of Dr. A. Watkins, and expressed a wish to put myself under his care. This was opposed by my parents on the ground that I was too weak to visit his Infirmary and likewise too feeble to sus-

tain an operation could I get there. I however went and took five courses of Medicine, which have restored me to sound health. Before this time I had no appetite, my strength was daily diminishing, and it was even asserted by many, that it was an imposition on any doctor, Mineral or Botanical, to ask for aid. Notwithstanding all which, to the surprise of all acquainted with my case, I am now in possession of comfortable health. My appetite is good, I can attend to my usual employments through the day, and I have walked three miles at a time.

ASA HOLBROOK,
Randolph, Mass.

Dedham, Sept. 2, 1835.—This may certify, that I have been afflicted with the rheumatism for many years, and have had the assistance of the Boston as well as other physicians, but found no relief. In the winter of 1834 and 1835 I was advised to go to A. Watkins. I did so while suffering under great agony. Both legs and ankles were so swollen that I became helpless as a child. But in taking a few courses of Medicine I became completely well, and was so satisfied that I purchased a right for the use of my friends.

J. A. ETHERIDGE.

I, Lemuel Bradlee, finding my son had gained great relief from the Thomsonian system of practice, made application to the Infirmary of Dr. A. Watkins, in Harvard Street. My complaints were general debility and infirmities attendant on life well advanced, and therefore I could not expect that miracles would be performed on me; yet I can say with confidence that my health is much amended, which I attribute to the advice and treatment I have received from the Thomsonian practice.

LEMUEL BRADLEE,
Roxbury, Mass.

I was decidedly in a pulmonary consumption, as stated by the members of the faculty in Portsmouth and Boston who attended me, whose best advice I had; but who pronounced me going in the same way my sister did, who died a few days before I applied to a Thomsonian physician. I found none in Portsmouth, except one Holman,

who was not a true Thomsonian, though he called himself such, his agency having been revoked by the Thomsonian Portsmouth Botanic Society some years since. In the fall of 1834, I was recommended to Dr. Andrew Watkins of Boston. I placed myself under his care at his Infirmary and in three weeks found myself perfectly restored to health, and able to return to the arduous duties of my situation in the House of the Parish Poor in Boston and have continued to enjoy good health ever since.

Boston, Sep. 7, 1834. HARRIET HAMMETT.
45, Pickney Street.

To all who may wish to be benefitted by the like experiment, this may certify, that having been afflicted with a chronic complaint of many years standing, with a complication of diseases consequent thereon, by a derangement of the organic system, which in warm weather disabled me from attending to business, I was induced after trying a host of remedies prescribed by the faculty, to apply to Dr. Andrew Watkins, Thomsonian Botanic Physician, and under his direction went through five courses of medicine, and contrary to my expectation, found myself completely cured, and I now continue to enjoy better health than I have for five years previous. I therefore do not hesitate to cordially recommend this system of practice to all invalids be their complaints what they may. It is now upwards of a year since I first went through a course of this medicine and have experienced no returns of my old disease.

GEORGE PARKER.
Charlestown, Mass.

Boston, Massachusetts, August 29, 1835.

I, Reuben Baldwin, of Freehold, in the County of Green and State of New York, do hereby certify that during the winter of '34 and '35, I made a journey of three weeks to the State of New Hampshire and returned to this city about the fifth of January last in very ill health, having contracted a violent influenza cold during said journey, which baffled all my endeavors to break its force. All the prescriptions made use of were utterly unavailing; and it was with much difficulty I made out to reach the

city. A fever had set in with a total loss of appetite, and every symptom indicative of an approaching fit of sickness. From the favorable opinion I had some time entertained of the Thomsonian practice of medicine, I was led to embrace this opportunity to attest its virtues in the healing art :—Accordingly on my arrival in the city I lost no time in applying to Doct. Andrew Watkins at his Infirmary in Harvard Street, and went through one course of medicine, and was completely cured. The fever immediately left me ; the pain in my head and limbs was completely eradicated and my appetite restored ; and from that time to the present I have enjoyed unusual good health. I have frequently heard the regular physicians denounce the '*Lobelia*' as a *deadly poison* ; I now know to the contrary by satisfactory experience that it is one of the safest and gentlest emetics ever administered.

REUBEN BALDWIN.

Government land purchaser, well known
throughout the U. S.

I the undersigned hereby certify that early in life, say at the age of ten or twelve years, I was subject to fevers of various kinds, and was confined to my bed from one to three months at a time with them. At these periods of my illness I had the most eminent and skilful Physician of the old school to attend me ; and I took a vast quantity of mineral medicines, but to no purpose : on the contrary, under this system I grew worse and my health and strength continued on the decline through a protracted series of fifteen years. I became disgusted with the practice and determined to seek relief in some other quarter, if such could be found. At this time I applied to a Thomsonian Physician practising in the city of Boston, though so feeble as to be obliged to be carried to his Infirmary. I went through but three courses of medicine, and was completely restored to health. Two or three years after I was violently attacked by a pleurisy fever and went to the same individual who cured me a second time. Some time elapsed after this, when I was again assailed and again cured by a Thomsonian Doctor. Since the last period I have taken five courses of medicine of

Doctor Andrew Watkins, in Harvard Street, Boston, who has been so fortunate not only to restore me to perfect health, which I have enjoyed ever since, but to effect I believe a *permanent cure*. From experience I am a decided friend to the system, and therefore do truly and earnestly recommend the same to the patronage of the public.

JAMES B. JACOBS.

Boston, Aug. 9, 1835.

Butolph Street.

Doct. A. WATKINS,

Sir :—I was much disappointed, on a recent visit to Boston, to find you absent on a journey to New Hampshire. I am induced, as I feel it my indispensable duty, to apprise my fellow citizens of the very great relief which I experienced by going through only three courses of the Thomsonian medicines. I had been afflicted from boyhood with indigestion, and for two years past with dimness of sight, so much so, that when I came to your Infirmary I could not read small print by day light. My sight is restored, and my general health is better than it has been for years past.

Yours respectfully,

GEORGE CARNES.

New York, August 24, 1835.

This is to certify, that I was taken very sick on the 11th of March, 1835, with what the Doctor called the pleurisy and lung fever. He doctored me with poisons for about six weeks. During this time I was constantly afflicted with pains in my side, head, breast, chest, shoulders, and in fact over my whole body. The Doctor* left me, stating that medicine would not benefit me, and recommended cupping, and said if that did not relieve me, he did not know what would—that nothing *but that could be done*, which would afford me relief. I was accordingly cupped the next day by another doctor, and after the operation I began to grow worse, being cold and my senses fast departing. I then was recommended

* The Doctor alluded to in this communication is considered one of the best, and resides in Winter Street, Boston.

to send for Doct. Watkins and see if he could help me. He called and said that in the state I was in I could not survive one week. Many others were of the same opinion, who earnestly advised me to go to Dr. Andrew Watkins' Infirmary immediately. I was carried to the Infirmary in a coach, not being able to sit up two hours in twenty-four. After I had taken one course of medicine I was able to sit up the remainder of the day and eat my regular meals, which were denied me by the regular doctors, in consequence of which I had become so weak. In one week I was able to walk home. I have taken several courses since. I think I am now gaining my health and strength very fast and am at present able to be about my business. I do think, under Divine Providence, Dr. Watkins was the means of saving my life. I therefore do most cheerfully recommend the Thomsonian practice to all persons afflicted with any kind of complaint (no matter what it is) if they wish to exchange disease for health. I also advise such persons to go to one of Dr. Samuel Thomson's agents, (not Jesse Thompson, who is not the father of the system, and his agency has likewise been revoked, nor does he with others sell the pure Thomsonian Medicine.)

MICHAEL K. BROWN.

Pleasant Street Court, Boston, Mass.

Doct. ANDREW WATKINS,

Dear Sir :—On my late return from Europe I have learned it was your intention to remove from Boston, where two years since I was happy to see you so useful.

I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without testifying to you the deep sense of gratitude that I feel for your successful efforts and skill in restoring me to perfect health from an attack of the *Erysipalis* and fever with which I was attacked in New Orleans in December 1831, after having been under the care of one of the best physicians in that city.

To wherever you may remove I beg you to carry with you this offering of my esteem and confidence, and hope that among my numerous acquaintances it may add one,

at least, to a belief in the Thomsonian system, under the direction of a skilful practitioner.

Respectfully your ob't serv't,

J. W. BAKER,

For several years Vice Consul of the United States,
Cowes, Isle Wight. Office Head of India Wharf.
Boston, August 30, 1835.

This may certify that in October 1824, I was assailed by a violent cold which settled on my lungs, and threatened a speedy termination of my existence. My friends, particularly my mother, thought I could survive but a few days, I however applied to Dr. Watkins who entirely relieved me of my complaints in a short time.

ABIGAIL HEUSLER,

Near the corner of Milk and Federal Streets, Boston.

This may certify that I was afflicted with a disease for twelve years; so that I was perfectly helpless for several weeks together. I had the advice and occasional aid of the principal physicians of Andover more or less for two years, during which my strength and health was gradually diminishing, and at length the Doctors said they could do no more for me. They did not appear to know what my complaint was. One called it the dropsy, another the liver complaint, and a third stated there was an inward obstruction commenced growing. A physician in Mass. declared I *never could* get well. In this situation having abandoned all hope of either regaining or ever enjoying health again I became acquainted with Mr. James Howarth, of Andover, who strongly urged me to apply to Doct. Andrew Watkins of Boston. I did so, and after having been under his care about five weeks, to the astonishment of all my friends and myself, he completely cured me. I now enjoy as good health as I ever did in my life, or better than I have done for twenty years before my applying to A. Watkins as aforesaid.

ABIGAIL ANDERSON,

No. 18, Belknap Street, Boston, Mass.

Boston, Sept. 17, 1834.

Sir :—I take the liberty of addressing my thanks to you for the great benefit I have received at your Infirmary, having for the last six months been afflicted with consumptive complaints, and having been attended by several eminent physicians and receiving no relief, I was advised to have recourse to your medicines. I accordingly repaired to your Infirmary and after being under your care a few weeks, my health began to improve. I am now able to attend to my business as usual, and can, therefore, recommend Doct. A. Watkins to all who are thus afflicted.

Yours, with respect,

EDWARD THAYER.

Salem, August 24, 1835.

Doct. ANDREW WATKINS,

Dear Sir: In the year 1833, or previous, cancer of a malignant character made its appearance on my lip, and attained to considerable magnitude, when I applied to three celebrated physicians and surgeons practising in the county of Essex, who extracted the same, and assured me that the operation had entirely eradicated the disease from my system. In a short time after, however, the effects of the eruption exhibited themselves on my body in an alarming manner, and it was evident the poison of the disease had diffused itself all over my head; my hair came off as flax; my head was a perfect scab; ulcers came out under the eyes, and on the hands and arms, which were covered with sores, and my general strength became so reduced that I was rendered helpless as a child. I sought relief in vain among the members of the Faculty here, who decided my case to be hopeless. Indeed I thought so myself, and in the language of the Scripture, set my house in order to die. In this deplorable condition the Thomsonian botanical remedies were suggested to me. But besides my extreme feebleness which almost precluded the hope of my getting to Boston, to try your medicines, I had to encounter the prejudices and denunciations of the enemies of the system in this quarter, who predicted to me certain death, were I to risk the experiment. Regardless, however, of such prophecies, I breasted all opposi-

tion and was placed in the stage, feeble as an infant, and arrived at your Infirmary. I was literally taken from the same in the arms of the driver, and carried into the house, where you may remember that yourself and lady, who though both intimate with me from my early life, (so altered had I become) did not recognise me; nor neither on the passage from Salem to Boston did two fellow townsmen, near neighbors and particular acquaintances, though we rode several miles together, know me, and could not until I introduced myself to them. I staid in your Infirmary sixteen days, regained my strength, hair and appetite, and when I departed thence, took my own baggage and placed the same in the stage without assistance. Since that period to the present time, I have enjoyed excellent health and never was better in my life than I am at present. To the friends of the system, this is a gratifying circumstance, and though its enemies may sneer, yet I am a living monument of its virtues and healing power. To be silent, therefore, under such circumstances I cannot, but should consider myself ungrateful were I not to acknowledge what great things you have done for me. Go on then, my dear Sir, laboring in your profession for the good of mankind, and be assured that when the venerable author of the system, Doctor S. Thomson, shall be laid in the grave, the improvements he has made in medical science, spreading far and wide, will cause posterity to rise up and call him blessed. You are at liberty to make what use you please of this communication in furtherance of the noble objects of the Thomsonian System of Medical practice.

