

**An eulogy on John Coakley Lettsom ... late president of the Philosophical Society of London, who died on Wednesday, November 1st, 1815, delivered before the Society, on Monday, Nov. the 20th 1815 / [Thomas Joseph Pettigrew].**

### **Contributors**

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Philosophical Society of London.

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EULOGY  
ON THE LATE  
DR. LETTSOM.

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*Price 3s.*

PETTIGREW, T.J.

C

(P)





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At a Meeting of the Officers and Council of the Entomological  
Society of London, held on Tuesday, November 21st, 1813,

JAMES BALDWIN BROWN, Esq. in the Chair.

## EULOGY

Read at the Anniversary

That the most cordial Thanks of this Council be presented to  
Mr. T. J. PETERSON for his very excellent Eulogy on their  
late venerable President, delivered on Monday, November the  
20th, and that a Copy of the

**DR. LETTOM.**

same to the Society for publication.

Signed,

J. B. BROWN, Chairman.



*At a Meeting of the Officers and Council of the PHILOSOPHICAL  
SOCIETY OF LONDON, held on Tuesday, November 21st. 1815 ;*

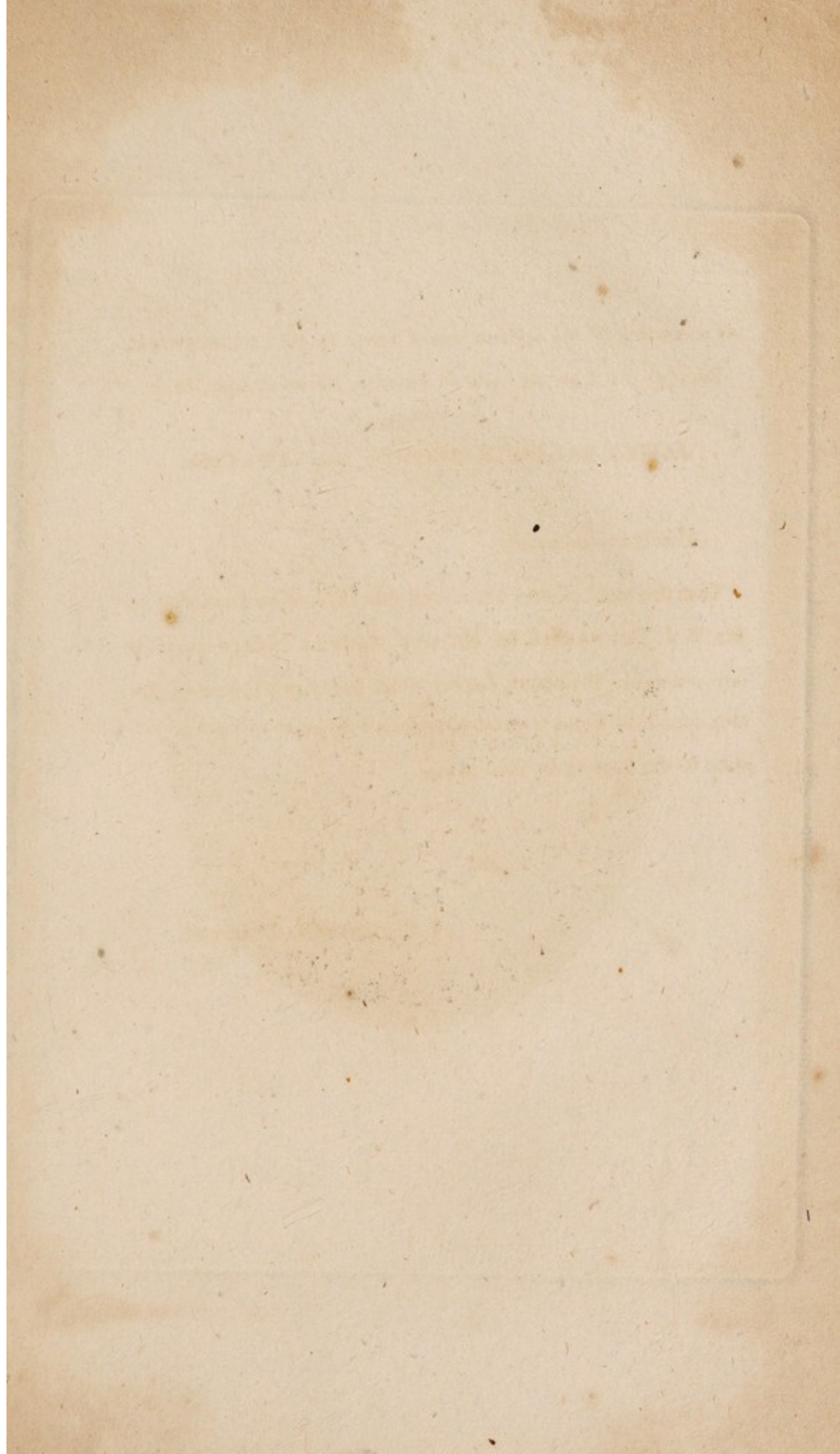
**JAMES BALDWIN BROWN, Esq. in the Chair.**

*Resolved unanimously,*

That the most cordial Thanks of this Council be presented to  
**Mr. T. J. PETTIGREW**, for his very excellent Eulogy on their  
late venerable President, delivered on Monday, November the  
20th. and that he be earnestly requested to grant a Copy of the  
same to the Society for publication.

