T. GRAY A DISCOURSE 1805

Rev. Mr. Gray's Discourse

BEFORE THE

HUMANE SOCIETY.

1805

AT A MEETING OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY

JUNE 11th, 1805.

VOTED, that Samuel Eliot, Esq. Honourable Judge Paine, Honourable Elias Hasket Derby, Esq. Mr. Richard Green, and Samuel Salisbury, Esq. be a Committee to wait upon the Rev. Mr. Gray, and return him the thanks of this Society for his excellent discourse, delivered before the Society this day, and to request a Copy for the Press.

An Extract from the Records of said Society,

JOHN AVERY, Rec'g. Sec'y.

The value of Life and Charitable Institutions.

A

DISCOURSE

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

HUMANE SOCIETY

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

AT THEIR

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING,

JUNE 11th, 1805.

God did send me before you to preserve life. *Genesis.*

By THOMAS GRAY,
Minister of the Church of Christ on Jamaica Plain, Roxbury.

BOSTON:

Printed by HOSEA SPRAGUE, No. 88, Newbury-Street.
1805.

The writer of the following discourse submits it, with great respect,

TO

THE PRESIDENT,

THE VICE PRESIDENTS,

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

AND THE

MEMBERS OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY

OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

PUBLISHED AT THEIR REQUEST,

HE DOUBTS NOT IT WILL MEET THEIR

CANDOUR.

Roxbury, June 12, 1805.

A DISCOURSE

BEFORE THE HUMANE SOCIETY.

THE love of life and aversion from death, are principles closely interwoven with all the instincts of our nature. We seize with eagerness upon every means of preserving the former, and fly with timid caution the avenues, which lead to the latter. Varied in innumerable forms, these principles are found to mingle with many of our pursuits, often to stimulate the kindly affections, and give to them all, the fullest stamp of interest and importance.

Life is the gift of God, and as such must be valuable to every reflecting being. It is the beginning of all blessings to all creatures, and therefore becomes the object of their united attachment and solicitude. The animal tribes, by inherent appetites, seek their own preservation, and by aversions the most powerful, are guarded from whatever is injurious. By the force of their mere instincts are they seen to avail themselves of many useful herbs and plants, as preservatives of their health, or as antidotes to disease. Man endued with the nobler faculty of reason, for the same ends, explores the mineral, the vegetable, and animal kingdoms; and extracts, from all, those

various properties, by whose well directed application strength is imparted to his constitution, and length is added to the measure of his existence.

To life, in its present mode, we are bound by strong and powerful ties. Death, in all his forms, is literally the king of terrours; nor are our apprehensions unawakened at the most distant sound of his footsteps. To look into his cheerless mansions, and to consider ourselves destined to become their slumbering tenants; shut out from the cheering light of the sun, and the enlivening society of our fellow men; to view the places we now hold occupied by others, and ourselves scarcely missed from them; our very names forgotten, and our virtues remembered no more; or, treasured only by a few faithful friends, to whom we were once dear; our present energies exchanged for inactivity, and our comeliness turned into deformity; to consider the coffin and the shroud, as the utmost wealth can purchase, and all, that the most successful ambition can boast;—Ah, how does nature turn from these sad spectacles, and love and friendship mingle their sighs together over these mournful anticipations!

But not only is life desirable from the mere view of the desolations of death, it assumes characters of higher interest also, from the many pleasing circumstances, with which it is accompanied. Who feels indifferent to the various objects which, from every point, press upon our view from the beautiful scenery of nature around

us? When this world, from chaotic confusion, first rose into being, and man, with the faireſt part of himself, became living creatures, where are the untuned lips, that would not have joined the chorus of the morning stars, which sang together, and of the sons of God, who shouted for joy? When we notice the evident tendency of every thing in nature to gratify the eye, and to please the taste, to ravish the ear, and to charm the mind, to excite a lively gratitude, and to enkindle a rational devotion, how naturally do we respond the sensations of the eastern monarch, when he exclaimed, truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun!—pleasant to witness such exhibitions of our makers power and wisdom—sweet to experience such proofs of his varied beneficence.

There are yet stronger attachments to life, which find their origin in the many endearing relations, and tender connexions, in the variety of interesting friendships, and pleasing associations, to which the great author of it, hath so kindly united us. Man is not an unsocial being. By various interests, and a thousand ties, are we allied to others. Sympathy makes us feel the smart of their wounds, and attachment, by a wonderful metamorphose, converts the happiness of its object into a source of enjoyment to itself. No being stands insulated, nor unconnected, through the whole compass of nature; and no man liveth to himself alone. There are others, with whom his happiness is intimately involved. There are

others, who are dear to him, as himself; and around whose heart every cord of his own is entwined. To a separation from such society he cannot feel indifferent; nor is the dissolution of such ties as these to be felt, but with a pang, which almost breaks the heart! It is difficult to conceive of any one, to whom this language is incomprehensible;—of any being so misanthropic, as to find no social propensities within—no partialities in friendship—no endearments in love—none, whose society he courts, or whose disapprobation he would seek to avoid. Sensations like these are possessed by all men, though in different degrees; and they touch, with effect, the coarser feelings of Neptune's hardy sons, as well as melt to tenderness the heart of sensibility and refinement. "These," to use the words of an eminent prelate, on a different occasion, "ah, these are the things, which make men so loth to die!"