BENJAMIN MORGAN.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

For the benefit of mankind I do hereby certify that I was attacked with bleeding at the lungs in the spring of 1828, and from that time, at intervals, I have been from three to eight and ten weeks at a time, throwing up at times from half a pint to a quart, until January 1835, when it commenced again and continued twenty weeks. In the course of which time I applied to *eight* regular physicians, followed their advice at a very great expense, without any change for the better, and my health fast

declining, being reduced to that degree that it was with difficulty I could go to my chamber without help. At this critical juncture, I was advised by a friend to go to the Thomsonian Infirmary in Boston; but like many others was prejudiced against the institution. In this extreme, believing the old system was the best, until the person above named was satisfied, as I was myself, that I could not continue long without a great change for the better, he told me plainly that it was the only remedy for me, and it was with a great degree of reluctance that I consented to go and try the experiment. Accordingly on the 13th of June I went to the Infirmary under the care of Doct. Andrew Watkins, and on the 14th I took the first course of medicine which checked the bleeding, and in taking four courses more and continuing with the Doctor eleven days he effected a complete cure. I then returned home and have been able to attend to my work ever since, and am at this time in the enjoyment of as good health as I have been this last fifteen years. Setting prejudice aside I can cheerfully recommend this system of medicine to all who may be afflicted with a similar complaint. I am fully convinced of its efficacy to cure any disorder which the human family is heir to. At the Infirmary I was an eye-witness of its effects upon some of the most desperate cases which had been given over by the regular order of physicians, and as Doct. Watkins has now established an Infirmary in Dover, N. H., on an eligible and beautiful situation, to which he will attend himself, I would advise any one laboring under disease of body, to call and try the experiment, when I firmly believe they will receive assistance, if it can be obtained this side of the grave.

THOMAS HOUGH.

Dover, September 28, 1835.

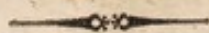
Boston, August 24, 1835.

DOCT. ANDREW WATKINS,

Dear Sir—I wish to express my acknowledgements to you, for your kind treatment of me while an invalid at your Infirmary. You will recollect that in May and June last, I came to your house with rheumatic gout, and was for some days so *entirely helpless*, as to oblige you, and your assistant, Mr. Clark, not only to undress

and dress me, but also to help me in bed, and even out of it. After a fortnight, I was able to walk, having received four courses of your medicine in four weeks. I started on a journey of several hundred miles; and I can say with truth, I have not been so well for *many months*, as since leaving your house. Yours, truly,

DANIEL BAXTER, JR.



The proprietor of the Infirmary in Dover N. H., hereby tenders his grateful thanks to the various individuals, both ladies and gentlemen, who have furnished him with certificates of the remarkable cures he has effected on their persons, at his Infirmary in Boston. That such persons, in many instances, should come forward and offer their spontaneous tribute in favor of the Thomsonian Medical Practice, in the face of the prejudices of mankind against the same, is evidence, both of their independence of mind and magnanimity of soul. The services thus rendered the presiding individual over said Establishment, has therefore acquired an additional value in his consideration, which can never be obliterated from his remembrance.

A. W.

For further particulars of the following additional cases, I refer the reader to the individuals themselves.

George Page, South Boston, Mass. was violently attacked with bilious cholick—warned by his physicians that a repetition of it would terminate his existence, was brought to my Infirmary at six o'clock in the evening—took one course of medicine—staid over night, and returned home the next morning cured.

Mrs. Elliot, No. 16, Pine Street, Boston, Mass.—in June 1834, was subject to Hysterick fits which caused temporary mental alienation, and wholly deranged the nervous system—took one course of medicine—received great benefit—took a second, was completely cured, and has experienced no return of her former complaints.

Elena Crane, No. 20, Avery Street, Boston, Mass. Dispepsia and Hip-Complaint of many years standing—so weak could scarcely get up stairs—cured after taking three or four courses.

Mrs. Reynalds, at Mr. Marsh's, Front Street, Boston Mass.—was afflicted with Erysipilus and violent fever. Though prejudiced against the botanical remedies was induced after much persuasion to try them—cured in three courses.

Capt. John Savage, Salem Street, Boston, Mass.—Much debilitated from the West India disorder, so called obliged to abandon his ship and apply to the Faculty for relief—found none—took one course which relieved him beyond his expectations—repeated the same and was cured and joined his ship eight days after the first application.

Mrs. Abigail Carter, Manchester Mass.—Greviously afflicted with the Asthma for seven or eight years. At times she could not lie in her bed. She consulted me, but I gave her no encouragement. She however took the medicine in *full faith*, and to the astonishment of herself and friends was restored to sound health.

Mr. Henry Nichols, Warren Street, Boston, Mass. Consumption—much stuffed, no appetite, and was unable to attend to business though light, being that of engraving—lost a brother and sister a few days before, his father consulted me in relation to his health. The doctors who attended his brother and sister said he was going in the same way—cured in one or two courses.

Thomas Bradlee, India Rubber Factory, Roxbury, Mass.—Severe and extraordinary pain in the head and over the eyes which caused general prostration of strength—cured in one course, and has had no return of his complaints, though 12 months has elapsed since he was first afflicted with them.

George Baily, at the Steam Factory, Portsmouth, N. H.—Was afflicted with scrofula and sore legs—had been under the care of several eminent physicians but obtained no relief from them—was cured in three weeks.

Stephen Gore—refer to Mrs. Holland, Beach Street, Boston, Mass.—An aged man 57 years years old. In the fall of 1833 came to the Infirmary stone blind—could not discern light from darkness—found no relief at the eye Infirmary—was led about the street by a boy. He was otherwise sick—advised to apply to me by his sister; he did so, and after taking three courses was able to see objects with one eye, and after taking five more, could read the finest print without spectacles, which he had used for many years.

To the foregoing, may be added the following long list of complaints, embracing those of all denominations, in the dark catalogue of human diseases; of which patients have been cured at my Infirmary, in Boston, and which include every disorder that afflicts the human race:

Consumption,
Malignant, Asiatic Cholera, and other species,
Weak Eyes and Total Blindness,
Scorbutic, Scroffula and Cancerous Affections,
Dispepsia,
Jaundice,
Bleeding at the Lungs,
Liver Complaint,
Gout,
Rheumatick Affections,
Hip Complaints,
Venercal,
Hydrophobia.

In the course of perusing this volume, the reader will observe, that it is a doctrine laid down by the founder of this System, that what are called fevers, of all kinds, are considered too *ephemeral*, for any very serious consideration, being a class of disorders that yield at once to the salubrious treatment of Thomsonism; and under the administration of a minor quantity of medicine, provided application be made in season by the patient on

the first appearance of their symptoms. It is, therefore, unnecessary to detail the different species of this distemper that we have cured, but merely in a word, to say, that all embraced in the entire nomenclature, when subjected to the action of the Botanical remedies, are speedily expelled from the human frame. If the reader be still incredulous, on the point, after this statement, if he will be good enough to apply at our Infirmary, evidence shall be furnished, which will remove the most inveterate skepticism.

EXTRACTS

AND

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

IMPOSTURE UNMASKED.

In the life of Doct. Samuel Thompson it is related that several years since a Mr. Holman of Portsmouth, N. H. whom he had cured of a consumption, wished to become an agent of the Doctor's. But he refused to have any thing to do with him in consequence of certain conduct which displeased him. Yet Holman persisted in practicing, and in eighteen months had seriously effected the credit of the Thomsonian system of practice. Doctor Thompson says, "I had good reason to believe that Holman was employed by my enemies to break me up in this place and destroy the credit of my medicine, for when I was absent I ascertained, that he gave *salt-petre* and other poisons, under pretence that by giving it the night before it would prepare the stomach for my medicine to be taken in the morning. This was like preparing over night to build a fire in the morning by filling the fire-place with snow and ice. After preparing the stomach in this way, the medicine would have no beneficial effects, and he then would place the patients over the steam, which caused them to faint. In this way he

proved that my mode of practice was bad, and thus used his influence to destroy the credit of my medicines. This practice turned out unsuccessful, and he lost many of his patients. He had lost more in six months, than I had in six years, which I imputed entirely to his bad conduct." He then proceeds further to state that he instituted a strict examination into Holman's medical practice; that he discovered that under his name he had been in the habit of secretly administering to his patients salt-petre, opium and other poisons, and that in consequence thereof he called a meeting of the Society for whom Holman acted as agent—who being satisfied of his base conduct, dismissed him from their employment. Now in a pompous advertisement published in the Dover Gazette of August the 4th last, by one Reuben Whitcher, under the head of Thomson Infirmary, after carrying the idea nearly through the same, that he is a pure Thomsonian, he says towards the close, that "his Medicines are of the first quality, mostly being selected and prepared by one of the oldest and most approved Botanic Physicians in the State, Dr. Charles Holman of Portsmouth, with whom he has contracted for his supply." Look at the deception thus practiced on the public! Whitcher a Botanic physician and having his medicines of Holman, a man some years ago proved to be a quack doctor and expelled from the fellowship of the Thomsonian Society in consequence thereof! We are authorized by Doct. S. Thomson to say that he does not know said Whitcher—that he has no authority to use his name nor any right to practice on his discoveries. As to Holman he keeps in his establishment mineral drugs which he compounds with the Botanical, and administers and sells to the people, and thus derives a profit by sacrificing the credit of the Thomsonian system. To destroy this,—such has always been the plan of operations pursued by its opponents. They mingle together the discordant materials of mineral and vegetable drugs, which cause the most pernicious effects on the human system. Let those persons who wish the pure Thomsonian medicine avoid not only the Apothecary but the shops of all trespassers on the rights of Doct. Samuel Thomson. A. W.

To show the popularity of the Thomsonian system of medical practice in the metropolis of Massachusetts the following communication, which appeared in the Boston Evening Gazette, edited by W. W. Clapp, Esq. is here inserted.

A. W.

DR. WATKINS' THOMSONIAN INFIRMARY.

Any thing which contributes to the amount of human happiness on the one hand, or subtracts from the sum of the miseries of our race on the other, is worthy of consideration, and should meet with encouragement, whether it be of ancient or modern date; whether it originated in schools of learning and philosophy, or was born in regions where the rays of science never beamed; in short, whether it be the fruit of scholastic research, or the production of the unlettered man. The preceding reflections were suggested while reading, in the public prints, an advertisement of Andrew Watkins, Botanic Physician, and a Thomsonian practitioner, who has recently opened an Infirmary for healing the sick, in Harvard Street. Not being blinded with admiration for old systems, but having some curiosity to become acquainted with new ones, we were induced to visit the proprietor of the institution above, for the purpose of procuring such information. The intelligence he communicated was alike pleasing and surprising. The utility of this system was proved by the best of human testimony, demonstrative certainty; cures having been performed by him on those whose inflexible diseases resisted the ordinary remedies. Facts being stubborn things, compare by their test the results of the Thomsonian mode of operating, with the fashionable plan of treating distempers; and add to the same, proof that well authenticated documents show the latter practice has spread with unprecedented celerity in our country, having in some of the western States, especially in that of Ohio, almost supplanted the former, and whatsoever prejudice the reader may have before entertained against the botanic theories, such bias will break down before the light of truth, and he will become a convert to the doctrines of this system, the introduction of which has formed an epoch in the history of medical science; having in store unnumbered blessings for mankind.

MANY.

The subjoined discussion on the properties of the emetic herb, Lobelia, was caused in consequence of the following extract from a letter of a medical friend sent to the Editor of the New England Galaxy, John Neal, Esq. a gentleman of celebrated literary attainments and elevated moral principles. It will be perceived that whenever the faculty think proper to allude to the Thomsonian system of practice, they do so in the language of railery and reproach.

From the New England Galaxy of March 7, 1835, published in Boston.

LOBELIA.

A medical friend, who is very much in the habit of thinking for himself—ay, and of saying what he thinks, too—writes as follows in relation to what we said the other day about this troublesome plant.

‘Now for Lobelia!!! When I came to that, as Jack Downing would say, *I haw hawed right out*. When did you take your first degree in Thomsonianism? You had better take a trip to Quoddy for your second; for there they have a Thomson Doctor, who from a servant less than twenty years ago, is now worth \$10,000, and half the people eat and drink ‘*hot crop*,’ (that is the name there,) as they do their daily food; and Lobelia-emetics, or ‘Screw-augers, as they are universally called there, are swallowed with as much *nonchalance* as a glass of grog. (Pity our friend *writes* French—as most people do where it isn’t wanted—instead of talking it, *where it is*.) You could get some new ideas on the ‘wonderful properties’ of Lobelia wherewith to enlighten your readers, *and the profession*. Ex. Gr. Taken one hour after dinner, if the stomach be ‘*foul*,’ it will evacuate it entirely of its foul contents, and leave the dinner undisturbed! All true disciples of the hot-crop faith believe it, as they do the Gospel. Facts like these I will give you a bushel of, if you will come and get them. Seriously, however, Lobelia is nothing extraordinary. It is a most powerful emetic and narcotic, a good expectorant, and invaluable in asthma, (And so in Hydrophobia—say the disciples of Thomson.) It is no more fitted for common use than arsenic or prussic acid. *Every little while cases of death*

produced by it come to my knowledge. (Now, from our knowledge of the writer, we are willing to vouch *for the truth of all he says.* These are the facts we wanted. Give us the names and we'll try to persuade the good folks to '*cleanse their foul bosoms*' of the perilous stuff,—ay, and do our best '*to minister to minds diseased,*' if possible.) One occurred not two months ago. That is, the patients are ailing, but not very sick; they take the Lobelia; it doesn't operate as an *emetic* (for occasionally it will not) it does act as a *narcotic*, and in half a dozen hours *death follows.* It is death by *poisoning*, and none but the ignorant or strongly prejudiced will deny it.'