Signed,

**J. B. BROWN, Chairman.**







*Dr Lettson.*

*Amicus humani generis.*



AN  
**EULOGY**

ON  
**JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM,**  
M. D. ; LL. D. ; F. R. S. ; F. A. S. ; &c.

*LATE PRESIDENT OF THE*  
**Philosophical Society of London,**  
WHO DIED ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1st. 1815:

*Delivered before the Society, on Monday,*  
*Nov. the 20th. 1815.*

---

By **T. J. PETTIGREW, F. L. S.**

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS; SURGEON EXTRAORDINARY TO  
H. R. H. THE DUKE OF KENT; FELLOW AND REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY;  
HONORARY MEMBER AND SECRETARY OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY;  
REGISTRAR AND SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY; LECTURER ON  
ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, PATHOLOGY, &c.; AUTHOR OF VIEWS OF THE BASIS  
OF THE BRAIN AND CRANIUM, &c. &c.

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Inspicere tanquam in speculum in vitas omnium  
Jubeo, atque ex aliis sumere exemplum sibi.      TER.

“ The lives of other men should be regarded as a mirror, from  
“ which we may take an example and a rule of conduct for our-  
“ selves.”

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**LONDON:**

PRINTED FOR T. AND G. UNDERWOOD, 32 FLEET STREET, AND S. HIGHLEY  
AND SON, 174 FLEET STREET, BOOKSELLERS TO THE SOCIETY,  
BY DAVIES, MICHAEL, AND HUDSON, STEREOTYPE FOUNDERS,  
POPPIN'S COURT, FLEET STREET.

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1816.

# EULOGY

JOHN COAKLEY LITTON.

M.D. LL.D. F.R.S. F.A.S. &c.

LATE PRESIDENT OF THE

Philosophical Society of London.

WHICH WAS READ ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1815.

By J. J. PETTICREW, Esq.

At the Theatre Royal, on Monday,



Printed by J. JOHNSON, Strand, near St. Martin's Church.

The lives of other men should be regarded as a mirror, from which we may take an example and a rule of conduct for our selves.

LONDON:  
Printed for J. and A. COOPER, in Pall Mall, near St. James's Palace, and for J. JOHNSON, in St. Martin's Lane, near St. Martin's Church.



( VI )  
TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

EDWARD,

DUKE OF KENT AND STRATHEARN,

K. G. G. C. B. K. P.

&c. &c. &c.

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SIR,

*Impressed with a deep sense of my inability to do adequate justice to the distinguished character to whose memory and virtues these pages are consecrated, it is with the greatest diffidence I presume to inscribe them, (although with Your Royal Highness' express permission) to so good a judge, and so zealous a patron of literature, as Your Royal Highness. That condescending liberality, however, which has induced*



*Your Royal Highness, on so many occasions, to preside in the assemblies of this great metropolis, where the interests of humanity, or the pursuits of science could be forwarded by Your august presence, will, I trust, pardon my deficient efforts fully to portray the congenial virtues of one who, like the great exemplar of all benevolence, "went about doing good," and who might be truly denominated the friend of the human race.*

*The marked attention, with which Your Royal Highness has been pleased to honour the SOCIETY, of which Dr. Lettsom was the HEAD, in a peculiar manner points out Your Royal Highness as the person to whom the subsequent pages ought with propriety to be addressed, and this is done by the author under the liveliest and most grateful sense of personal obligation of which the human mind is capable.*



*The tumult and distraction incident to a state of protracted warfare, having, principally through the vigour of British talents and fortitude, happily subsided, the moral and social world, it is hoped, will at length enjoy that profound repose which is so necessary for scientific investigation, and it is equally a subject of pride and exultation to the Members of the Philosophical Society, that they can boast of Patrons, not less distinguished by their rank in the empire, than by their persevering ardour in matters connected with literature and science. Their researches, indeed, are intimately combined with the wealth and prosperity of a great nation, and therefore not wholly undeserving the favour and protection of Princes of that puissant dynasty of sovereigns under whose auspices our country has arisen to such a proud pre-eminence of power and glory. Under the sanction and influ-*