It is by such tender ties as these, that husbands are united to wives, parents to children, brethren to brethren, and friend to friend; and when the hand of death cuts them in sunder, a painful void is left in the circle of friendship, never fully repaired to those who are advanced in their journey through life; and often imperfectly to them, who are but just beginning it. Depression of spirits follows, decay of health ensues. Sometimes the loss of all the means of subsistence is experienced. The props which supported the expectations of a rising family are torn away; and tender love, and

filial piety, and faithful friendship pour into one stream their tears, and swell it in abundant tide.

Communities have not always been exempted from similar calamities, any more than individuals. From the natural, or political death of tried and faithful, of just and pious rulers, what wretched divisions, what unfounded jealousies, what little animosities, and mean rivalships have resulted; and which, in their course, have spread ruin, over the fair face of many a nation? God of everlasting mercy! wilt thou spare our country—for our hope is alone in thee.

If life derive such interest and value from the considerations, to which we have already adverted, how much more consequence does it assume, when viewed in all its interesting connexions, with christianity? Here we are taught, that we are probationers for a future state; and that our final glory, or shame, is most intimately allied to the cultivation of goodness, or the indulgence of our vitious propensities. In this view, the preservation of life is the continuance of the time of our probation. It is lengthening the period of usefulness to the good, and protracting the space of repentance to the bad. If future glory be proportioned to present moral acquisition, it is adding new lustre to our future crown; and if, by repentance, we may escape from punishment, it affords time to extract poison from the sting of death.

Life, in all these respects, considered so valuable to ourselves, naturally suggests to us a high sense of its importance to others. He, who duly appreciates his own rights, will proportionably respect those of his neighbour. And had this principle, at all times, carried its full force along with it, the false honour of the duellist had never known an advocate, and the false glory of the usurper had never found an encomiast.

It is no contraction of the principle of benevolence, that the love of our own lives should exceed that, which we entertain for others. Every man is best qualified for his own protection and defence; and has recourse to means for this end, where the assistance of others cannot reach, and could not avail. On the same ground, we maintain, that our love to kindred and connexions, to friends and neighbours, to associates and companions, to fellow citizens and fellow countrymen, should exceed, in degree, that, which we bear to the stranger. And how delusive is that species of philosophy, which would swallow up relative duties in general kindness; and divide the current of benevolence into so many streams, as to cause them to flow inefficiently in any! How absurd is that philanthropy, which disclaims a preference to those of her own household or kindred, of her own country or state, of her own town or church! It has been said a thousand times, and it shall be repeated here, that true charity must begin at home, and her first fruits be tasted by those, over whom providence has more immediately placed us the guardians, and protec-

tors. To strangers indeed, our efforts may be useful; but, to these they are necessary. To those, they may be pleasing; but, to these, they are essential. Where nature first prompted their origin, there the full tide of affections should flow; and their smaller streams may proportionably run in other channels, as their objects become more remote, and the fertility they would impart is less wanted. So the author of our religion, while he paid a universal attention to the interests of all men, and went about doing good, had still the favourite circle, which enjoyed more of his instructions; with which he associated more intimately, imparted abundant consolation, and expressed a livelier friendship. How happy were the sisters of Lazarus, with whom he mingled his sympathy and his tears; and for whose sake he wrought a miracle to restore their departed brother to the blissful endearments of domestic life! How distinguished was Jerusalem, over whose impending destiny he wept, with tears of partiality and of love! How blessed was that disciple, who sat by his side and leaned upon his bosom! And how endearing was that filial piety, which he manifested in the last moments of departing life, and, which brightened with a lustre, that even the cloud of death was unable to obscure? Casting an eye of unutterable compassion upon his distressed mother, he said, to the disciple, whom he loved, behold thy mother. The language was understood; and from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Whilst thus we oppose the delusions of a dangerous philosophy, let no one believe, we mean to encourage a selfish concern for ourselves, or a species of indifference towards the happiness of others. No. It is the noblest character of charity, that she seeketh not her own. Selfishness cannot consist with true goodness—They never can be associated in the same bosom. They never can flourish in the same soil. Unaffected benevolence, large in her desires and comprehensive in her schemes, confines neither her good wishes, nor exertions within the circle of domestic, or social friendship. Though her first offerings be presented here, she has other altars, upon which she sacrifices. First charitable, where charity should begin; she is afterwards kind, where charity should not end. Name the man, who is the best father, the most dutiful son, the most affectionate brother; and in him we will show you the most useful citizen, the sincerest friend to the interests and order of society, to the promotion and maintenance of plans of large and of liberal beneficence. And though the flame of liberty do not blaze forth in his conversation, nor the cant of patriotism forever vociferate from his tongue, though he do not perpetually sound the trumpet in every corner of the street, he is, after all, the firmest patriot, and the truest friend of equal and of universal liberty. He has no self interest to cover under popular names. He wishes not to wear the honours of office and of power himself; but, he does wish to see them adorn integrity only.