On the appearance of the above article I published in a subsequent paper the following:

COMMUNICATION.

In the New England Galaxy of last Saturday, March 7th, there appeared an article under the title of *Lobelia*, which seemed to be written by a correspondent. The writer states therein that this medicine is a deadly poison, and he intimates rather boldly, that cases of death from its use are of frequent occurrence. As this is a medicine which forms one of the principal ingredients in the compound of Dr. Samuel Thomson, and is used by *all Thomsonsians*, and as the assertion, if left unnoticed, might prove prejudicial to their practice, I deem it proper for one, from a sense of duty to myself, and to them, to challenge the correspondent to produce a single instance out of the hundreds of thousands, yes, hundreds of thousands of persons who have taken this medicine, embracing patients of both sexes, and of all ages, and of all disorders, from the time of its introduction, in the year 1790, or thereabouts, by Dr. Saml. Thomson, where death ensued in consequence.

ANDREW WATKINS,

Proprietor of the Harvard Street Infirmary, and Agent of Dr. Samuel Thomson, and one who is very much in the habit of thinking for himself, as well as the writer under the head of Lobelia. And I think that he is one of the Faculty who (generally) know nothing of the properties of the article Lobelia, or he is very much prejudiced.

Question for the Correspondent.—If there be 10,000 inhabitants in Quoddy who daily swallow Lobelia with as much non-chalance as they do a glass of grog, this drug being a "*deadly poison*," how long a time would it take to sweep into the grave the entire population?

No reply was made to the above, but a champion of our cause, came out in the *Galaxy* of 28th March the same month, with the article prefixed that embraces the whole ground of controversy.

LOBELIA.

We give the following a place with great pleasure— notwithstanding its length; but in justice to the 'Medical friend,' referred to, we beg it may be understood that his letter on the subject of Lobelia, was probably not intended for publication, though knowing him and his exalted character, we did not scruple to publish it. And again, although we called for *names*, we could hardly hope to find *any physician* bold enough to comply with our request, where the consequences might involve him in endless litigation. Nor do we apprehend that he will be likely to accept the offer of 'A Thomsonian,' though, by the help of the *Fire King* he might do so with impunity, even if the *proportions* were agreed upon, which the Lobelia should bear to the Prussic Acid or Arsenic. But, though he may do neither of these things, we will answer for his dealing fairly with the subject. N.

P. S. Tobacco and Alcohol are poisons, but that does not hinder people from taking them every day.

Written for the New England Galaxy.

LOBELIA.

'Fiat Justitia ruat Cælum,'

Is a common maxim often quoted but seldom observed by mankind in their relations with each other; and that other one, though less elegant in phraseology and less classical, is as often cited, but equally neglected, to wit, 'Tell the truth and shame the Devil.' And just and obvious as both these propositions are, they are not invariably observed among Editors and those who contribute

for their columns, whose duty it is to follow them strictly, inasmuch, as they assume to guide public opinion, by diffusing correct information throughout the community. We trust, however, Messrs. Editors, that you are an exception to these remarks. From your known impartiality as conductors of a public journal, we believe it to be your independent determination to hold the scales of justice even, on a question to which there are two sides;—that having admitted in your paper an *ex parte* statement, which, if passed over in silence might greatly prejudice the rights of the party about whom it is made, you are willing and even desirous to open your columns in reply to the other side. It is too often the case that the opponents of a system of science (especially that of the *Materia Medica*, in which it is admitted there exists great defects, and who have introduced another, which is manifestly salutary in its operations in the community, are ridiculed without stint or measure. And this derision and hostility increases and is lavished on them in proportion as their new system and its adherents become popular and as it spreads over the country. It is thus with the Faculty in reference to the Thomsonian System. As its simple and salutary principles become better and more understood—as like the sun of righteousness, with healing in their wings, they expand themselves through society, restoring to pristine health the languishing and the sick; subduing disease in all its forms,—checking that ‘Pestilence which stalked abroad at noonday;’* and every where overcoming the enemy of our race; without regard to charity or consistency it is attacked and condemned with an exceeding degree of bitter asperity, both by the erudite disciples of Æsculapius and by some of less scientific pretensions—though the better judgment and research of the first men must teach them that there is no foundation for such assaults. There are noble exceptions, however, among the class here alluded to, to these remarks. Some have honorably exerted themselves in oral and written eulogies in our favor. To them, of

* Well authenticated documents show that since the last Botanical Convention, in October, 1834, in the town of Petersburg, Va. Dr. Tripley T. Estes, cured sixty persons of Malignant Asiatic Cholera, by the botanical remedies, when all other medicine had proved unavailing, without the loss of a patient; and as many more have also been cured of the same disease in Norfolk, Va.

course, these observations do not apply. They are indeed worthy of all praise for the candor and justice they have exhibited. But these choice spirits, like Angels' visits, 'few and far between,' stand like light-houses on the coast of the Thomsonian System, at fearful and distressing distances, and are incompetent to breast the opposition which comes from the mass of their professional brethren, their voices being lost in the roar of the torrent which proceeds from the quarter in question. To enter the field to contend with an anonymous writer places one of the parties in the dilemma of the soldier surprised in an ambuscade, himself a fair mark for the concealed antagonist, while the open assailant, though well charged with ammunition is at a loss to what point to direct his attack. Still, truth being our object we are willing to defend it, on any ground and under any circumstances whatsoever. Our object is to disabuse the public mind of the false impressions the statement of your medical friend is calculated to make upon it. Because an error promulgated from a respectable source (and the profession to which he belongs implies that it proceeds from such) has a tendency to produce more mischief than one coming from a disreputable quarter.

We think then, that your 'medical friend' either knows nothing of the properties of the *Lobelia*, or that he has strangely misrepresented its effects, or if neither of these propositions be correct, then he wrote the letter in question through the spectacles of his medical degree, and could therefore discern nothing but death and destruction in the Thomsonian remedies.—Be this as it may, however, the article is a compound of ridicule and falsehood—the last resort of defeated partizans in any cause whatsoever. It is a poor attempt at wit, and a yet more wretched one at argument. Indeed if he aimed at this last, and it is to be taken in such a sense to put down the Botanical remedies, he most unaccountably perverts the first principles of reasoning, the deductions from his premises being somewhat similar to the last clauses in a sentence of a cross reading, being a perfect non-sequiter, Ex. Gr. "It is a most powerful emetic and narcotic and *invaluable* in Asthma. Half the people in Quoddy eat and drink it as they do their daily food, Lobelia emetics being swallowed there with as much nonchalance as a glass of

greg, and a Thomson Doctor in the place having made \$10,000 by the practice; therefore it is death by poisoning, for in half a dozen hours after it is taken death follows." Take the statement of the medical friend and put it into the syllogistic form, and it will be found that the above is precisely the conclusion from his argument. Were the great father of the art of reasoning, Aristotle, himself alive, who consumed much time to reduce arguments into syllogisms, he would turn pale at the above specimen of the perversion of the science. The advocates of the botanical practice would not wish better premises than those stated by your medical friend to establish the efficacy of their medicines. The deductions of course would be different—such only as would be in accordance with common sense. They would state the syllogism somewhat in the following, varying a little the term. It is a most powerful emetic, and invaluable in cases of Asthma and *all* other diseases. Thousands of persons in the United States use it in various complaints with which they are afflicted, and soon become cured in consequence. Those physicians who administer it for a livelihood, acquire fortunes thereby, therefore it is an invaluable medicine, because a plant thus capable of producing these good effects is indeed precious.

Thus much as to the ludicrous part of the article of your medical friend. We pass this over and come to the period where he begins to be serious. And from that to the close of the paragraph he deliberately states it to be his conviction that Lobelia is a deadly poison, and that death follows its use in several instances. Now these expressions impart a very grave aspect to the subject. The statement made here becomes serious indeed; and it involves several very serious considerations. He has placed himself in a very serious attitude, and the public at large are very seriously interested in this matter. The Thomsonians are by this language seriously called on to answer the charge. The medical friend has involved himself in certain liabilities and duties from which he cannot escape unless he be honorably discharged. In the words of the Editor of the Galaxy: "These are the facts we wanted. Give us names." And it is his duty to himself, to you, and to the world at large to disclose

the names of the persons who have thus perished by using this plant from the hands of the Thomsonian physicians. Why? Because, unless he does so, he involves himself in the liability to which we have adverted, and because also he is doing the community injustice in not warning them against these destroyers of human life. And first respecting the liabilities of the parties concerned. If the Thomsonians are thus using the Lobelia which constitutes one ingredient in the compound of Doctor Samuel Thomson, and is a general medicine given by them on all occasions (the same as the mineral antidotes by the regular physicians) they ought to know its innate properties as well as its effects upon the human constitution. These they could discover by its operations thereon. If it produces death, they thence must infer it to be poison. If after such discovery they continue to use it, they do so rashly, and thereby subject themselves to a criminal prosecution, or at least to a civil action in damages for all the evil that results from such practice.

If on the other hand this drug on chemical analysis does not turn out to be poison, but a safe and efficacious remedy, then the publication of the remarks of the medical friend, inasmuch as they tend to prejudice the reputation and rights of the botanical practitioners, are a libel, and they have their remedy in a civil action to recover damages in satisfaction for the injury thus sustained. Whether or not the foregoing be in substance good law we leave to legal gentlemen to decide. But had they this claim they would not avail themselves of it. They do not wish to promote litigation, war and misery among mankind, but on the other hand to augment their peace and happiness. Their cause will be sustained, as it always has been by facts, reason and argument, and by the positive good it has done and will continue to do in all coming time. When called on to defend it, they will wield only these weapons, leaving to others abuse, ridicule, and bitter invective. Let us now state a few facts leaving the reader to deduce his own inferences therefrom. We deny unqualifiedly the assertion that Lobelia is a poison and produces death. On this part of the subject let us distinctly be understood. There is a wide difference between the moderate and judicious use of a drug, and its improper use, and its effects when taken in the stomach will be

according to its judicious use or otherwise. Does not every body know that bread, which is the staff of life, may be eaten in such immoderate quantities as to produce a surfeit whereby death would soon result. And should we hence infer that bread is a poison? We might indeed with the same propriety as that—because death ensued after the use of Lobelia, which if it ever did must have been through its injudicious administration. Such an inference would constitute the familiar sophism called *non causa pro causa*, or the assignation of a false cause. Our position then is this, which is perfectly tenable, that Lobelia in its innate property is as free of poison as wheat itself. And this was shown after a scrutinizing examination of its qualities by several profound leading members of the medical association who were witnesses in that celebrated trial of Dr. Samuel Thomson for murder, which came before the Supreme Court in the county of Essex, in Massachusetts, in 1809, at which Chief Justice Parsons presided, and before whom the Defendant was triumphantly acquitted, the prosecution being unprecedented for cruelty, and which was a disgrace to the age and to the agents through whose instrumentality it was gotten up. Among the witnesses called in behalf of the Commonwealth to prove Lobelia to be a poisonous drug, was Dr. French of Salisbury, who under oath testified that this plant was well known in his part of the country for its emetic qualities, but he said nothing about its being a poison. Rev. Dr. Cutler stated it be the Lobelia Inflata of Linnæus, a powerful emetic and an invaluable one; and in a paper communicated by him afterwards, he made honorable mention of it by the name of Lobelia Medica. Dr. Drury, of Marblehead, testified that he had been afflicted with the Asthma, from which he was completely relieved, by taking a tincture of Lobelia, which had never returned. Here then we have the evidence of three physicians, summoned as witnesses to destroy the founder of the Thomsonian system, being no ways friendly to it; not only not proving the plant to be poison, but on the other hand, an invaluable medicine. Interested as they were, (and as the Faculty generally are,) in prostrating this system, would they not have done so provided there had been a particle of poison in the drug? This plant has also been subjected to the ex-

amination of Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, Professor of Materia Medica in Harvard College, who pronounces it to be a valuable medicine; and in a late communication which was published in the Boston Courier, recommends its use, and hints that the botanical will in time supplant the mineral remedies. And other individuals belonging to his profession, it is well known, have also made similar suggestions. Soon after the prosecution to which we have adverted, the botanical practice increased so rapidly, that its proprietor was induced to apply to the government for a Patent. He therefore put his materials in form, reduced the whole into a regular system, and obtained from the department at Washington, Letters Patent for the whole of his discoveries in medicine. In the schedule prefixed to these Letters Patent, is a minute description of the articles which compose his compound, and of the manner of administering the same. Among the ingredients, Lobelia constitutes no small part of the combination. Now we suggest, had this plant contained poison, whether or not it was the duty of the magistrates to patent it. Yet they did so, and what has been the result? Immediately after procuring these Letters Patent, Dr. Thomson established agents in different States of the Union, by authorizing them to practice in accordance to the rules laid down in his Guide to Health, and the spread of such practice has been unparalleled in the history of discoveries and improvements of medical science. In the Southern and Western portions of our country, there are every where instituted Friendly Botanical Societies, who are extending the Thomsonian principle in all directions. In the middle States, New York and Pennsylvania, it is likewise rapidly advancing. And in the Northern States it is also increasing with great celerity. There have been several United States Botanical Conventions holden in the country, composed of delegates sent to them, from the different Societies to which we have alluded. The first met at Columbus, Ohio, in December, 1832. The second, at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in October, 1833. The third, at Baltimore, Md. 1834. Before these Conventions facts and authenticated documents were submitted, showing the advance of the cause in question. Even in Massachusetts, Infirmaries are springing up in all directions. In

its metropolis there are several, who daily rescue from the grave many abandoned to their supposed incurable distempers. They daily go into these Infirmaries with constitutions shattered and broken down by disease and the use of mineral medicine, admonished from these facts that their cases are almost hopeless. Yet, reader, by the use of this very Lobelia, this "deadly poison," the bane and antidote are both driven from the system, and in a short time they are completely restored to health. Does the "medical friend" doubt this? Does he deny it? Let him not take our assertion, but let him consult the individuals themselves. Their certificates of cures are daily published, with references where they may be found. They are with us, about us, and among us, walking our streets, pursuing their daily avocations in peace and happiness. Let him go to them and he will learn from their own lips, that they sought relief when all hope had failed, and found a perfect cure for their maladies. He will likewise learn that we have not overestimated the value of the botanical remedies, but that in relation to them, we have strictly written the words of truth and soberness.