*ence of Your Royal Highness, the efforts of the Members of this Society, in every walk of science, connected with its institution, have been invigorated and expanded, and their numbers already greatly increased. A continuation of that sanction, accompanied with the courteous affability, which on all occasions distinguishes Your Royal Highness towards those who strive to merit Your protection, will doubtless still farther cause those efforts to expand, and the fame of this infant establishment to be more extensively diffused. It already marshals in its ranks several individuals of distinguished merit and attainments; the seed of Science is plentifully sown; the sacred spark of emulative genius is rapidly spreading. Time and cultivation are alone wanting to ripen the swelling germ, and mature the kindling flame!*

*That Your Royal Highness may long enjoy*



*the DOUBLE LAUREL, the honours of which  
have been so well earned, and are so generally  
acknowledged to be due to Your Royal  
Highness' talents and virtues, is the sincere  
wish of*

*Your Royal Highness'*

*most faithful and devoted Servant,*

*T. J. PETTIGREW.*

*Bolt Court, Fleet Street,*

*Dec. 26th 1815.*

the DOUBTLESSLY the honours of which  
have been so well earned and are so generally  
acknowledged to be due to Your Royal  
Highness talents and virtues, is the sincere  
wish of  
Your Royal Highness  
most faithful and devoted servant,

T. A. PETTICREW  
Esq.  
The Lord, Portman  
The 20th 1812



## EULOGY, &c.

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AT the request of our late worthy President, made some few months ago, that should I survive him, I would, in conformity to the custom of the Institution, deliver an Oration on his Life and Character, I appear before you on the present melancholy occasion.

At the solicitation of the Council also, that I would pronounce the Eulogium, I have undertaken the task :—a task at once both pleasing and painful :—pleasing to my feel-



ings, because the request implied a confidence on the part of my esteemed friend, and the Council, that I would do justice to his inestimable character; — and painful, inasmuch as each trait recalls forcibly to my mind the melancholy recollection, that the virtuous LETTSOM is no more; and that, by his decease, I have to lament the loss of a most valuable friend.

Under any other circumstances, I should have hesitated to have undertaken the task, whilst among our Members there are so many of superior acquirements, and who also enjoyed the honour of his friendship.

It has been justly observed,\* that to suspend for a while the ordinary pursuits of life, whether of an active or contemplative nature, — to trace the path of the great, the virtuous, and the wise, through all their exertions for the benefit of mankind, — and to pourtray their characters as an example to the world, — has been the practice of all ages, — and is certainly a rational, useful, and philo-

\* By Lowell, in an Eulogy on the Hon. James Rowdoin, LL.D. &c.



sophic employment. Such is the task assigned me this day.

We cannot but recollect, on more than one occasion, when we have been assembled in this place, that from this desk our respected and beloved President, in strains of wisdom, urged us to the honourable employment of contributing to the advantage of our country, by useful studies, and important literary researches. We heard him with attention: We venerated him as our Patron: We respected him as a Philosopher and a Man: — But he is no more!

JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM, one of a twin, was born in Dec. 1744, in a small island called little Van Dyke, near Tortola, within the verge of the tropics. His ancestors, on the father's side, originated from Letsom, or, as it is called in Domesday-book, Ledsom, a small village in Cheshire; on the mother's side, they are lineally descended from Sir Cæsar Coakley, an Irish baronet, whose family for many years possessed a seat in the parliament of that kingdom, the last of whom was Sir Vesey Coakley.



At the age of six years he was sent to England for his education, and was placed under the protection of Mr. Fothergill, a celebrated preacher in the Society of Friends, and brother to the late Dr. John Fothergill, who afterwards became his Patron. By the former he was entrusted to the care of Mr. (afterwards Dr.) Sutcliff, a name which was never mentioned by Dr. Lettsom but with expressions of gratitude for his friendly attention. After serving the stated time of his apprenticeship, he entered at St. Thomas's Hospital as a Dresser. In this situation the diligence that in after life so particularly characterized him was productive of several advantages ; for many of his fellow students, less careful to obtain the necessary information upon which they are destined to act in their arduous profession, led away by the follies of the day, and more attentive to the seductive allurements of the billiard room, the coffee house, and the theatre, used to entrust their proportion of patients to him, who, by attentive observation, was enabled to enlarge the boundaries of medical science,



and to alleviate the miseries of the indigent sufferers.