Yes—this is the man, whose benevolence is erected upon the firmest foundation, and in its superstructure will overtop every narrow, selfish consideration. This is the man, whose heart will be ever alive to the softest impulse of pity; and whose ear will listen to the faintest sigh of distress. In him the wants of the stranger will find succour. In himwill the children of distress, whatever be their nation or kindred, their colour or language, their politics or religion, enjoy a friend. Warmand benignant as the raysof the sun, his good wishes have no bounds; and his good actions no other measure, than what they always ought to have—his ability.

When we look around, and survey that variety of misery, which under one form or another, exists in the world, we find a wide field opened for the full range of all the philanthropic affections. How many bowed with age, or weak with disease, unable to afford to themselves either protection, or support, are thrown upon the arm of charity? Here are spirits hungering for the bread of life. There are bodies shivering with cold and nakedness. In one place we are told of industrious merit involved in pecuniary embarrassment. In another we hear of the sober artisan reduced to poverty; and with a numerous family unable to meet its exigencies. Here we see a wretched hovel, where disease is wasting the body; where the lamp of life grows dim, and death stands watching for his prey. There we are told, that fire has laid waste the dwelling of

some worthy family; and reduced it from decent competency to actual want. Here we are informed, that one of the sons of the prophets has expired; and the expectations of his whole family have perished with him. There we hear the story of a wretched orphan, destitute of parental instruction, protection and support, and an easy victim to the arts of the seducer. Again we have the recital of numbers, who have perished in the contest of the elements, or have built their tombs in the ocean. Here sits Rachel weeping for an only son, and refuses to be comforted. There sighs the lonely widow, deprived of her kind husband and support, an untimely victim to the watery element.

But how is the eye of benevolence relieved from this painful sight, when it turns its view to those various charitable associations, in this town, purposely designed to meet, and alleviate these various kinds of wo? In many instances the arm of private charity cannot reach them; and here these associated children of humanity are ready to all the offices of kindness and of love. Here the infirm and the aged find a retreat(*a*), and streams do flow(*b*), which make glad the city of our God. Here the naked are clothed(*c*), and the unsuccessful are compensated(*d*). Here the sick

a Boston Alms House.

b Various societies for the circulation of religious knowledge.

c The quarterly congregational charitable collections, episcopal charitable society, &c.

d The Marine, Masonic, and other Societies.

have gratuitously, administered to them a healing balm(*e*), and those, whose effects have been devoured by the element of fire, are remunerated by the hand of charity(*f*). Here the ministers of Christ find his friends, who, for his sake, minister to their families, when their earthly labours are finished(*g*); and the wretched orphan recognizes a parent, in the stranger(*h*). Here, in a word, distress of every kind to be relieved, requires but to be known!

Generous Bostonians! Your deeds of charity are every where celebrated. Though benevolence, like yours, covets no adulation; yet, how shall we withhold a tribute, which is so much your due? But your best applause is the consciousness of well doing, and your sure recompense is on high.

Whilst thus we commend the spirit of all these institutions, our encomiums, surely, are not less due to a society, which, for the benevolence of its designs, and the respectability of its members, for the usefulness of its operation, and the extent of its objects, must hold the first rank among all charitable associations. To preserve that life, so dear to all, to open again the eyes that were about

(*e*) Boston Dispensary.

(*f*) Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society.

(*g*) Congregational Charitable Society for the relief of ministers widows. Episcopal Fund, &c.

(*h*) Boston Female Asylum.

to close forever on this beautiful world, and this cheering sun, and to unlock the lips, that were almost sealed up in everlasting silence, to unstop the ears, that were deaf to the voice of friendship, or to the cries of grief, to cause the blood to flow again through the heart, that had now ceased to beat, to strengthen the bonds of nature, which death had almost broken, and to change the house of mourning into an house of joy and rapture; these—these are the objects, at which this institution aims. "The value of life, then, is the criterion of its importance;" and what makes its continuation desirable for its own sake, for our friends, for our country, or religion, "is the triumphant boast of the resuscitative art." To behold these objects realized, and by our personal aid to assist in the benevolent work; to restore to society a useful member, to a family an indulgent parent, and to humanity a friend; or, by charitable contribution, to minister to the comfort of the shipwrecked mariner, when the storms have arisen and dashed his vessel on the shore; there to furnish shelter and protection in retreats erected by the hand of humanity, and to have the blessing of him, who was ready to perish, thus coming upon you, must furnish a luxury more exquisite, than the epicure can boast, more refined, than language can express, more divine, than imagination can conceive. It is a joy, which the heart alone can feel, and which the stranger to humanity intermeddles not with.