In conclusion. Your medical friend having very gravely asserted that Lobelia is no more fitted for common use than "arsenic or prussic acid," we wish to inquire of him, 1st. Whether he believes what he states; and 2d. Is he willing to risk his money with his judgment, on the truth of this assertion; if so, in what sum? Will he risk it in a forfeiture from one to ten thousand dollars? We thus tender him this challenge, whereby both parties will have an opportunity to test the truth of his statement. We will take four grains of Lobelia to his one of Prussic Acid or Arsenic, and repeat the dose as often as he chooses. This course we believe will prove to be the only one whereby a correct test of the effects of the two medicines may be had. If he accepts the foregoing proposition, he will be good enough to report to this office the time when, and the place where the experiment may be tried, and we will meet him in *propria personæ*, and make the necessary arrangements to carry the same into effect.

A THOMSONIAN.

Although the foregoing calls on the "Medical Friend" by myself and "A Thomsonian," were not responded to, by the former individual, yet the discussion has produced beneficial results to our cause. The slanderer has been overthrown in the controversy, and the press hitherto closed against us, has opened its columns in our behalf, which is a cheering harbinger of our final triumph. Mr. NEAL, also, in making the *amende honorable*, by the insertion of our replies to the "Medical Friend" has exhibited feelings highly honorable to his heart, and he is now, it is believed, a convert to our doctrines. The reader is requested to give the whole discussion a careful perusal.

A. W.

The following is the challenge alluded to in my address, which I proposed to the Faculty of Massachusetts, and which has appeared in the Boston papers a number of months past, without being noticed by them. Confident in the truth of the facts therein set forth, and being desirous of testing the experiment there expressed, I now tender respectfully, the same to the Faculty of New Hampshire.

A. W.

FROM 1000 TO 10,000 DOLLARS REWARD.

WHEREAS, during the eighteen months practice of the Subscriber, on the Thomsonian principle, at his Infirmary for healing the sick, in Harvard Street, in Boston, under the patronage of Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, the Father of said system—out of the twenty years acquaintance he has had with the same, he has had several hundred cases of disease under his care, of that character with which mankind are generally afflicted, the patients being of all ages, from the infant to the aged man, a great portion of whom have been cured, and generally all benefitted, not one having died under his care at the Infirmary; and whereas the foregoing facts ought of themselves alone, in all free, inquiring minds, completely to establish the superior efficacy of the Botanical remedies of Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, (not Benja. Thompson, of Concord,

N. H. or Jesse Thompson,* of Mt. Vernon Infirmary,) over those of any other known medical system, whether the same be of ancient or modern date, even apart from a body of evidence that can be adduced from living witnesses, certificates and other documents, showing the progress and extent of this system, which is fast spreading over the United States; which facts have constrained many of the leading members of the Faculty, among whom are the venerable and scientific Doctors Waterhouse and Ingalls, to throw off the trammels of prejudice, and bear honorable testimony in favor of this practice.

Now, therefore, the Subscriber hereby proposes and offers to the government of the Massachusetts General Hospital, or to any other Medical Institution established in Massachusetts, under the superintendence of the most popular and skilful physicians, to take one half of any number of patients that may apply for admission in said hospital, and remove the same to his Infirmary; and he will pledge himself under a forfeiture of from *ONE to TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS*, to effect more cures in less than half the time that the Faculty may consume on the other portion left in the hospital.

Should this offer be accepted, the undersigned will give satisfactory security to pay the aforesaid sum or sums of money, in case he incurs the forfeiture, and shall expect the Faculty to do the same.

ANDREW WATKINS,

Botanic Physician.

Pure unadulterated Vegetable Medicine, prepared by Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, himself; Family Rights; Robinson's Lectures, &c. for Sale.

Copy of a letter from Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, formerly Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Physic, in Cambridge University, to the late Samuel L. Mitchell, of New York.

CAMBRIDGE, DEC. 19, 1825.

My Dear Sir—Mr., alias Doct. Samuel Thomson, who has the honor of introducing the valuable *Lobelia* to use, and fully proved its efficacy and safety, will de-

* It will be observed that the orthography in the names of the individuals is different, there being *p* in this name, which is omitted in that of Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, the original inventor and exclusive Patentee, and Father of the System. This is not named to prejudice the public against any man; but only in justice to the Father of the Thomsonian System of Medical Practice. Benjamin and Jesse Thompson are merely agents of Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, the same as myself.

liver you this. He has cured and relieved many of disorders, which others could not, without being a regular diplomatized physician, and dared to be a republican in a hot bed of federalism ; for which he has been shamefully ill-treated, even to persecution.

I have aided and assisted Thomson, from a firm belief that his novel practice has been beneficial to numbers, and that it may be placed among improvements. If he be a quack, he is a quack *sui generis*, for he proclaims his mode and means. Had John Hunter, whom I well knew, been born and bred where Samuel Thomson was, he would have been just such another man ; and had S. T. been thrown into the same society and associations as J. H., he would, in my opinion, have been his equal, with probably a wider range of thought ! But both men of talents, and originality of thought.

I am, indeed, so disgusted with learned quackery, that I take some interest in honest, humane and strong-minded empiricism ; for it has done more for our art, in all ages and in all countries, than all the universities since the time of Charlemagne. Where, for goodness sake, did Hippocrates study ? Air, earth and water ; man, and his kindred vegetable ; disease and death, and all casualties and concomitants of humanity, were the pages he studied ; every thing that surrounds and nourishes us, were the objects of his attention and study. In a word, he read diligently and sagaciously the *Great Book of Nature*, as Thomson has, instead of the little books of man.

How came your Legislature to pass so unconstitutional an act as that called the *anti-quack* law ? such as the Parliament of England would hardly have ventured on ? *for who will define quackery ?* Were I sufficiently acquainted with your excellent Governor Clinton, I would write to him on the subject. You New Yorkers are half a century behind us in *Theological science*, but your quack bill looks as if you halted also in physic.

By what I have seen and learnt of Mr. Thomson, I wish him success, and the notice of the eminent and the liberal in the profession, and with this view, I give him this rapidly-written letter to Dr. Mitchell, and am, with a high degree of esteem and respect, his steady friend,

BENJ. WATERHOUSE.

Extract of a letter written by Dr. Hersey, of Columbus, Ohio, to Dr. John Thomson, of Albany, N. Y.

"I have been more than forty years engaged in the regular practice of medicine. I was a surgeon during the last war, in the army of the United States. I was one of the founders of the Western Medical Society of Pennsylvania, and also am a member of the Medical Society of the State of Ohio. My practice has been extensive, my experience and opportunity for observation has seldom been exceeded, but I venture to pledge myself upon all I hold sacred and valuable in the profession, that in my estimation, the discoveries made by your honored father, (Samuel Thomson,) have a decided preference, and stand unrivalled by all that bears the stamp of ancient or modern skill."

T. HERSEY.

The following extract is from a letter dated Liberty Hill, Kershaw District, S. C. Feb. 11, 1832. It is from the pen of the talented patriotic Statesman and Physician, Dr. Robert D. Montgomery. It was originally addressed to the Rev. Wm. Carlisle. The contents of the letter have been forwarded to us by R. Ferriss, Esq. of Winsborough, enclosed in a communication bearing date October 19, 1832.

Mr. Carlisle prefaces the letter by the following remarks: "The circumstances that gave rise to the publication of the following letter, were these. Dr. Montgomery applied to me for a Thomsonian Family Right, he pledged himself to report his opinion of the system as soon as he should have an opportunity of fairly testing it. A request being sent to him by the Thomsonians for that purpose. The following letter is his reply;" after an interesting detail of his patriotism and public services, in conclusion he adds, "suffice it to say that Dr. Montgomery's opinion of any system is of more importance than the opinion of a thousand self-interested physicians, whose object is to keep the people in ignorance of the nature of disease, and consequently of the mode and manner of performing cures." The following is the letter referred to.

GENTLEMEN—I received your letter on the 10th ult. and on the evening it came to hand, was severely attacked with the cholera morbus, which prevented a more early answer. You requested my opinion on the Thomsonian practice of medicine, and inquire something concerning my medical studies, previous to my adopting the botanic practice. I will, with pleasure, endeavor to satisfy your inquiries, in as brief a manner as I am able. It will, perhaps, be the most satisfactory course to give a short history of my medical life, then my reasons for adopting the new practice may appear in a more convincing light. After I had finished my collegiate education in the years 1794, '95 and '96, I proceeded to the study of medicine in Columbia, S. C. under the tuition of Drs. Montgomery and Henricks, both students of the Rusheon school. After this, I attended the medical lectures in Philadelphia, given by Drs. Shepper, Rush, Woodhouse and Barton. Having attended the regular course of lectures under these professors, they adjudged me entitled to a diploma, for my medical knowledge, yet it was contrary to the rules of the institution, to give me one, unless I went through another course; my finances would not admit of it at that time, and I never obtained a diploma. After my return from Philadelphia, I fell immediately into practice, but quickly found, that the *theory*, however beautiful it might appear, would by no means agree with the practice. I entered the practice with all the ardor that it is possible for any young physician to possess. Every leisure moment was employed in perfecting my knowledge of the science of medicine; and I flattered myself that I was as successful in my practice, as my cotemporaries; my prospects were flattering and my practice lucrative for fourteen or fifteen years. I then became wearied of the practice, and during the latter part of my time, have given it over, unless constrained by the entreaties of a friend. I could do no better than to pity their distress. You would here inquire, what it was that could induce me to relinquish a gainful practice, and adopt a system of yesterday; to leave the old beaten track, for one newly opened? I answer, because the marks to point out the way to proceed, in the old practice, were fallacious and not to be depended on when life was at stake.

Here I would candidly ask the candid physician, if he has not often been deceived, in the symptoms of disease, when flattering himself with the prospect of the speedy recovery of his patient, when he left him, perhaps at evening; the next visit, perhaps the next morning, found him breathing his last? you beheld him surrounded by weeping friends, because they viewed him departing to his long home. In such circumstances, humanity sickens and anxiously inquires, "is there no relief from disease and premature death?" The answer is to be found in the Botanic practice. But, is this practice infallible? Does it never fail? Yes, it may fail, has failed, and will fail, in a number of cases. It has and will fail, of course, when the vital spark is nearly extinct, when the powers of life are destroyed by disease, or when the condition of the patient is such that there is not any thing remaining for the medicine to act upon. Medicine cannot act on a dead body, though it be ever so active. At such a crisis, this practice, as every other, will most assuredly fail; yet, in the midst of all these failures, the new practice will have a decided superiority over every other mode of cure yet known by man. I find by experience in my family, and among my friends, who have used the medicine as directed, that in fevers, it generally relieves the patient in twenty-four hours, and often in less time. A number of cases in my own family, that have been as violent as any under the old practice, which required three or four weeks, before they were able to leave their bed, yet by the Thomsonian practice, these have been relieved in the short time already stated. This practice, under my direction, has triumphed over an ascites, or dropsy of the abdomen, in which the old practice had labored in vain. The bite of a rattle-snake, on one of the family, accompanied with violent pain, was freed from all pain in less than ten minutes, and the swelling of the foot and leg was but trifling. In myself, a violent attack of rheumatism and cholera morbus, both yielded to the botanic applications. Another fact is worthy of notice; your patient does not suffer the great debility, by a course of the new practice, that commonly takes place in the old. The natural functions are soon restored to their former vigor. The patient forgets that he was sick. Do you wish me to account for this? It is easily

done; there is not that prostration of strength by depleting remedies in the new, as in the old practice. Another reason why the same degree of debility is not induced is, that the medicine used is in harmony with the powers of life; hence it is, that, after the operation of the Thomsonian remedies, the patient feels invigorated and cheerful. One other fact which gives the new a decided advantage over the old practice is, that the remedies are the same in all cases that can possibly occur, the object is uniform, viz: The restoration of the natural heat as it is a primitive vital property, hence the practicing physician, acting with any tolerable degree of common discretion, cannot err materially in administering the remedies. He is not liable to do any irreparable injury to his patient. This is not the case with the old practice. How often have we witnessed with grief, the baneful effects of medicine on the constitution of the patient? Where is the physician that will not acknowledge that his medicine has often operated in a different manner than he had expected, and that his patient was worse from the use thereof.