After two years' study and practice in the Hospital, he returned to his native soil, to take possession of the property which came to him by the death of his father, and elder brother, who left very little of the family estate to be inherited by him, except a number of negro slaves, whom, to his eternal honour be it pronounced, he *immediately emancipated*.\*

At Tortola he settled as a Medical Practitioner, and by his attention soon obtained an excellent practice, that tempted him to visit the celebrated schools of Paris, Edinburgh, and Leyden, at the last of which universities, on the 20th of June, 1769, he took his degree of M. D. His Thesis was entitled "Observationes ad Vires Theæ Pertinentes," and was inscribed to Dr. John Fothergill, Mr. Samuel Fothergill, and Dr. Abraham Sutcliff.

After this circuit in pursuit of knowledge, he returned to London, and, under the pro-

\* "Public Characters, 1801."



tection of Dr. Fothergill, commenced practice:—this was in 1769, when he was admitted a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, at the head of the list of which his name lately appeared. In 1770 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and in the following year a Fellow of the Royal Society. He also became a fellow of the Linnæan Society, and subsequently connected himself with various other Institutions of minor consequence.

Under such patronage,\* with a mind richly stored with science, matured by reflection, improved by early and dear-bought experience, success was insured; and its fruits were displayed, not in a fastidious conduct and ostentatious parade, but in benevolent schemes for the relief of the distressed poor, and numerous charitable institutions, to mitigate pain and repel disease. Many of these originated with himself, and, of those that were planned by others, *most* received from him considerable improvement, and *all*

\* “Public Characters,” *ubi supra*.



his active support. His subsequent marriage with an amiable woman, (still living, and deeply lamenting her irreparable loss) and the addition of a considerable fortune by that marriage, enlarged the means of doing good, nor did the necessary attention to the interests and happiness of a numerous family, (of whom three only are now surviving) the result of that marriage, permit his zeal in the cause of philanthropy to cool, or restrain the current, in very arduous times, of a well directed liberality. He has, in many instances, fostered genius, cherished science, and expanded the circle of the arts, in periods of individual and national distress, unprecedented in the annals of this country, and his *purse*, equally with his *pen*, has been devoted to their cause. Medicine and Botany have been particularly indebted to his zealous researches; foreigners of talents and merit ever found an hospitable reception under his roof; and he constantly kept up a correspondence with the literati of the first eminence, both throughout Europe and America \*

\* See Note A.



It must be confessed, that professional men of great practice and popularity, and especially physicians, have more abundant opportunities of becoming useful members of the grand community of mankind, than any other class or order of persons whatsoever. And if, as in the case under our immediate consideration, to great medical practice is added a due proportion of philanthropy, neither the legislator who protects our persons and our property, nor the divine to whom is committed the sacred charge of what is more valuable than the most valued of our worldly possessions, hath so many occasions of administering to the *health* and the *sickness*, the strength and weakness of our bodies and our minds.

The talents essentially necessary to this important office, as an excellent author\* has remarked, are so extensive, that an accomplished physician must have his mind stored with ample materials for the enlargement of his understanding, be led to a diversified cultivation of the polite arts and sciences, conducive to elegance of manners

\* Wallis.



and refined sentiments, and inured to that laborious application, by which distinguished abilities are rendered peculiarly beneficial to mankind.

When we consider them, devoted to severe study, relinquishing the pleasures and enjoyments of social life, sacrificing every indulgence, practising the most mortifying self-denial, consuming themselves in the service of mankind, exposed to noxious infection, freely hazarding their own lives in saving others; can we be surprised that such uncommon virtue should have been held in the highest esteem and veneration, and those who practised it, translated, in the fond imagination of their grateful contemporaries, beyond the bounds of mortality; and ranked, as was the custom in the early ages of the world, among the number of the gods?

How much greater magnanimity is exerted in such useful pursuits, than in many of those which the world denominates heroic?

How much more laudable to be engaged in acts of humanity and benevolence, than in those of cruelty and violence! To save than



to destroy ! To extend and enlarge the happiness of mankind, than to spread ruin and desolation among them ! To snatch from the gates of death, and restore to his afflicted family, a tender and indulgent parent, than to add to the number of the fatherless and unprotected !

“ It is part,” observes an authority I have before referred to,\* “ of the medical function to apply balm to the troubles that alarm the imagination, the pangs that agonize the senses, the sensibility that bleeds at the heart, and the nerves that tremble to the sickness of the soul !”—From all which so many disorders of the body are produced or aggravated. And I am persuaded that many a heart is broken, many a constitution injured ; nay, many a life lost, for want of that timely succour and relief which most of our medical men would give, were not the sick in mind, body or estate, to defer their confidence, from vain fear or false delicacy, till too late. A sagacious and tender hearted practitioner will combine urbanity of man-

\* “ Public Characters,” *ubi supra*.



ners, and gentleness of demeanour, with professional skill; while many instances might be adduced, wherein patients have fallen victims to that coarse, and abrupt, not to say brutal violence, or indifference, which *familiarity* with the sufferings of human nature is sometimes known to create: So true is the observation of Horace:

“Sunt verba et voces, quibus hunc lenire dolorem

“Possis, et magnam morbi deponere partem.” \*

Dr. Lettsom always considered it to be amongst the foremost of his duties to console the *mind*, as well as relieve the *person* of his patient; † and, although a press of daily practice made it necessary that he should set a just value on *time*, he was never governed by the stop watch, to hurry away from the invalid whom he believed might be as much assisted by his society as by his prescriptions. On the contrary, it was his constant practice, (a practice it has often afforded me exquisite

\* “The power of words, and soothing sounds appease

“The raging pain, and lessen the disease.”