Go on, then, in your God like design, nor be weary in well doing. You are following the footsteps of him, who came not to destroy men's lives, but to save them; not to be ministered unto, but to minister to others, and to give his life a ransom for many. You are ensuring to yourselves the reciprocation of those kind offices, which, you, in your turn, may possibly one day require. You are offering unto God an acceptable acknowledgment of his mercies towards you. You are obeying the command of our blessed Saviour while here upon earth, and putting on the badge, which he himself hath instituted of your relationship to him. You are honouring his gospel, to whose influence alone we are indebted for the first, and for every other charitable establishment, that has ever been formed; for till his appearance upon earth, not one solitary association of this kind had ever existed. And though you seek no earthly recompense, yet he who remembers a cup of cold water given in his name, will not forget this labour of love. How faded will one day appear the garlands of the conqueror, when compared with those, which shall then be placed upon his brow, who hath conquered misery! How dim will grow the monarch's diadem, when beheld in competition with that, which applauding angels shall, one day, fix upon the head of benevolence! But you come not here to receive the applause of mortals. You enter not this sacred temple for the purpose of os-

tentation. Pure in its origin, your benevolence courts no compliment in its progress; and no selfishness mixes along with it. But you assemble, to day, to stimulate others to those tender charities, which your hearts already feel; and, pointing to your motto(*i*), you say to them; go and do likewise.

The president, the vice presidents, the trustees, and members of the Humane Society will accept our congratulations upon this return of their fifteenth anniversary. Would to God, no darkness rested upon it! But ah, the placid countenance of humanity is overcast with pensive melancholy, and she weeps over the ashes of some of her favourite sons! We cannot forget the excellent Howard(*k*), whose mild countenance beamed so much goodness, that to love was but to see, and to revere was but to know him—nor the benevolent Parker, whose generous activity warmed and cherished so many children of want, and whose memory is still precious! Their presence enlivened your last anniversary, but now they sleep in the long silence of the grave.

(*i*) The motto–"to preserve life and alleviate its miseries".

(*k*) Rev'd. Simeon Howard, D. D. and Rev'd. Samuel Parker, D. D. Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Massachusetts, were both Trustees of the Humane Society, the former died August 13th, the latter December 6, 1804. The first was succeeded in the Trusteeship by Rev. John Eliot, D. D. and the last by William Phillips, Esq.

Nor has death made inroads upon your officers alone, but also upon members of your society, equally valuable, equally beloved. And where, alas! is the scientific Willard(*l*), at whose shrine humanity as well as literature weeps? Where is the much-loved Brimmer(*m*) whose manly person was the imperfect semblance of his yet more manly mind, and at whose urn faithful friendship will not cease to sigh? Where is the correct, judicious Davis(*n*), or the amiable, and upright Coffin.(*o*) Both lovely in their lives, both precious in their deaths. Ah! how cold are all those hearts, that were once so warm with benevolence, and how dim the eyes, that used to awake at the softest call of distress! Forever mute are the lips, whence flowed instruction or entertainment. Stiffened are the arms that were extended in charity, and motionless are the feet, which, went about doing good. Sainted spirits! though your mortal bodies

(*l*) Joseph Willard, D. D. L. L. D. A. A. S. President of the University in Cambridge, died Sept. 25, 1804.

(*m*) Martin Brimmer, Esq. of Roxbury, died September 27, 1804.

(*n*) Thomas Davis, Esq. of Boston, late Treasurer of the Commonwealth, died Jan. 21, 1805.

(*o*) Peleg Coffin, Esq. late treasurer of the Commonwealth, died March 6, 1805.

Besides these, other members of the Society have died the last year much regretted. Among these, were Isaiah Doane, Esq. Dr. Saml. Brown, and Capt. John Gray.

lie shrouded in the dust, your virtues shall still live in our fond recollections; and, allured by your examples, we also will aspire to your rewards.

Of this institution, which they, and so many worthies before them, thus warmly cherished, I am now to become the advocate; and to solicit your charity in aid of its funds. We know the calls upon your benevolence are frequent, but we know also that you are never weary in well doing. What you give here, will not be lost. You will be amply remunerated at the resurrection day.

Tender mothers! affectionate sisters! perhaps this institution may be the means of snatching an only child, or a kind brother from a watery grave, and of restoring him to your joyful arms. This suggestion will plead our cause with sufficient eloquence, to your sensibility, and we are satisfied to rest it there.

There is one reflection, which irresistibly forces itself upon us, on this occasion. How soon the time will come, when, notwithstanding all the efforts of humanity, every individual here assembled must fall a victim to the tyrant—death. "Glory, with all her lamps," will expire; wisdom, with all her treasures, will perish in oblivion, and the world itself, will be dissolved. But there are charities, which shall never be forgotten—there are virtues, that shall never be lost. And when this present arrangement shall come to an end, and these kind offices of benevolence shall be needed no more, then, with what pleasure

shall we look back upon the charities we have here performed? These shall rise up in memorial before God. They shall powerfully plead our cause at the judgment seat. They shall adorn, with new triumphs, the glory of our victory, and brighten, with new lustre, the splendour of everlasting day.

FINIS.

APPENDIX.

The following communications have been received in the course of the last year.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H. 22d AUGUST, 1804.