A Brown, a Rush, and others have declared firmly in their belief in the unity of disease, and the unity of cure. Dr. Thomson joins them in the belief, and practises precisely on that principle. Away, then, with your thousand diseases, and your thousand remedies, and adopt that system of practice that is both safe and salutary to man.

In conclusion, I would add, another reason which makes the Thomsonian practice valuable, and that is its simplicity, or its plain, natural adaptation to the illiterate, untutored part of the human family. The poor and illiterate, require the attention of the humane and benevolent in all countries, and such are the most numerous class in society. To such, the Thomsonian practice holds out the helping hand, to snatch them from pain and death, and such he invites to a participation of its benefits.

These are some of the considerations which have determined my judgment to the botanic practice of medicine. I am fully confident that whoever will give it a fair trial, will rejoice at the success.

I am, respectfully yours, &c.

ROBERT D. MONTGOMERY.

READ THIS.

HEALTH is a choice treasure, and the most *valuable* one divine goodness hath bestowed on our race ; without it all men are poor, be their possessions what they may.

THE THOMSONIAN INFIRMARY,

No. 23, HARVARD STREET,

Between Washington and Front Street.

A CARD....ANDREW WATKINS, would express his grateful acknowledgements for the liberal patronage received from his friends and the public, in his profession, at the above establishment.

He respectfully solicits a continuance of their favors, and has no doubt of receiving them, when he states that during the time he has administered the Botanical Medicines, on the Thomsonian principle, in Boston, every patient has recovered, although many have come under his care whose maladies have baffled the skill of regular physicians. Twenty years observation of the effect of these remedies, is good authority for him in asserting that they are equally a powerful, searching and gentle antidote for the whole vocabulary of diseases ; and that while on the one hand invalids of strong constitution in the commencement of indisposition must experience almost immediate alleviation ; so on the other, those of feeble strength in the last stages of distemper will receive relief from the application. Such is the safety and mildness of their operation, that sick infants may go through the same, and if no good results, no harm can possibly ensue therefrom. The theory of this system being simple, and the practice free from danger, it commends itself to the unbiassed judgment of the inquirer, and there is no person not linked to old dogmas who has examined it, but must become a proselyte to its principles.

All those complaints recorded under the term Chronic, whether seated in the blood or bone, may be cured in a short space of time, if application is made before taking mineral medicine ; and that other class, less distressing but more fatal, called fevers, of whatever name, type, hue or character, may be driven from the system in forty-eight hours from the application of the medicine, which is about the time it is said fever becomes settled, and must run many days before it comes to a crisis. The proprietor, confident in the truth of the above statement, will effect a turn of any fever within the short period before named, (provided the patient's strength has not become so exhausted by previous drugs and sickness,

that to restore him would require a miracle,) under no less a penalty than a gratuitous expenditure of his time, attention and medicine.

We introduce the above advertisement, which was inserted in the Boston Evening Gazette, for the purpose of convincing the reader that the common received opinion long rooted in the minds of a great proportion of the community, that fevers must run some time before they come to a crisis, is at best mere conjecture, founded neither in truth, nor fact. During our practice on the Botanical principle, we have had numerous cases of *settled* fever as it is called, which we have broken and expelled from the body, in the short space of time described in the foregoing publication. We are aware, that the proposition, that fevers are thus easily and thus speedily cured, to the mass of mankind may seem novel and visionary; but it nevertheless is true. Lest, however we may be called upon for other authority than our own assertions and experience to support it, we insert the following, being the thoughts of Doct. S. Thomson and others, on the subject.

A. W.

REMARKS ON FEVERS.

Much has been said and written upon fevers, by the professed learned Doctors of Medicine, without throwing the most profitable light on the subject, or greatly benefitting mankind. They have been abundantly fruitful in inventing names for disease, and with great care and accuracy distinguished the different symptoms; but they appear quite barren as to a knowledge of their origin and remedy. To the first, but little importance, comparatively speaking, can be attached; the latter is of the highest importance to all classes of people.



According to the writings of the learned physicians, there are a great variety of fevers, some more, and some less dangerous. But to begin with a definition of the NAME. What is fever? Heat, undoubtedly, though a disturbed operation of it. But is there, in the human frame, more than one kind of heat? Yes, says the phy-

sician, (strange as it may appear,) there is the pleuretic heat, the slow nervous heat, the putrid heat, the hectic heat, the yellow heat, the spotted or cold heat, the typhus or ignorant heat, and many other heats ; and sometimes, (calamitous to tell,) one poor patient has the most, or whole of these fevers, and dies at last for want of heat.

Is fever or heat a disease ? Hippocrates, the acknowledged father of physicians, maintained that nature is heat, and he was correct. Is nature a disease ? Surely it is not. What is commonly called fever, is the effect and not the cause of disease. The cold causes obstructions, and fever arises in consequence of those obstructions to throw them off. This is universally the case. Remove the cause, the effect will cease. No person ever yet died of a fever ! for, as death approaches, the patient grows cold, until in death, the last spark is extinguished. This the learned doctors cannot deny ; and as this is true, they ought, in justice, to acknowledge that their whole train of depletive remedies, such as bleeding, blistering, physicing, starving, with all their refrigeratives ; their opium, mercury, arsenic, antimony, nitre, &c., are so many deadly engines combined with the disease, against the constitution and life of the patient. If cold, which is the commonly received opinion, (and which is true,) is the cause of fever, to repeatedly bleed the patient, and administer mercury, opium, nitre, and other refrigerents, to restore him to health, is, as though a man should, to increase a fire in his room, throw a part of it out of the house, and to increase the remainder, put on water, snow, and ice !

As it is a fact that cannot be denied, that fever takes its rise from one great cause or origin, it follows of course, that one method of removing that cause, will answer in all cases ; and the great principle is to assist nature, which is heat.

At the commencement of a fever, by direct and proper application of suitable medicine, it can be easily and speedily removed. Twenty-four, or forty-eight hours, to the extent, are sufficient, and often short of that time, the fever may be removed, or that which is the cause of it. But where the patient is left unassisted, to struggle with the disease until his strength is exhausted, and more especially, when the most unnatural and injurious ad-

ministrations are made, if a recovery is possible, it must of necessity take a longer time. These declarations are true, and have been often proved, and can be again, to the satisfaction of every candid person,  AT THE HAZARD OF ANY FORFEITURE THE FACULTY MAY CHALLENGE. 

Notwithstanding all these things, how true are the words of the intelligent Dr. Hervey, who says, "By what unaccountable perversity in our frame does it appear, that we set ourselves so much against any thing that is new? Can any one behold without scorn, such drones of physicians, and after the space of so many hundred years experience and practice of their predecessors, not one single medicine has been detected, that has the least force, directly to prevent, to oppose, and expel a continued fever? Should any, by a more sedulous observation, pretend to make the least step towards the discovery, their hatred and envy would swell against him, as a legion of devils against virtue; the whole society will dart their malice at him, and torture him with all the calumnies imaginable, without sticking at any thing that should destroy him root and branch. For he who professes to be a reformer of the art of physic, must resolve to run the hazard of the martyrdom of his reputation, life and estate."

The treatment which the writer has received from some of the learned physicians, since his discovery of the remedy for the fever and various other forms of disease, is a proof of this last saying of Dr. Hervey. They have imprisoned him, and charged him with every thing cruel and unjust; though upon a fair trial, their violent dealings have come down upon their own heads; while he has not only been proved innocent before the court, but useful; having relieved many which the other physicians had given over to die.

I will now take notice of the yellow fever. The cause of this fatal disease, is similar to the spotted fever. The cause of death in the latter, is in consequence of its producing a balance by cold, outward and inward; and in the former there is a balance of heat, outward and inward; both produce the same thing, that is, a total session of motion, which is death. The colour of the skin has given name to both these forms of disease.

The yellow is caused by the obstruction of the gall; instead of being discharged through its proper vessels, it is forced and diffused through the pores of the skin.

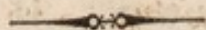
There is no other difference in all cases of fever, than what is caused by the different degrees of cold, or loss of inward heat, which are two adverse parties in one body, contending for power. If the heat gains the victory, the cold will be disinherited, and health will be restored; but on the other hand, if cold gains the ascendancy, heat will be dispossessed of its empire, and death will follow of course.

The higher the fever runs, the sooner the cold will be subdued; and if you contend against the heat, the longer will be the run of the fever, and when extinguished, death follows.

When the patient is bled, it lessens the heat, and gives double power to the cold; like taking out of one side of the scale, and putting in the other, which doubles the weight, and turns the scale in favor of disease. Giving opium, deadens the feelings; the small doses of nitre and calomel, tend to destroy what heat remains, and plant new crops of canker, which will stand in different stages in the body, the same as corn planted in the field every week, will keep some in all stages; so are the different degrees in canker. This is the reason why there are so many different fevers as are named; when one fever turns, another sets in; and so continues, one after another, until the harvest is ripe, if the season is long enough; if not, the cold and frost take them off; then it is said they died of a fever. It might, with as much propriety, be said that the corn killed with frost, died with the heat. The question, whether the heat or the cold killed the patient, is easily decided, for that power which bears rule in the body after death, is what killed the patient, which is cold; as much as that which bears rule when he is alive, is heat.

When a person is taken sick, it is common to say, I have got a cold, and am afraid I am going to have a fever; but no fears are expressed of the cold he has taken, neither is it mentioned when the cold left him. The fashionable practice is to fight the remains of heat till the patient dies, by giving cold the victory; in which case, is it not a fact, that the doctors assist the cold to

kill the patient? Would it not have been more reasonable, or likely to have cured them, when the fever arose, to throw off the cold, to have helped the fever, and given nature the victory over its enemy, when the health would have been restored, the same as before they took the cold?



**A DEFENCE OF THE VAPOUR BATHS,
AND AN ELUCIDATION OF THEIR PROPERTIES.**

These baths form a constituent or essential part of the Thomsonian system, and have been so much misrepresented, that we are constrained to make a few observations explanatory of their effects, and of the absolute benefit the invalid derives therefrom. No part of the practice has been more misunderstood and more misstated than this; and it is, therefore, to be expected that where some persons do not understand a thing, and others find it for their interest to wilfully circulate falsehoods respecting it, error must prevail in relation to the same, and prejudice and hostility must exist and be exerted against it. That the reader may properly comprehend the subject, let us inquire what is a Steam Bath? Why, nothing more than a mild vapour bath, the water being by the operation of fire, exhaled into vapour, which is changed from a heavier into a lighter fluid, and brought to act gently upon the exhausted physical energies of the patient. Now are warm baths healthy? To answer this question, look at their history. In the first place, the common opinion of mankind have always been in their favor. Among the Greeks, and especially the Spartans, bathing was not confided to the care of a few individuals, but incorporated with, and made part of the public institutions of the land, and regulated by the laws. The Jews also considered them so essential, that they established them for the use of the public, and under certain circumstances, individuals were considered unclean and unfit to hold intercourse or communion with their neighbours, until they had performed their appointed ablutions. Indeed among all these celebrated nations, they were formed into splendid edifices for the ornament of their cities, and for the use of the people at large, whose favour

the opulent courted by lavishing large sums on such establishments, for the gratification and indulgence of the public. And though in latter ages, communities have discontinued their support, at the expense of the government, still a bath is a well known article of domestic luxury, in the families of wealthy individuals in civilized nations in modern times. This leads us to inquire, secondly, into the effects of bathing on the corporeal frame, for it is hardly to be supposed that mankind in every epoch of time, would have expended vast sums of money in the establishment of a system which was clearly obnoxious to the health of our race. And to know what are the effects of warm bathing on the animal functions, a direct appeal may be made to our own experience. There is not one reader of this article, out of an hundred, who has not in the course of his life, used the warm bath either in a state of illness or health; and in either case we are free to declare for him that he has felt an immediate, grateful and reviving effect, produced both on his mental and bodily organs and powers. It imparts to the physical functions peculiar elasticity and vigor, while to the intellectual it adds renewed freshness, and capacity of comprehension. Every person knows after coming from a warm bath, that lassitude he before experienced, has been by the process entirely expelled, and he feels his mind in a better state to endure the discipline of mental, and his body more fitted to undergo the fatigues of corporeal labor. And why should not this be so, when the action of the fluid is most salutary on the absorbent vessels which would otherwise reconduct the impurities of the skin through the pores to the no small injury of the health. Considered therefore as a species of universal domestic remedy; as one which forms the basis of cleanliness, bathing in its different forms may be pronounced one of the most extensive and beneficial medicines in existence. Without its grateful influence, health could scarcely be renovated, and seldom continued long in preservation, when restored. Indeed, we have a memorable witness to the truth of this last proposition in the practice of the illustrious Napoleon, who, when indisposed, banished doctors from his presence, and threw their physic to the dogs; but repaired to his favorite bath, where by frequent and long ablutions, and gen-