† See Note B.



delight to witness,) to solace and cheer, by the prevailing aids of gentle and encouraging conversation, as much as by medicine; and he has been known to devote many of those hours necessary to his own repose, to quiet the throbbing pulse, and dispose the wakeful eye of his patient to that sleep, which *indeed* “ ministers to a *mind* diseased,” and so often *really* “ knits up the ravelled sleeve of care.”

Humanity is a term of very extensive signification. It comprehends sympathy, compassion, pity, and mercy to the afflicted;\* not only to this individual, or class of the miserable, but to the whole company of every nation, kindred, and tongue, whatever the form, or particular causes, of their distress; nor only so, but all those labours and exertions which increase the accommodation of men, and render their abode here more pleasant and delightful. We live in a period of the world, and a state of society, favourable to every charitable institution, and useful improvement. Education and affluence have united to soften the heart, and render the

\* Barnard.



mind capable of liberal and elegant views, as well as to render easy the expence of charitable institutions and works of public convenience and magnificence.

Few men have been more extensively engaged in Philanthropic Institutions than our late President. To most of them he belonged—many owed their origin to his exertions:—Among these may be enumerated the General, the Finsbury, and Surry Dispensaries, and the general Sea Bathing Infirmary near Margate. He was one of the first Members of the Philanthropic Society, St. George's Fields,\* and to the Society for the Discharge and Relief of Persons Imprisoned for Small Debts,† to the Asylum for the Support and Education of the Indigent Deaf and Dumb, and to the Institution for the Relief and Employment of the Indigent Blind, as well as to several other charitable Institutions he was a great contributor. He was one of the celebrated *thirty-two*‡ who associated with the late Dr. Hawes, and my friend Dr. Cogan, (the author of the elegant treatise on the Pas-

\* See Note C.      † See Note D.      ‡ See Note E.



sions,) to support the Royal Humane Society for the Recovery of the Apparently Drowned or Dead. As my connection with this excellent Institution arose from the habits of intimacy I had the honour to enjoy with our departed friend, I must here be permitted to say a few words respecting it. Its object cannot be deemed uninteresting or of little importance. "It aims to prevent what all dread, and to preserve what all love."\* Life, indeed, has its troubles, but it has its enjoyments too; and the last are more than the first. It is the beginning of all blessings to all creatures, and therefore becomes the object of their united attachment and solicitude.† The brute tribes of animated nature, 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 noble faculty

\* Porter.

† Gray.



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 its forms, is awful, and in but too many cases, the king of terrors; our apprehensions are awakened 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 anticipate the view that the places we now hold shall be 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 over these mournful prospects !

But not only is life desirable from the mere view of the desolations of death ; it assumes characters of higher interest, 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 ? 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 then, do we respond to the sensations of the Eastern monarch, when he exclaimed truly, “ light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun ! ” — pleasant to witness such exhibitions of the Creator’s power and wisdom — sweet to experience such proofs of his varied beneficence !

There are even 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 a social being. By various interests, and a thousand ties, we are allied to each other. Sympathy makes us feel the smart of their wounds; and affection, 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; for, to use the language of Scripture, “no man liveth to himself alone:” there are others with whom his happiness is intimately involved. Some 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 feelings of the rude unlettered peasant, as well as melt to tenderness the heart of sensibility and refinement. The interesting nature of the subject has led me to digress longer than I intended ; but the experience and the feelings of every one that hears me will be my best apologists.

The Medical Society of London, instituted in 1773, for the promotion of Medical Science, is greatly indebted to our late President. He not only contributed to the increase of its valuable communications, but he also generously presented the Society with the house it now occupies. He may, indeed, truly be considered as its father, and liberally he supported it. The Library, (which, as a Medical one is, perhaps, for works of reference, the most valuable in the country,) is composed of many rare works presented by him. The



Society have paid their tribute of respect and gratitude by unanimously adopting the following Resolutions,

“ That the Society receive the account of  
“ the decease of their late much valued as-  
“ sociate with feelings of deep regret for his  
“ loss — of unfeigned respect for his me-  
“ mory — and of gratitude for the numerous  
“ services rendered by him to the Society.