Sir,

ABOUT four in the afternoon of Friday, the fifteenth of last June, as several boys were diverting themselves on Mann's wharf, a few rods below the ferry, master John Hart, son of Oliver Hart of this town, eight years of age, accidentally fell into the river. An outcry was made, and the alarm was given, that he was drowning. Very fortunately, as the event proves, Mr. Benning Hall, an excellent swimmer, was at work on the upper end of Ham's wharf, which is a few steps below the former. He ran to the water side, where he saw the unhappy youth hastily carried along by the tide, which was at about two thirds flood. William Fernald, a lad ten years old, with his little sister, had been amusing himself in a boat and was near by. Mr. Hall begged him to scull to the boy; but, he was so frightened at seeing him in such a deplorable situation and at hearing the screeches ashore, he could only throw down his oar and join in the outcry. Instantly upon this, Mr. Hall, took off his shoes and hat, leaped into the river, and swam for the boy, who, ere he reached him, had risen twice and was again out of sight, so that he thought he should have been obliged to dive for him. He, however, took hold of the boy's arm within three feet of the surface and raised his head above the water. At first, he seemed to have lost all muscular motion; but soon gasped for breath, and, recollecting his danger, struggled, turned, and seized Mr. Hall,

by his neckcloth, to the no small hazard of both. The people, by this time, were collected in considerable numbers on the wharves, and Mr. Hall could distinctly hear them say, that they would both be drowned. The lad faftening upon his throat in such a manner, put it out of his power to keep from sinking. They were both immersed, and Mr. Hall took water into his mouth, which almost strangled him. He was perfectly self-collected and being conscious of their mutual danger, determined within himself to tear the lad from his hold; but yet, so as to give him opportunity to seize him otherwise, if he would, but if not, to cease from the attempt to save him. He accordingly tore the lad from his neckloth and twirled him over his shoulder, so that he caught Mr. Hall by his outer garb, back of the neck, where he elevated his head completely above the water. As Mr. Hall, had the free use of his arms he was able to swim with this load in safety; but, as it was very difficult stemming the tide so as to gain the shore without assistance, he called to William Fernald not to be scared and to scull his boat to him. William had now so far the command of his oar, that he soon reached Mr. Hall, who threw young Hart into the boat and got in himself, having swum about six or seven rods.

There is hardly the shadow of a probability, that the lad would not have perished, without these exertions of Mr. Hall. There were two men in company with him, when the accident happened; but neither of them could swim. Before any other person could have come to the relief of the unfortunate boy, he would have sunk for the last time and the tide would shortly have swept him into a depth of water and so far off, that he could not have been recovered from the watery grave, till the possibility of resuscitation would have been precluded.

Mr. Benning Hall, in the adventure of which I have given you a circumstantial relation, exposed his life and, under Providence, was the means of saving a promising youth from an untimely death. He seems to be particularly meritorious of an emolument among the sons of humanity, as

he was once before, some years ago, instrumental in saving a drowning person, the only son of the widow Fuller of this town.

These things, sir, are my only apology for so soon introducing to your notice another narrative of this kind. I am with due respect, Your humble serv't.

TIMOTHY ALDEN, junr.

Aaron Dexter, M. D.
Corresponding Secretary of the Humane Society at Boston.

Letter from Mr. Nath'l. Bradstreet Corresponding Secretary of the Merrimack Humane Society.

NEWBURYPORT, JAN. 14, 1805.

Sir,

YOUR Anniversary Discourses, and the book, exhibiting the measures of the M. H. Society to excite attention to the resuscitation of the apparently dead, were received by our *Trustees* with a lively pleasure; such as a high sense of the utility of humane Institutions on their present establishment, is calculated to excite. And according to their direction I now send you the two discourses, which have been had before our Society, since its establishment.

Such is the condition of this Town as to its harbour, our river so barred as to forbid any vessel to enter except at high water, that we are greatly exposed to shipwrecks; not a year passes without accidents of this kind taking place on Plumb Island or Salisbury Beach. And in the cold of winter, without some shelter to protect from the fury of the storm, our seamen who are compelled to quit their vessels, must be exposed to almost certain destruction.

To obviate such calamities, we have now erected as many huts on those places, as are thought sufficient for the fugitive mariner to find one, should he be cast away, any where, on either of those places. And we are happy to

observe a laudable zeal excited in those who live on Plumb Island, and in all our vicinity, promptly to assist those in Jeopardy, and to seek opportunities to extend the hand of kindness to the wretched.

With sentiments of esteem, I have the honour to be
Your very obed't. servant,
NATH'L. BRADSTREET, *Cor. Sec. Mer. H. Society.*

Aaron Dexter, M. D.
Cor. Sec. Mass. H. Society.

Letter from Doct. James Thacher of Plymouth.

PLYMOUTH 31st JANUARY 1805.

Dear Sir,

The late severe snow storm of three days continuance, has produced many Tragical scenes among our sea faring brethren, one of which, being extremely distressing, and attended by circumstances peculiarly interesting to the feelings of humanity, is deemed a proper subject for a communication.