the exertion after, he soon became restored to robust health, and then resorted to the same means to preserve in existence the priceless treasure. We think the example of this great man, who was beyond all others in penetrating into causes and effects, and who it was said, looked through the philosophy of things, might be safely followed by the less celebrated of his race. But we have said enough to convince the reader, that warm water baths are salubrious in their effects. Now the question here occurs, if a feeble agent will produce so much good, will not that agent become more effectual by the change it undergoes, in causing proportionate happy effects, and in much less time. Human reason, and philosophy answer the question at once in the affirmative. The steam or vapour baths, therefore, should be incomparably preferred to the warm water ones; both by the healthy for the pleasurable sensations they produce, and by the sick for the almost immediate relief they afford. In fact, Doct. Samuel Thomson was so perfectly convinced of the indispensable necessity of the vapour baths, that he invented and brought them in use more than forty years since, and all true practitioners after his system invariably recommend and apply them in almost all cases of bodily infirmity. The author says, in his guide to health, page 20, "Steaming (the vapour bath) is a very important branch of my system of practice, which would in many cases, without it be insufficient to effect a cure. Its use is to apply heat to the body where it is deficient, and clear off obstructions caused by cold, which the operation of the medicine will not raise heat enough to do; for as the natural heat of the body becomes thereby lower than the natural state of health, it must by art be raised as much above, as it has been below, and this must be repeated until the digestive powers are restored, sufficient to hold the heat by digesting the food, then the health of the patient will be restored by eating and drinking such things as nature may require." But an idea has been industriously spread among the less informed portions of the community, supposed to have proceeded from the faculty, that while the steaming process may in a few cases be beneficial to those in robust health, yet its effects on the feeble are so powerful, that they are often

fatal. To dispel this vulgar notion at once, let us state, that when properly applied, they can never be mortal. The feeblest invalid, a child or an adult, for example, in the last stages of disease may safely and beneficially receive this bath. We put the patient in the same, and with scrupulous care gradate the vapour according to his ability to sustain it. If he is much debilitated, it is raised slowly and gently; if he possess considerable physical strength, the process is more rapid in its operation. And the different degrees of heat on the subject are carefully ascertained by an approved thermometer, which is constantly consulted by us on the occasion; so that it will be perceived that no injury can possibly result to the patient during the operation. The belief, therefore, to which we have adverted, is a chimera of the mind which scarcely merits a passing notice. In conclusion, it may be observed that the most indubitable evidence of the value of these baths is drawn from the fact, that while the faculty and others openly denounce them, they are secretly introducing the same in their own modes of practice, under a variety of specious and novel terms, such as medicated, champoo, &c., thus clandestinely wresting from the author the merit of their discovery. But it will avail nothing. The time is fast arriving when neither a State, country nor an empire alone, but the great globe itself will award to Dr. Samuel Thomson the high praise of bringing them into use.

VOX POPULI, VOX DEI.

The voice of the people is the voice of God.

It is with the strongest emotions of pleasure that we announce to the public, the progress of *truth*, in old Massachusetts; a State venerable indeed for her literary and scientific institutions, and respected and respectable for the glorious battles her sons fought and won in two wars; yet through all her history, too much imbued with the gloomy intolerance of her pilgrim fathers, to favor the cause of freedom in its most enlarged sense. Whether true or false we pretend not to say, but to this and other causes may be attributed the reputation she always has

had, of being the last Commonwealth in the Union, to reform abuses in her statutes. Though her Constitution and the bill of rights upon which it is founded, be as liberal as any child of liberty could wish, yet it is a notorious fact, that since that instrument was framed, acts have existed in her code of laws manifestly repugnant to its provisions, and of such an absurd character that prosecutions for their violation are seldom instituted, doubtless owing to the fear her government officers entertain that convictions will seldom be had under them. Among the many of the class of acts here alluded to, and the most obnoxious of them all are, *1. Imprisonment for debt. 2. One against the freedom of conscience in religious matters. *3. Another against the laity travelling on the Sabbath. And 4. One against any body who prescribes for the sickness of an individual unless he have a degree either from the *Massachusetts Medical Society*, or from a college, of collecting his debts by law. The Legislature which sat in January, 1834, being sensible of the many abuses in her code, appointed some forty or fifty commissioners to assemble during the recess, and make a thorough revision of the entire body of statutes, and recommend such alterations, amendments and repeals in a report, as to them should seem judicious and proper. The Legislature also voted an extra session in September following, for the purpose of receiving and acting on that report. They have come together and received that report, and will set until they have gone through with the same. Among the recommendations in the report, was one to strike out the act alluded to, which gave only to the faculty the privilege of collecting their debts by law. It was adopted in the popular branch by a majority of fifty. And though it is uncertain whether the Senate will concur, it is still as we have before observed, evidence, that liberal principles are advancing in New England, which should induce every State in the Union to imitate the example. We herewith append the remarks of Benjamin F. Hallett, Esq. editor of the *Boston Advocate*, on the subject, a man who by his writings has done more to promote the

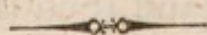
* These two acts have been repealed, but an effort is now making to restore that of Imprisonment for Debt.

cause of freedom in Massachusetts, than most other conductors of public journals. He is entitled to and will receive the thanks and gratitude of the democracy of the country for so doing.

From the Boston Advocate, Sept. 14, 1835.

"The editor of the Centinel seems desirous of having a gag put upon members of the Legislature, to prevent their discussing the details of the digest of laws proposed by the Commissioners. We fancy that such a suggestion will find no favour, and that members will propose any amendments to the laws that they may think proper. The committee have done something to correct old *vested* abuses in the existing laws, and the House at least, if not the Senate, will be disposed to make the laws still more republican in principle. It is this fear which induces the organs of monopoly to cry out against discussing the laws in detail, and the special complaint of the Centinel was doubtless founded on the fact, that the House on Friday, by a vote of fifty majority, on motion of Mr. Robbins, of Marblehead, expunged from the statutes the odious provision by which none but physicians who had received medical degrees could collect fees by law, for their services. A principle of this kind, that a favored class shall have the aid of law, to collect their debts and that the Courts shall be shut against others, is clearly unconstitutional and arbitrary. The Legislature would have just as much right to say that no man should collect a debt who had not graduated at Harvard College, as to say that no physician without a medical diploma, shall collect a debt. Let this principle be carried out in expunging other like abuses from the Statute Book."

It will be perceived that Mr. Hallett handles the aristocracy without gloves.



A CHAPTER ON INTOLERANCE.

WHEN we cast our eyes over the pages of history, we discover that the most prominent error in the constitution of man—that which stands out in bold relief from the dark catalogue of his other imperfections and crimes, has been intolerance in matters of religious faith and practice. From this source has flowed in all ages the bitterest persecutions, the most diabolical cruelties. Its

inhumanity to man has made countless thousands mourn. It has exhausted its ingenuity in the invention of various and novel modes of torture for the punishment of its victims. It has filled the measure of human wo, in dealing destruction round the land on all whom it deemed the foe to its peculiar creed. From the earliest ages, the pagan car has crushed those who would not fall down and worship the idol of its own creation. The wife has been immolated on the funeral pile of her husband, and the husband on that of his wife. The Mahometan has consigned all to eternal punishment who would not acknowledge his creed; and in turn, the Christian has condemned the Musselman to the same or a worse place, for unbelief in his doctrines.

On the introduction of Christianity, the Roman Emperors too, began their reign of terror, by putting the early Christians to torments indispensible, because they had no faith in the absurdities of heathen mythology; and after the fall of that great empire, the early Papists followed the same example, by using the rack, the thumb-screws, and the flames, on those they chose to denominate heretics to their creed. On the decline of papal, and rise of Protestant power in Europe, the latter commenced their turn of fiery persecution on their enemies; and in some places on the continent, and in the three united kingdoms, England, Scotland and Ireland, about a hundred years subsequent to the reformation, an almost general war of extermination was commenced against the Catholics. Knox's bloody course in Scotland is well known, in which Catholic institutions became the selected objects of his vengeance, which threatened at one period their general devastation. And in England too, on the accession of Elizabeth, Parliament filled its statute books, disfranchising, and even proscribing the Papists. Our happy country has not escaped the fanatical mania,

in some instances popular rage having demolished their religious institutions. Our laws yet tolerate and protect all classes in the exercise of their natural rights of freedom of conscience on matters of religious belief. We have still the form at least, if we have not the substance of republican feeling, on this subject; and the only way to preserve the same inviolate is, to maintain a perfect balance of opinion in reference to matters of faith. Yet there is a tendency to denounce each sect which differs from its neighbor's creed; and we must, therefore, look to the virtue and intelligence of the people to prevent the dangerous ascendancy of any particular class of religionists. Man it is said, was made upright, but he has sought out many inventions; and of all inventions which have brought the most sorrow on the human family, that of creeds stands first on the list, the work of his hands. We have been led to these remarks from hearing Doct. S. Thomson not unfrequently denounced as an atheist; a charge as absurd as it is false. A misanthrope he has also sometimes been called. We take great pleasure in contradicting both aspersions, and to say further, that although he is no sectarian, yet during a long life he has exhibited as much practical goodness as any of the leaders and advocates of the forms of religion. His whole existence has been a practical commentary and illustration of that faith which shows itself in acts of kindness and benevolence to mankind. The substance of his religion is contained in the following beautiful lines from his pen, which we extract from a published volume of poems, his own production. In reference to them and him, we may remark in the language of an elegant English classic poet,

"For modes of faith let learned bigots fight,
His creed's not wrong whose life is right."

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR ?

THY neighbor ? It is he whom thou
 Hast power to aid and bless :
 Whose aching heart, or burning brow
 Thy soothing hand may press.

Thy neighbor ? 'Tis the fainting poor,
 Whose eye with want is dim,
 Whom hunger sends from door to door,
 Go thou, and succor him.

Thy neighbor ? 'Tis that weary man,
 Whose years are at their brim ;
 Bent low with sickness, cares and pain,
 Go thou, and comfort him.

Thy neighbor ? 'Tis the heart bereft
 Of every earthly gem ;
 Widow and orphan, helpless left,
 Go thou, and shelter them.

Thy neighbor ? Yonder toiling slave,
 Fetter'd in thought and limb :
 Whose hopes are all beyond the grave,
 Go thou, and ransom him.

Whene'er thou meet'st a human form
 Less favor'd than thine own,
 Remember there's a neighbor born,
 Thy brother, or thy son.

Oh ! pass not, pass not heedless by :
 Perhaps thou can'st redeem
 The breaking heart from misery,
 Go, share thy lot with him.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS.

IN making our valedictory to the reader, it is proper to close up the volume by a few general remarks. But where shall we commence? What subject shall we select on which to comment? That of Medicine, in old systems and new ones, has been in the preceding pages, expatiated upon pretty fully, and yet the topic is inexhaustible. Materials we do not want, for they present themselves in such a mass to the mind, that the greatest difficulty arises, in making a proper selection, for the gratification and instruction of the inquirer. There is no topic in the whole range of literature, and the wide reach of human knowledge that is not replete with interest. To commence, we shall premise as a self-evident maxim, that the march of mind is ever onward; that it is destined to shine more and more to the perfect day; and that in no one thing has this fact been more indubitably developed than in the improvements which have been made in the medical science. But the brightest and richest discoveries in the healing art, strange to say, have been as it were the result of investigations in the last century; and these seem to partake of the character and primitive simplicity of the rural remedies of the early fathers of our race; and consequently are the most valuable, being the most salutary in their effects on the human frame.

When we go back and contemplate man in a state of nature, we find him congregating with his fellow man into tribes, and wandering over the face of the earth as free as the air they breathed, employed merely in procuring subsistence, guided only by natural impulses; ignorant of all rules, laws, subordination, and the arts and sciences. In this simple state, every thing within and without, and around him, wore the same aspect. The aspirations of his mind and heart were few, his bodily

wants were as few, and these were easily supplied out of the spontaneous productions of his mother earth. From the pure and exhaustless fountains of the vallies and hills he drew his cheering beverage, and out of the bosom and from the surface of the same bounteous source, he gathered the vegetable substances, both for the support of life and the cure of disease. In imagination, we behold him as he in truth was, a different being from what he now is. No geographical boundaries then limited his possessions. The distinctions of *meum et tuum*, or mine and thine, were then scarcely known, and still less recognized to that extent at least, which in subsequent times have blown into flames those base passions whose unhallowed violence has fomented private quarrels and public wars, that have swept nation after nation into the grave. He could stand on his own cloud-capt mountains and survey his property, which embraced every thing within the compass of his vision. The world was his to roam up and down in. The beasts of the forests, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea were his for pleasure, for nutriment and for covering. The earth was his bed of rest, and the sky his canopy. Then it was that his mind was clear and penetrating; his body supple, active, vigorous and strong, capable of enduring the summer's heat and winter's cold, with little inconvenience and fatigue, and with no fear of *premature* disease, infirmity and death. In a word, then it was, that he stood erect in the pride of his power, the pure representative of the image of the Creator who formed him.