“ That the above Resolution be entered in  
“ the minutes and subscribed by the Presi-  
“ dent, and that a copy be transmitted to his  
“ son, Mr. Samuel Lettsom.”—

Dr. Lettsom's works of a professional and philanthropic nature are very numerous. On this occasion I shall enumerate only the most important:

1. Reflections on the general Treatment and Cure of Fevers, 8vo. 1772.

2. The Natural History of the Tea Tree, with Observations on the Medical Qualities of Tea, and Effects of Tea Drinking, 4to. 1772.

3. Medical Memoirs of the General Dispensary in London, 8vo. 1774.



4. Improvement of Medicine in London, on the Basis of Public Good, 8vo. 1775.

5. History of the Origin of Medicine, and of the State of Physic prior to the Trojan War. An Oration delivered before the Medical Society, London, 4to. 1778.\*

6. Hints designed to promote Beneficence, Temperance, and Medical Science, 3 vols. 8vo.

7. An Edition of the Works of J. Fothergill, M. D. in 3 vols. 8vo.

8. A Life of Dr. J. Fothergill, 8vo.

9. The Naturalist's and Traveller's Companion, 8vo., an enlarged edition of which I have, for some time, been engaged in preparing for publication.

His work on the Cow Pock, of which important practice he was an ardent and successful advocate, deserves also to be noticed, and his exposition and conquest of the renowned Mayersbach must also be mentioned. Besides these works, in the transactions of the Royal Society, of the Medical Society, of the Bath Society, he published

\* See Note F.



many important papers, principally on medical subjects. The chief of his public philanthropic labours were made known to the world through the medium of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, in which may be found a great number of Letters relating to the Prisons of the Metropolis and various parts of the country.

As a proof of the respect entertained of his various literary labours, it may be observed, that he belonged to no less than sixteen universities. He took, as I before mentioned, his degree at Leyden. He was also a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, London, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, a Fellow of the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, a Fellow of the Linnæan Society, a Fellow of the Horticultural Society, a Fellow of the Medical Society, Physician Extraordinary of the City of London Lying In Hospital, and of the General and Finsbury Dispensaries, a Doctor of Laws, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Honorary Member of the Philosophical Societies of Philadelphia, Manchester, and Preston,



of the Agricultural Society, Bath ; and of the Academy of Sciences, Montpellier. Of the Medical Society he was for several years President. He was a Vice President of a great number of charitable Institutions.

The character of a Man is, perhaps, best inferred from the general tendency of his writings ; those of Dr. Lettsom were uniformly philanthropic ; every page had for its object, the public good and the elevation of the human character, by the recommendation of the performance of benevolent actions towards the relief of the indigent and sick. To exemplify the truth of this observation, very few examples are necessary, and the multiplicity offered, occasions no little difficulty of selection. In the excellent life of Dr. Fothergill, he observes, “ He that is cordially  
“ disposed to do good, will not find his benefi-  
“ cence disappointed for want of occasions ;  
“ for distress appears in a thousand shapes,  
“ and affords the affluent as many opportuni-  
“ ties of augmenting their own happiness, as  
“ by enlarging that of others. Were there  
“ no misery in the world, there would be



“ few occasions for the exercise of those generous virtues, which beget gratitude and thankfulness on one hand, and the tender emotions of sympathy and humanity on the other. Conscious as we are, that no one is exempt from the painful vicissitudes of life, and that the blessed to-day may to-morrow experience a bitter reverse; the distressed are ever objects of commiseration, and should raise in our hearts that kind compassion, and obtain that aid from us, which we should look for, were such afflictions suffered to overtake us.”

Many who now hear me will remember the able manner in which, animated by the benevolent sentiment expressed in the foregoing passage, he combated in this Room the opinion that “ Gratitude constitutes no part of Virtue.”

It is no contraction of the principle of benevolence, it has been justly remarked, 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 protectors. To strangers indeed, our efforts may be useful; but to these they are necessary. To those, they

\* See Note G.



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.

Whilst thus we oppose the delusions of a dangerous philosophy, let no one believe, we mean to encourage a sordid concern for our own private interests, or a cruel indifference towards the happiness of others. On the contrary, it is one of the characteristics of genuine charity, that she "seeketh not her own." Mere 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 her exertions within the circle of domestic, or social friendships. 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 does not blaze forth in his conversation, nor the cant of patriotism for ever 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 built upon the firmest foundation, the superstructure surmounting every narrow, and 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 ever find succour—In him will the children of distress, whatever be their nation or kindred, their colour or language, their politics or religion, enjoy a friend. Warm and benignant as the rays of the sun, his good wishes have no bounds, and his good actions no other measure than what they always *ought* to have——his ability.