The Ship Hibernia, Captain Andrew Farrel sailed from Boston on Saturday 26th inst. for Trinidad. On Monday 28th, about 5 o'clock P. M. she was unfortunately stranded on the Beach in this harbour. Intelligence of which being communicated, a number of spirited Seamen of this Town, immediately repaired to the Beach stimulated by an ardent desire to administer relief. The ship however was at such distance from the shore that every human effort must for the present prove ineffectual, and they could render no other service than to kindle a large fire on the beach. The wind blowing to the shore, and every wave sweeping the Decks, obliged the unhappy sufferers to resort to the shrouds to avoid instant destruction. Their distressing lamentations and cries for relief, served only to excite the most sorrowful commiseration and regret, for

their awful fate. At flood tide, the ship was driven nearer the shore, but yet so formidable were the furious waves that the most intrepid seaman dare not attempt to get on board. At length however, Mr. William Leonard following the sea as it receded, rushed forward, and by an unparalleled exertion seized hold of the wreck, and drew himself upon deck. Not less than half an hour elapsed before he could receive the assistance of any other person, and so perilous was his condition, that his friends on shore were greatly alarmed for his safety. The melancholy scene was now exhibited to his view, the stern was separated from the head of the ship. The unfortunate Captain had expired, and was suspended on the shrowds, and of the ten seamen eight had perished. The first mate Mr. William Payne, and a boy, were the only survivors, and they so extremely exhausted as to afford but faint appearances of remaining life. By the help of ropes they were lowered down from the wreck,and conveyed to the shore—the boy soon expired, but the life of Mr. Payne was Providentially preserved. After removing his wet clothes, and wrapping him in warm Blankets, our people generously had recourse to their own flannel Waistcoats, which they applied by way of friction, and having pressed open his mouth, and poured down some warm wine, he was perceived to revive.

The extremities of Mr. Payne were much frozen, and before medical assistance could be obtained, warm Cataplasms were injudiciously applied, which excited severe pain, and mortification would probably have ensued, but by the direction of Dr. Hayward, repeated applications of snow were substituted, by which the pain was soon mitigated, a pleasant sensation excited, and the circulations eventually restored. After which Goose fat rubbed freely into the parts, had the effect of reducing the swelling and relaxing the contracted tendons.

Fully established in the belief that the application of snow in similar cases, is greatly preferable to any other remedy, I am solicitious, that our seamen should be apprised of its superior efficacy. If instead of external heat, frozen limbs could be immediately covered with snow, or when

that cannot be obtained, with ice and cold water, gangrene and other disastrous consequences, would in many instances be obviated.

Altho' a considerable number of persons cheerfully subjected themselves to great fatigue, and afforded every possible assistance upon this calamitous occasion, yet justice requires that I should particularize for the notice of the Trustees, William Leonard, who put his own life in jeopardy, and who with the prompt assistance of the following persons, was essentially instrumental in rescuing a fellow creature from inevitable death.

Capt. Isaac Bartlett, Samuel Virgen, William Bradford, Rufus Churchill, Bartlett Sears and Richard Durfee, jr. were the other persons, who soon got on board, and assisted in conveying the sufferers on shore.

I am Sir very respectfully

Your most humble servant,

JAMES THACHER.

Dr. John Warren,
Pres't. Humane Society.

APPARENT DEATH—LIFE RESTORED.

"He sinks!—is lost!—none near to give relief!
And hark—that scream!—a frantic mother's grief!
Fix'd on the flood that would her babe destroy,
Her eager eye deep searches for her boy;
He's found!—but ah! when anxious drawn to shore,
The mother breathless!—views her child—no more!
But, Heav'n-instructed—every effort's try'd
Which Wisdom plann'd, and Study has supply'd,
Eager to save, each panting bosom burns;
Life half departed, 's beckon'd, and returns:
What rapt'rous bliss the eager mind receives,
When parent Extacy exclaims—*He lives.*"

RESUSCITATIVE PROCESS.

What thou doest—do quickly.

Occidit, qui non servat.

CONVEY the person to the nearest convenient house, with his head raised: Strip and dry him as quick as possible; clean the mouth and nostrils from froth and mud. If a child, let him be placed between two persons naked, in a hot bed. If an adult, lay him on a hot blanket or bed, and, in cold weather, near a fire—In warm weather, the air should be freely admitted into the room. The body is next to be gently rubbed with warm woolen cloths sprinkled with spirits, if at hand, otherwise dry: A heated warming-pan may be now lightly moved over the back, properly covered with a blanket—and the body, if of a child, is to be gently shook every few minutes: Whilst these means are using, let a clyster of warm water with as much common salt as it will dissolve, be thrown into the bowels: Bathe the breast with hot rum, and persist in the use of these means for several hours. If no signs of life should then appear, let the body be kept warm several hours longer, with hot bricks, or vessels of hot water, applied to the palms of the hands, and soles of the feet, and this for a longer or shorter time, as the circumstances of the case may dictate.