“An eye like Mars, to threaten and command,
A countenance and a form indeed,
Where every god did seem to set his seal,
To give the world assurance of a man.”

This is a portrait of man as he was, and if there be any defect in the same, it does not consist in too full,

but rather too faint coloring. Is it a happy one? Was his condition thus delineated a desirable one? In many respects, we seem to hear you say, it was: and to demand of us what has so sadly changed it. What has made him the feeble, imbecile, infirm and short-lived animal we now behold him? A natural question, and one that shall be answered, whether men will hear or whether they will forbear. Look then at the counterpart of the picture; those very arts and sciences which were originated when he came into society, and which brought with them a long train of luxuries, accompanied with concomitant vices and diseases. Yes, those very arts and sciences which he loudly boasts have civilized and improved his race, have also in many instances, (alas! too many,) debased and degraded his nature.

With science has come luxury, and with luxury, disease, and with disease, the doctor with mineral poisons, and with these last, wretchedness and death; so that the language on the mausoleum of the Italian Count is strictly true, as applied to the remedies of the fashionable mode of practice, "I was ill, I wanted to be better; I took medicine and died." Comment is unnecessary on the sarcastic illustration of the epitaph. In the natural, and as some term it savage state of man, no blasting poison ever coursed through the streams of blood that flowed in the veins and arteries of his body. They were then as pure as the sparkling springs from which he quenched his thirst when worn down by the chase of the day; and they were as active in their circulation as the movements of the same restless channels. That the blessings of health should therefore constantly attend him, is not at all surprising. They will always shed their benign influence over every one whose life streams are thus pure and thus active. It is true, in his original state, man was liable to disease, because by the laws of

nature the human constitution contains within, and the universe without, those unknown, invisible, and pestilential influences that will at some period or other terminate human existence, and resolve the body into its original elements. The grave is the only general earthly legacy bequeathed to all our race. But then in the times to which we advert, man seemed to possess as it were by natural instinct, the means of a more effectual resistance to the approaches of the fell destroyer. To confirm and elucidate this position, let us refer to the antediluvian age. We gather from the chronicles of that early date, that the patriarchal longevity from the creation of man, to the deluge, was on an average over nine hundred years in duration. Now estimating human life at the present time to be at least three score years and ten, the patriarchs would have lived twelve times as long as those in modern epochs. It may be said, however, that the patriarchal year was not so long as our division of that period of time. Be it so. If it were only half as long as our year, they would have lived six times longer than the oldest of the present day; or had their years been equal only to our months, even then human life would have been prolonged beyond what it is now. But we shall not stop to go into an inquiry of the length of time in former periods. We leave that subject to be settled by the natural historian, and the antiquary, being ourselves contented with establishing the fact, which we apprehend the reader will concede, be he Jew or Gentile, Christian or Pagan, or neither, that the life of man then, was much longer than it is now. If it were so, what was the cause? It is manifest that in the infancy of his race, man was in a perfect unsophisticated state, there being no discoveries yet made in science to shield him from the attacks of disease. Geology had not defined the different masses of which the earth was composed.

Mineralogy had not explored its caverns, and displayed the various classes of metals, base and precious, nor had chemistry and alchymy ascertained the relation each bore to the other, and explained their different characteristics and properties. Every thing was in its natural dress, no latent qualities being seen or known. The globe was a garden of flowers; yet man was subject to malady; but where was the physician? We are not told by either the inspired or the secular records, or by legend or tradition, that there were any of the faculty in those days. Neither the leech with his bolus and drops, nor the chiurgeon with his lancet, as Sir Walter Scott denominates both, in his scorn, were found either in the fields, or around the firesides of the patriarch, like vultures hovering over their prey. But those early pastoral families, from Adam to Noah, drew from the same boundless regions that furnished them with the vegetable aliment which supported human life, their remedies for all diseases. Each individual then, (as each person should be now,) was his own physician; and if the cause in which we are engaged, shall prevail, a consummation devoutly to be wished, every man will be able to heal himself without the interposition of his neighbor. Take another example from the aborigines of North America.

“Witness the poor Indian, whose untutored mind,
Sees God in clouds, and hears him in the wind.
His soul proud science never taught to stray.
Far as the solar walk or milky way.”

When after a laborious exercise in his favorite chase, he returned at night to his simple hut, exhausted in the pursuit, and the symptoms of disease were on him; his immediate resort was to his native hill-side, from which he plucked and ate those simple herbs whose medicinal qualities he knew by intuition, which, together with a cool head and warm feet, (Thomsonian remedies all,)

expelled the enemy from his system in a short time. Now had he used, if indeed it were possible for him so to have done, the minerals of the faculty, months would have elapsed ere he became convalescent, if indeed he recovered at all. This statement is a truism to which the understanding must bow assent, howsoever reluctant it may be so to do. Let it not be supposed that we have the wish, though we certainly have the power to decry the fashionable system of practice of the faculty. We do not wish to build up our theory on the ruins of that belonging to these gentlemen. We know that truth is mighty and must prevail, and on her guiding and sustaining arm we rest our cause, not doubting that she will give to it, both extent and popularity. Yet we cannot refrain from remarking, that the strongest testimony in support of the botanical and against the mineral medical practice, can be furnished from their own most approved authorities. We have before us one, the very horn-book of medical mineralogy, written in elegant diction, and in justice we add, great candor, by a justly celebrated English author, and designed as a text book for the use of families, entitled *Health and Long Life*, from which many curious and amusing articles can be extracted, confirmatory of this position. In the introductory chapter to this volume, the author in an elaborate argument, proves the superiority of vegetable over mineral specifics; and then, much to his credit, makes some severe strictures on the use of the latter remedies, which he shows, instead of preventing, induces sickness. He then goes on and strikes, as we apprehend, with an iron hand, covered with a velvet glove, (to use a phrase of the late Emperor of France,) an effectual blow at the whole class of these baneful drugs. "Mercury and lead, (says he,) manufactured in various forms, are unhappily too common ingredients in the remedies prescribed by our modern

physicians. That these substances can be communicated to the circulating fluids through the skin, as well as by the stomach, requires, I should suppose, no further proof after the doctrines already advanced on this subject. Lead in particular, if once introduced in the system, though in the smallest proportions, *cannot be removed by art*, and never fails to produce the most deplorable effects: such as palsy, contraction and convulsion of the limbs, total lameness, weakness, and the most excruciating cholic pains. Besides these more obvious effects, the frequent use of these minerals occasion cramps in every part of the body, faintings, nervous weakness, catarrhs, turbercles in the lungs and intestines, till at length consumption, either pulmonary or hectic, closes the dreadful scene. The fashionable practice, therefore, is a cruel waste of human life; it is abominable and villainous; the blood is thereby corrupted; its circulation obstructed and stagnated, and the acute agony of the sufferer is only relieved on the ceasing of the beat of his life pulse." We might multiply quotations from this and other authors *ad infinitum*; but it is needless as *instar omnium*, one is enough for all, to show the woful consequences of the use of such poisons.

The argument, then, is established, to wit, that the purity and activity of the blood constitutes health in the individual; that the application of minerals, inasmuch as they corrupt the one, and obstruct the other, prostrates instead of nourishing human strength, that the reason why man in ancient times arrived at a period of longevity, beyond his fellow man in modern ages, was, that the former when diseased used the vegetable; the latter when in the same state, partakes of the mineral remedies. And these all-important facts are substantiated from the writings of the faculty themselves; out of their own mouths, therefore, they are condemned.

And as in law a man shall be estopped in denying his own deed, so they, having voluntarily placed on record protests against the *materia medica*, as well as declarations in favor of Thomsonianism, to be consistent, they must abandon the old, and adopt in future the new system. Besides, there are other circumstances corroborative of the truth of our position. That the actions of men speak in a more audible tone than their words, is a moral axiom, as susceptible of demonstration as any proposition in mathematics. When, then, at any of our Infirmaries in the country, in the course of a great lapse of time, one wretched patient whose body has been rendered as it were a putrid mass by their minerals, should die out the thousands that we daily cure, a portion of the faculty assemble, surround the corpse and put into motion the whole machinery of a *post mortem* examination. With a zeal worthy a better employment, the body is divided, and subdivided; the arteries, veins, nerves, muscles, tendons and ligaments, together with the other animal functions, are inspected with scrupulous care and an anxious curiosity exhibited to find out the seat of the disease, the cause of death, though with about the same probability of arriving at a successful result as the sapient philosophers of olden time had, who applied the dissecting knife to discover the fountain of life, and the habitation of the soul. Aware at the close of their labors, what, however, they knew before, that it was impossible the individual could have died from any portion of botanical medicine, by the mild action of the same on his internal structure, but that the mineral antidotes were either the remote or proximate cause of his dissolution, their traces being stamped on the head and front of the organic system, they come to the conclusion and distinctly, by implication at least, proclaim it to the world, that our medicines are so efficaciously salubrious that we ought never

to lose a patient. Though millions perish under their drugs, as myriads of animalcula fade away under the shades of evening, not one patient must die under our care ! And gentle reader, were all invalids to consult us, before they had paved the way to their own destruction by surcharging their bodies with the blasting properties of the specifics in question, be assured they would go down to the grave from other causes than those of disease. Such are the drugs which make dreadful havoc on human life, that desolate our country and depopulate our cities. As we linger near the green mounds that cover the sepulchres in our land, and muse on the tenants who repose in gloom below ; as we reflect that at each tick of the watch, at each throb of the heart, one or more is added to the great congregation of the departed ; as we consider that the very sods on which we tread, are the ashes of man, our meditations are disturbed by breathings unearthly in their suggestions. “ Son of man, under what power has this mighty mass of animal matter fallen ? Under what power does it continue to fall ? ” A response seems to come from the dark portals of the dead, addressed to the living, “ We fell under that common enemy of man, Mineral Poison. In an evil hour the destroying angel crossed our track, and all was lost. From the death-flap of his wings came upon us leprosy, rottenness and anguish unutterable ; the bowl was broken at the fountain, our eternal doom was sealed. Child of mortality ! if thou hast been within his shadow, for thy life fly to the Flora of thy country ; eat of her tree ; drink from her springs, and repose in peace beneath her shade. Nothing but that will save thee ! ”

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APPENDIX.

Believing the subscriber to the following article to have been palpably ill-treated by the individual with whom he has had the disputes alluded to therein, and with others, we willingly incorporate the same within these pages, for the dispassionate consideration of the candid reader. A man like Dr. S. THOMSON, whose whole life has been spent in going about and doing good, and whose fostering hand has rescued many persons from obscurity, and warmed them into life and opulence, but who has met in return only frozen ingratitude, will surely receive the sympathies of every feeling heart. A. W.

The guilty fear Justice.

Review of the Controversy between Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, and JESSE THOMPSON and others.

That the reader may fully and correctly understand the following statements, it is necessary to detail briefly their origin and history.

One Jesse Thompson, a priest, came to Boston from New York, about two years since, and purchased out his brother, Benjamin Thompson, who was then my agent, and kept an Infirmary on Mount Vernon, in the city of Boston. Succeeding his brother in that establishment, Jesse assumed to be a Thomsonian proprietor, and went on preparing, administering and vending my medicine. He had pursued the business but a short time, when I ascertained that like many others, he had commenced trespassing on my rights on an extensive scale, and had committed numerous frauds on the same. I called on and admonished him; but in vain. I then demanded a settlement, which he evaded and finally neglected. Such

conduct compelled me to revoke his agency, which I did by reading such revocation to him, and causing the same to be published in the papers of the day.

Instead however, of relinquishing his illegal trade, he prosecuted it with redoubled industry; and to a notice of his trespasses which I caused to be inserted in the Boston Morning Post, he added insult to injury, by inserting in a subsequent paper, what he denominated an Exposition, wherein after denying the charges, he wound up by an explosion of *bravado*, entirely in keeping with his character. I replied to the article by dissecting it in detail; exonerated myself from his villainous charge of calumniating the character of a respectable citizen, exposed his hypocrisy, charged him with fraud and proved him guilty of falsehood, and threatened, that unless an immediate adjustment of all matters in dispute between us was had, to commence an action at law to obtain it. Instead of "agreeing with his adversary quickly, while he was in the way with him," he answered the piece in a mere issue of denials, criminations, and bald assertions.

Pursuant, therefore, to my declarations, I commenced a suit against him for damages, rejoined to his communication, and exposed certain vile conduct of his in relation to bad treatment of patients at his Infirmary, on grievous complaints made to me by such patients. He answered me, and endeavored to get rid of the charges by inserting the certificates of Mr. Lemuel Tobey, who stated his wife had not been injured by Jesse. I had an interview with Mr. Tobey, who gave me a certificate setting forth that Jesse had falsified his statement, that he did not say what Jesse had made him say in such certificate. I also obtained other certificates from different patients who had been under his care, all showing neglect on his part towards them, and his high charges. All the certificates were duly published. In reply to these charges, he came out in a mass of verbiage, and made many assertions and statements wholly irrelevant to the points in issue between us, and endeavored to throw on me the odium of atheism. While this long newspaper controversy was going on, I had several interviews with him, and we agreed to submit all matters between us in dispute, to arbitration. The referees were actually appointed, and he was to sign certain bonds for the fulfilment of

such stipulations as were agreed on between us. Thus far the prospect was, that our unpleasant disputes would result in an amicable settlement. But from motives best known to himself, on the fifth named time of meeting, he appeared only by his counsel, who refused to proceed any further in the business. I have a right, therefore, to infer, and it is my duty to make known such inference, (being reduced to that alternative,) that Jesse admits the truth of all the charges which I have from time to time published against him. I shall state these charges separately, and to fortify them, shall introduce such testimony as I have in my possession.