To return to the extracts from Dr. Lettsom's writings. In the third volume of his *Hints on Beneficence*, a work already mentioned, Dr. L. humanely observes, “He that  
“ does good to his fellow creatures, according  
“ to the means with which he is enabled,  
“ practises active religion and virtue; but  
“ the man, however scrupulous and tenacious he may appear of maintaining the  
“ exterior forms of virtue, that doth not  
“ share amongst his fellow creatures in distress, the bounties of heaven dispensed to  
“ him, is fit only for the unsocial limits of a  
“ monastery.”

Again, in another part of that excellent work speaking of the miseries of the poor,



he says, “ I know it is often urged, that the  
“ poor are improvident, and never avail  
“ themselves of opportunities of saving a  
“ pittance to provide against times of diffi-  
“ culty ; such as being out of work, visited  
“ with sickness, or assailed by the rigours  
“ of winter. I acknowledge,” he adds,  
“ that too many come under this descrip-  
“ tion ; but let it be remembered, that one  
“ drunken or profligate man makes more  
“ noise, and becomes more conspicuous,  
“ than a thousand starving, modest, indus-  
“ trious, and worthy persons ; as one eclipse  
“ of the sun attracts more observation than  
“ the annual brightness of this luminary ;  
“ and cruel would it be, as it is unjust, to  
“ censure a whole class for the misconduct  
“ of a few individuals.”

Although the few extracts I have read, sufficiently denote the admirable character of the author, I cannot refrain from introducing to your notice the account of the reclaimed highwayman.

“ It was my lot,” says the Doctor, “ a  
“ few years ago, to be attacked on the high-



“ way by a genteel looking person, well  
“ mounted, who demanded my money, at  
“ the same time placing a pistol to my breast;  
“ I requested him to remove the pistol, which  
“ he instantly did; I saw his agitation, from  
“ whence I concluded he had not been ha-  
“ bituated to this hazardous practice; and  
“ I added, that I had both gold and silver  
“ about me, which I freely gave him; but  
“ that I was sorry to see a young gentleman  
“ risk his life in so unbecoming a manner,  
“ which would probably soon terminate at  
“ the gallows; that at the best, the casual  
“ pittance gained on the highway would  
“ afford but a precarious and temporary  
“ subsistence, but that if I could serve him  
“ by a private assistance more becoming his  
“ appearance, he might farther command  
“ my purse; and at the same time I desired  
“ him to accept a card containing my ad-  
“ dress, and to call upon me, as he might  
“ trust to my word for his liberty and life.  
“ He accepted my address, but I observed  
“ his voice faltered; it was late at night;  
“ there was, however,” continues the Doctor,



“ sufficient star-light to enable me to perceive, as I leaned towards him on the window of my carriage, that his bosom was overwhelmed with conflicting passions ; at length, bending forward on his horse, and recovering the power of speech, he affectingly said, ‘ I thank you for your offer, — American affairs have ruined me, — I will, dear Sir, wait upon you.’ ” Two weeks afterwards, a person entered the Doctor’s house, whom he instantly recognized to be this highwayman: “ I come,” said he, “ to communicate to you a matter that nearly concerns me, and I trust to your honour to keep it inviolable.” The good man told him he recollected him, and requested that he would relate his history with candour, as the most effectual means of securing his services ; and such was the narrative, as would have excited sympathy in every heart. His fortunes had been spoiled on the American continent, and after a long imprisonment, he escaped to this asylum of liberty, where, his resources failing, and perhaps with pride above the occupation of a sturdy



beggar, he rashly ventured upon the most dreadful alternative of the highway, where, in his second attempt, he met with our late President, who finding his narrative literally true, was induced to try various means of obviating his distresses. Dr. Lettsom made application to the Commissioners for relieving the American sufferers, but without success; at length, a memorial was presented to the Queen, briefly stating his sufferings, and the cause of them. Struck with his appearance, pleased with his address, and generously sympathizing with his distresses, HER MAJESTY graciously assured him of patronage, provided his pretensions should, on enquiry, be found correct. The result was, that in a few days he received a commission in the army, and by his public services, twice did his name appear in the Gazette, among the promotions. After some years of employment in the service of his Sovereign, this valuable officer fell a victim to the yellow fever, in the West Indies. —

Any observations I could make on con-



duct like this would be useless — I leave it to your own reflections.

“ Transeat in exemplum.” \*

I come now to the immediate connexion of Dr. Lettsom with this society. Early in 1812, I had the honour of mentioning to him the nature and objects of the Institution, with which he professed himself so much pleased, that I received his permission to propose him as a Member, and on the 10th of March, he was admitted into the Society as an Honorary Member. So actively did he engage in pursuit of the liberal objects in which we are all so assiduously employed, that, at the General Election in October, he was unanimously chosen President. His attendance to the duties of the office — his constant appearance at the weekly meetings of the Society — was more than could have been expected from any individual less extensively engaged than he was — but his active mind enabled him to bear up with the fatigue, and his earnest desire to benefit the

\* May it pass into an example.