The too customary method of rolling on a barrel, suspending by the feet, and every other violent mode of agitation, particularly in removing the body from the water, should be most carefully avoided.

To restore breathing—Introduce the pipe of a bellows, (when no apparatus is at hand) into one of the nostrils, the other, and mouth being closed, *inflate the lungs*, till the breast is a little raised; the mouth and nostrils must then be let free.

Repeat this process till life appear.

Electricity is recommended to be early employed by judicious Practitioners.

INTENSE COLD.

Rub the body with snow, ice or cold water; restore warmth by slow degrees, and after some time, if there be no appearance of life, the plans of resuscitation for the drowned must be employed.

SUSPENSION BY THE CORD.

A few ounces of blood may be taken from the jugular vein, cupping-glasses applied to the head and neck, and bleeding at the temples. The other methods of treatment, the same as recommended for the apparently drowned.

INTOXICATION.

The body to be laid on a bed, with the head a little raised; the neckcloth, &c. removed.

Obtain immediate *medical assistance*, as the modes of treatment must be varied according to the circumstances of the patient.

SUFFOCATION BY NOXIOUS VAPOURS, OR LIGHTNING.

Cold water to be repeatedly thrown upon the face, &c. drying the body at intervals. If the body feels cold employ gradual *warmth*: and the plans for restoring the drowned, in all cases of apparent death.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

RESUSCITATION.

On the *dawn* or first indication of returning life, the prudent Practitioner will resign the office of *Art to Nature*. It is evident that Art has contributed her share by enabling Nature to struggle with the immediate cause of oppression.

It is in fact this judicious blending of *Nature* with *Art*, that gives to the latter all its efficacy.

1.—On Signs of Returning Life.

A tea-spoonful of warm water may be given; and, if swallowing be returned, warm wine, or diluted brandy. The patients must be in a warm bed and if disposed to sleep, they will generally awake perfectly restored.

2.—The plans above recommended are to be used three or four hours.

It is an absurd and vulgar opinion, to suppose persons irrecoverable, because life does not soon make its appearance.

3.—Bleeding never to be employed, unless by the direction of a Physician.

REFLECTIONS ON REANIMATION.

Suppose yourselves, but for a few moments, in your evening walk of rural retirement, imagine your contemplation interrupted by an uncommon appearance.—Behold a young man dragged to the shore without life or motion.

Scarce an hour has passed since the object of their attention had left his circle of domestic happiness.—And now his body swoln, his eyes sunk, and his face livid. Without the least signs of life, they convey him in *hopeless despondence* to his own home. Fear, despondency, and horror, are spread over the afflicted family. On one side behold the *aged mother* lamenting her lost child; on the other stands mute the *distracted wife*, afraid to look up to the horrid spectacle; whilst the *innocent little ones*, look with amazement and wonder at the silence of him, who always so kindly greeted them on his return.

Those who would most gladly take upon them the task of restoration are most unable to perform it; and all the precious moments which should have been employed in the means of his recovery, are lost in fruitless lamentation. They hang over him in silent anguish, take their last farewell in the agonies of despair, and consign him to the grave.

And now observe the change. It chances that one of *the sons of humanity* (which is but another name for this institution) is passing by.—As soon as he hears of the event, he flies, like the *Good Samaritan*, to the chamber of sorrow; he stops those who had assembled but to gaze at and desert him, calls on them to assist him, and assiduously applies with zeal proper means to resuscitate. *Death*, unwilling to relinquish his devoted prey, struggles powerfully to detain it; seems to smile, as it were, at the ineffectual labour; till at length subdued by *fortitude* and *perseverance* he gives up the contest.

"A ray of hope breaks in upon the gloom, and lights up every countenance.—Behold at last, again he moves, he breathes, he lives.—What follows is *not* within the power of language to describe: *imagination* alone can suggest to true *Philanthropists* the delightful scenes of wonder and astonishment, of mutual joy, transport, and felicity."

A Committee of the Trustees was appointed, May 3d, 1802, to make out a schedule of the Huts that have been erected by the Society for the preservation of shipwrecked seamen, their situation, and the expenses that have attended; which Committee made a Report, of which the following is an abstract, and ordered by the Trustees to be published.

HUTS ERECTED BY THE HUMANE SOCIETY.

			D.	C.
1787. January.	One on Scituate Beach,	at 40 dols. each.		
	One on the outer Beach of Nantasket		120	
	One on west end of Lovel's Island,			
1789. Dec.	One on Calf's Island,			
	One on east end of Lovell's Island,		95	
	One on other end Nantasket Beach,			
1792.	One on Stout's Creek on Cape Cod,		42	50
1793.	One on Brush Island, Cohasset,			
1794.	Two on the Islaud of Nantucket,		72	
1799.	One on Pettick's Island,		50	
			379	50
1802.	The Repairs on said Huts, and supplying them with necessary articles, has cost the Society to the present time,		191	94

The Trustees of the Humane Society, having, in their private capacity, been informed of several instances of persons, who had incurred apparent death by drowning or

otherwise, and been fortunately recovered by the means recommended by the Society, and no communication made thereof; and convinced that publishing the circumstances of such incidents would be attended with beneficial effects, hereby request the citizens of this commonwealth, and particularly the gentlemen in the medical line, to communicate to the Corresponding Secretary, all the instances that have, or shall come to their knowledge, of reanimation, and the means whereby those happy events are accomplished, with such other particulars of the time respiration was suspended, &c. as they shall think of importance to notice: As it is by comparing, the success of different means and operations, that this important art can be brought to perfection. The Trustees are also desirous, of extending the rewards promised by the Society, for signal exertions, throughout the commonwealth, and for this reason, they request information of all the attempts of reanimation, even if they prove unsuccessful.