First, then, as to debts due me by him, and trespass on my rights. The evidence to support this is implied in the suit now pending against him; and in his admissions and confessions before witnesses, whom I can produce at any moment.

Secondly. I charge him with neglect of duty towards patients. To support this allegation, see the evidence of Henry Pearson, John Tufts, and others, published in the Morning Post, and afterwards in a hand-bill, which has had an extensive circulation in the community, and which it is not necessary here to insert. The following certificates to this point, I have obtained since my last communication, which I will insert here entire.

This may certify, that I went to Jesse Thompson's Infirmary, with my brother, who went through one course of medicine. Jesse paid no attention to his business. There were six patients under the operation at the time, and with but two young men to attend them as nurses, who appeared more anxious to get through their work than to do justice. I attended to my brother alone four hours, without assistance. He must have suffered had I not done so. He was highly dissatisfied with Jesse's total neglect of duty, who yet required four dollars in advance. All he received for refreshments was a piece of baker's bread, a piece of raw salt fish, and a cup of tea.

JOHN WESTON.

This may certify, that in October last, I went to Jesse Thompson's Infirmary, and went through a course of medicine. He paid no attention to the administration

of medicine or advice. Mr. Thompson's time was more occupied in swapping horses than in attending the sick, though he was not negligent in demanding of them money for his services. He took a five dollar bill of me, and paid one for medicine. I was greatly dissatisfied with his accommodations.

JOSIAH ABBOTT.

Dover, N. H. August 20, 1835.

SIR,—I visited the Thomsonian Infirmary, in Mount Vernon Street, Boston, intending to take the full benefit of your practice; but before I was one day there, I was satisfied that such conduct would not secure credit to any system; and the next morning I escaped from bad treatment; and hearing the Infirmary of that place was not under your inspection, I feel pleasure in assisting you in an *expose* of such imposition, to prevent the public, but particularly the sick, from such treatment as was given to yours, with respect,

M. OCCLESTON.

To Doct. SAMUEL THOMSON, Boston, Mass.

It is proper here to state, that as the allegations in the above piece of testimony are general, no special charges of bad treatment being therein made, an interview was had with the lady whose name is prefixed to the letter, for the purpose of ascertaining definitely of what she complained. She declined making any explanations.

Thirdly. I charge him with having established a sort of medical school in his Infirmary, founded in fraud and deception, both on me and the students, by compelling them to serve him from three to six months, and paying him one hundred dollars each, for books and medicine they must purchase of him before he would recommend them as suitable persons to practise, or give them agencies. And this too, under the false statement to them, that such were my instructions to him. When I returned from the Western country, I was told he and his partner, Webber, had eight students in their establishment, who had agreed to the foregoing conditions, by paying him one hundred dollars each, who, when they learnt that my general Agent in this quarter furnished agencies to sell books and medicine by purchasing only fifty dollars worth of medicine, without the previous labor and

drudgery required by Jesse, all left him. This caused him in high dudgeon, to declare that my general agent had cheated him out of \$800. I told him that was a mistake ; my general agent had prevented him from cheating them, (the students,) out of \$800. But to substantiate this last charge, I herewith insert the following :

This may certify, that I went to Jesse Thompson's Infirmary, in Boston, for the purpose of qualifying myself as a Thomsonian practitioner. I staid with him four months and twelve days. Jesse told me that Doct. Samuel Thomson's instructions to him were, that he should take students, on condition that they should stay with him, (Jesse) from three to six months. At the expiration of three, and before the close of six months, if considered qualified either by himself or Doct. S. Thomson, they were to receive an agency from Jesse, by paying him one hundred dollars for books and medicine. There were a number of students at the Infirmary studying on the same terms. And I understood some had left on the same conditions. I supposed that the statement made by Jesse, respecting his instructions from Doct. Samuel Thomson, was correct. I have since ascertained, (from the Doctor himself,) that it was groundless.

SAMUEL HILL, JR.

Boston, Sept. 4, 1835.

Numerous other certificates might be inserted, establishing the foregoing allegations ; but it is unnecessary, inasmuch as the above are deemed sufficient. Here then, reader, is my case, and here I rest it on said testimony, which I apprehend to be clear and plenary, confirmatory of each and every charge I have brought against him. To enlarge on the subject is needless, because the facts disclosed carry their own comment with them.

I add in conclusion, however, that this system of medical practice is mine, and the fruits thereof are guaranteed to me under that sacred constitutional provision which secures to authors and inventors, the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries. From this power I have received these privileges in the form of a Patent, with the great seal of the Union, together with the signatures of the heads of the department thereto

prefixed. No contract between men can be more solemn than one like this, made by the whole country with a citizen thereof. The faith of the government is pledged to sustain it, and there is a binding obligation imposed on all citizens to abstain from infringing on the same. Shall I then permit these trespassers to prosecute their illegal practices without moving a muscle to arrest their progress? Shall I calmly behold the fruits of forty years, of weary toil, procured through opposition which language is too poor to describe, plucked from my possession without a movement in defence? Never! The pursuit after these wrong-doers from some source or other, or in some form or other, will be perpetual, until justice is done. Let not Jesse Thompson, nor others like him, lay the flattering unction to their souls, that they can depredate on my rights with impunity. When this subject is clearly understood, it will be impossible for them to follow their contraband traffic long, without meeting the scorn and the reprobation of every honest man. I believe there yet remains moral sense enough in the community to support me against a host of such aggressors as I have described. I ask for nothing that is not right, nor will I submit to any thing which is wrong. I will therefore, never despair of the virtue of my countrymen, but cheerfully submit my case to their disposal, not doubting but that they will render a verdict in my favor.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Boston, Sept. 1835.

ERRATA.

On page 19, for "Lacinder," read *Lucinda*....P. 20, for "a few vegetables," read *Vegetable Medicines*....P. 21, for "Asa," read *Avis*. P. 22, for "Parker," read *Packer*....P. 26, for "1824," read 1834....P. 34, under title *Impostor Unmasked*, for "which he compounds with the Mineral," read *he sells with the Mineral, &c*....P. 63, for "Robbins," read *Robinson*.

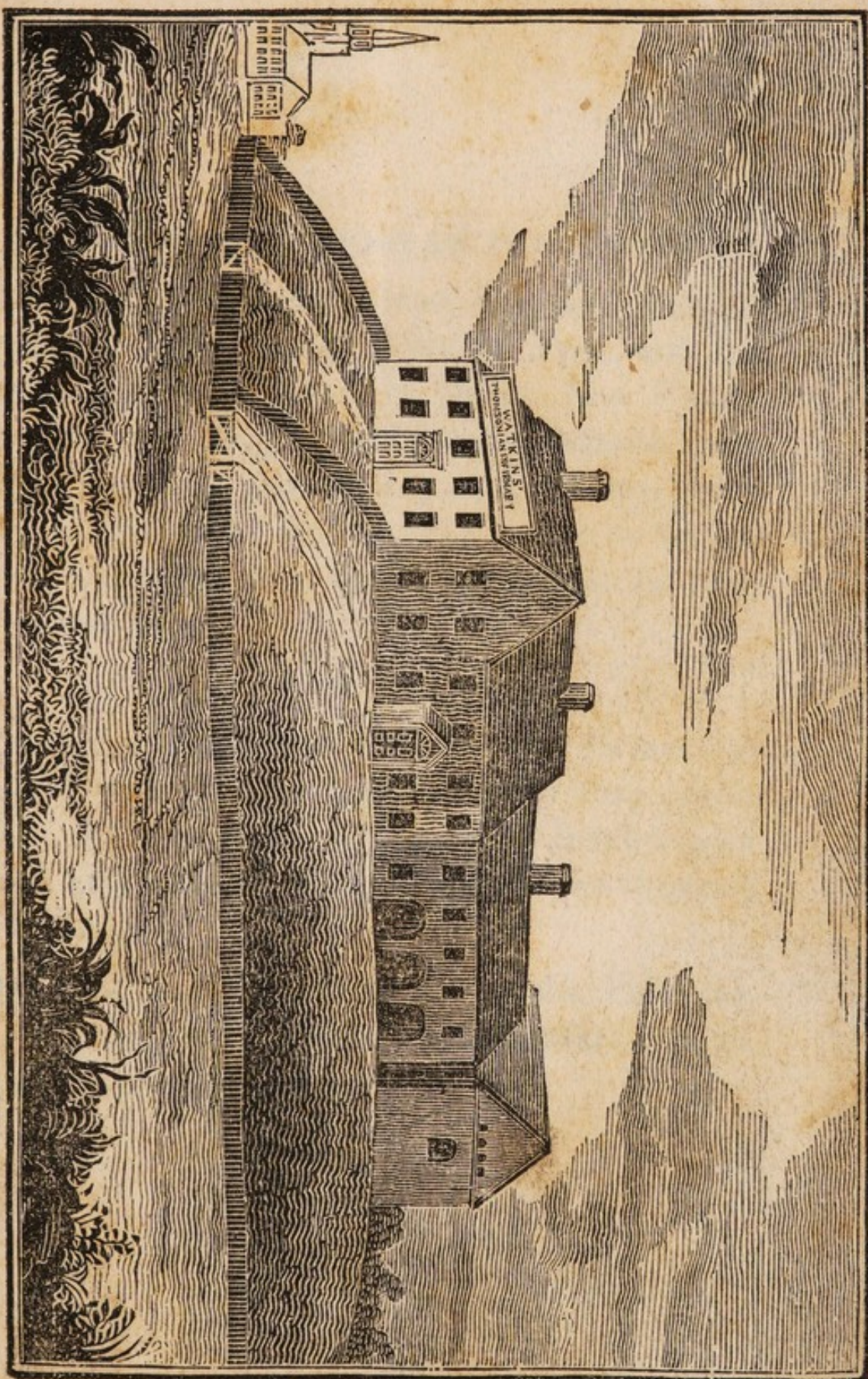
FROM THE THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

We would ask of all professors in Botanic Institutions, and of Botanic writers, from the voluminous, intelligent and respectable Doct. Beach, down to Elias Smith, Miles, Whitney, and others, what is there in Thomson's practice that can safely be dispensed with? What has he prescribed for the removal of disease that is not the best, known to answer all the purposes, (and speedily,) for which he has recommended it? Should you reject the Thomsonian remedies from your *Materia Medica*, would not the whole fabric you have reared, fall to the ground? What would you do without the foundation he has laid? We are not, never were, and never will be the opposers of any genuine useful improvement in the healing art. But we are now, ever have been, and ever will be opposed to deceiving the community, hood-winking the people, and raising a blind of untenable pretensions for lucrative emolument, or the acquisition of undeserved fame. Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON has laid the foundation stone of Medical reformation, and let those who build thereon, build honestly. Let no pecuniary spirit obtain an ascendancy in the mind of any man. Let candor, truth and righteousness, prevail in Colleges, and among individuals, and with such, we are willing to co-operate.

FROM THE THOMSONIAN RECORDER.

We feel it our duty to caution all our Thomsonian friends to beware of whom they purchase Medicines. We are informed by a letter, dated at Boston, that much adulterated Cayenne is now in the country, as well as in Boston. We learn from other sources, that Thomsonian practitioners are frequently imposed upon, in purchasing prepared Medicines of those who sell without any authority from Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, or his agents. The utmost care in the selection of Medicine, should be observed. Buy none but genuine, and of those only who are authorized to sell. The success of the system depends upon it. The safety of the community is at stake. Your responsibility, as a Thomsonian, is also redoubled, if you practise with Medicines obtained from an uncertain and irresponsible source.

WATKINS' THOMSONIAN INFIRMARY, DOVER, N. H.

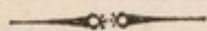




THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS, CHICAGO, ILL.

WATKINS' THOMSONIAN INFIRMARY,

Eligibly situated on Mount Pleasant, Pleasant Street, at the junction of Dover Neck, and the Portsmouth Stage Road, in Dover, New Hampshire ; commanding a beautiful and extensive prospect of the town and the adjacent country, being an airy, delightful and healthy residence for Invalids, which has been expressly fitted up for their accommodation.



Lady and Gentlemen Patients can be accommodated with Private Rooms, should they prefer them. Also, carriages for the use of Invalids may be had at a reduced price, if wanted by them, at the Infirmary.

The field and garden attached to the Premises, consist of eight acres, with a thoroughfare or public road surrounding the same.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year one
thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, by ANDREW WATKINS,
in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of Massachusetts.

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