N. B. The Trustees request the same favour, from the citizens of the neighbouring states.

An Extract from the Minutes of Said Trustees,

JOHN AVERY, Rec'g. Sec'ry.

PREMIUMS ADJUDGED FROM JUNE 1804 *TO JUNE* 1805.

	D.	C.
To Oliver Jourdan for his signal exertions in saving a young lad from drowning,	5	
To Mr. Bray Cox, 10, and to the other persons, named in the Rev'd. Mr. Alden's Letter, 5 dollars each, being thirteen in number	75	
To James Towell for his exertions in saving the life of a lad,	5	
To George Sampson, junr. for his signal exertions in saving the life of a child, mentioned in Doctor Thacher's Letter,	10	
	95	

	D.	C.
Bro't over,	95	
To John Cheever, for saving the life of a lad,	5	
To a son of Mrs. Lydia Sherman, for saving the life of a lad,	3	
To Alexander Lovett, for saving the life of a boy,	5	
To Hollis Sawtell and Gideon Arnold, for saving the life of a boy, one dollar each,	2	
To Benjamin Chandler, for saving the life of a boy,	3	
To Peter Andricour, for saving the life of a child,	5	
To John Bassett, for saving the life of a child,	5	
To Mr. James Thompson Oliver, for saving the life of Andrew Fennell, a Native of Ireland,	5	
To Thomas Oliver, for saving the life of a child	4	
To the Rev. Timothy Alden of Portsmouth, for the use of Mr. Benning Hall, for his signal exertions, in saving the life of a young lad, by the name of John Hart, from drowning, mentioned in his Letter of August 22d, last,	10	
To Silas Peirce, for saving the life of a boy, who fell thro' the ice in the Mill Pond,	5	
To Benjamin Chandler, for saving the life of Mr. Joshua Wyman, who fell into the Town Dock,	4	
To Anthony Gowen, and Peter Bretton for their exertions, in saving the life of a son of the Rev'd. Doct. Eckley, from drowning, five dollars each, and for bringing up the dead body of the drowned seaman.	10	
To the owner of the house, who received the dead body of the said seaman,	5	
carried forward,	166	

	D.	C.
Bro't over,	166	
To Mr. William Leonard, and the other persons of Plymouth, who preserved the Capt. and seamen of ship Hibernia, (when shipwrecked) mentioned in the letter of Doct. James Thacher, dated Jan. 31, 1805,	50	
To Henry Dilloway and Nathaniel Clarke, one dollar to each of them, for saving the life of a woman,	2	
To Joseph Preston and Joseph Chase, for their exertions, in saving the life of one John Greene,	10	
To Charles Cutler, for saving the life of a boy,	3	
To David M'Lean, for saving the life of James Bryant,	1	
To Messrs. Samuel Zarmond and Alexander M'Entyer, three dollars to each of them, for saving the lives of two young men from drowning,	6	
	238	

Expences paid by the Treasurer on Account of the Humane Society the year past.

	D.	C.
Expenses of Semiannual Meeting,	45	
Printing Doct. John C. Howard's Discourse, &c.	81	75
Messrs. Manning and Lorings' Acct. for printing Certificates,	6	
Mr. Thomas Smalley, of Province Town, his Acct. for moving and rebuilding a Hutt, and and for moving and repairing Hutts on Cape Cod,	14	20
Messrs. Manning and Loring, for printing Notifications,	4	
Messenger of Society,	35	
	185	95

FUNDS—THE PROPERTY OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY.

			D. C.
Certificates of United States 6 per cent Stock,	1442 : 17		
Deduct Principal paid,	391 : 12		1051 : 5
	1051 : 5		
Ditto 3 per cent,			708 : 83
Ditto 8 per cent,			800
Massachusetts State Notes			2920 : 86
Union Bank Stock,			1500
West Boston Bridge,	2 Shares,		417 : 17
Malden Bridge fund,			694 : 58
			8092 : 49

We the Subscribers appointed a Committee, by the Humane Society of Massachusetts, at their meeting December 11, 1804, to examine the Accounts of Edward Gray, Esq. Treasurer of said Society, find all the Articles in his Account vouched, the same right cast, and the evidence of the property above enumerated.

SAMUEL PARKMAN,
JOHN HANCOCK,
JOHN C. WARREN, } *Committee.*

December 29th, 1804.

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Aaron Dexter, M. D. 2d *Vice President.*
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