Institution as much as lay in his power, gave him energy for the task. His conduct in the chair I need not remind you of — his mild conciliatory manner — his regulation of the discussions — his useful practical hints — his kind suggestions for the ease and comfort of all — his support to the juvenile effort — these circumstances are fresh in your memory.

But his zeal for the Society did not allow his exertions to stop here — he was an active Lecturer among you. In 1813, he delivered five Lectures — in 1814, two, one of which underwent discussion; and two Lectures in the month of April and June of the present year, which were also submitted for discussion. Upon the character and value of these Lectures — the vast fund of practical matter they contained — I need not expatiate — you are fully acquainted with their worth, and duly appreciate their excellencies.

He was an active Speaker also in the several discussions — very few subjects indeed were entered into by the Society, without their receiving the benefit of the elucidatory



remarks of him who possessed the useful talents of sound good sense, and clearness of discernment, which, with an improved mind, cultivated with assiduity, and enriched by learning, enabled him to decide with propriety.

He was a great contributor to the infant Library of this Institution, to which the attention of the Members should be more particularly directed. At the last meeting of the Society, which the indisposition terminating so unhappily prevented him from attending, the presentation of a curious work from him, was announced.

Of all the excellent institutions with which he was connected, this was his greatest favourite — it was his darling child, and he nurtured it with a truly parental affection. No opportunity escaped him of promoting its interests — his solicitude for its welfare was manifested even to the last — on his death-bed his daily enquiry was as to the number of days to the Anniversary, which, he anxiously hoped he should be able to attend. The pleasure with which he anti-



cipated that day on which our Institution is to be honoured by the presence of our Illustrious Patrons, distinguished no less for their high literary and scientific attainments, than for their unexampled benevolence and liberality — their unrivalled support of the institutions, the pride, the glory, and the boast of the Metropolis — (institutions which, amidst the scenes of desolation and cruelty, which have been produced by the lusts and passions of men, the mind contemplates with peculiar complacency and delight) — I say, the pleasure with which our late President anticipated that day, it is impossible for me to describe. But alas! his anticipations, in this instance, were abortive!

The most painful part of my task now commences — a recital of the circumstances connected with the dissolution of our beloved President. For some time past he had been attending a gentleman professionally — the case proved fatal, and Dr. Lettsom was desirous that the body should be examined; this was chiefly performed by the Doctor himself, on the 22nd of October.



He remained in a cold room for two hours, after which he felt chilly and unwell, but not sufficiently so as to excite much alarm. On the 25th I received a note from him requesting to see me, stating that he had not been ill for twenty-seven years before, that he now had a slight fever, from which he expected to recover in a few days, and that he was fearful it would not be prudent for him to attend the Society on the morrow.

On the 26th I visited him, and, alas! found him labouring under a strong rigor — (a severe cold shivering fit) indicative of approaching fever, and complaining of great soreness of his arms which he considered to be rheumatic. I immediately urged the necessity for great care, and requested he would see his friend Dr. Babington. He, however, observed that he should be better in a few days, and that he wished for no one to attend him. At that time he had a poor patient resident in White-cross Street, whom he was determined to visit, against which his friends strongly contended, but fruitlessly. He went out (this was on the 27th) and returned



literally unable to get out of his carriage, and suffering the most acute pain upon any attempt to be assisted. In the evening he was visited by his friends Dr. Babington and Mr. Norris, and was confined to his room. The next day his disease assumed a more distinct character, and he was unable to move in his bed without assistance, sustaining, with the greatest fortitude, the most excruciating pain. In this situation, his anxiety for his patients was unabated — he requested me to visit them, and was eager to know the progress of their diseases. Perpetual enquiry was directed to this Society, and respecting the arrangements for the approaching Anniversary, which he was so interested concerning, that he said, provided he was only able to sit, and not even to speak, on that occasion, he would attend it.

On the 30th he appeared improved, but on the 31st great debility came on, attended with slight delirium, which terminated his valuable existence on Wednesday the 1st of November, between three and four o'clock in the morning, without a groan. Thus



tranquilly terminated the existence of our much loved Associate and President!

His remains were interred in the Friends' Burial Ground, Little Coleman Street, Bunhill Row, on Tuesday the 7th of November.

“ Sit tibi terra levis.” \*

I saw him late on the Tuesday night, and took my last farewell. He did not fail to mention this Society—he appeared not to be sensible of his approaching dissolution—he requested me to give him some jelly, after which he desired me to raise his arm, and we shook hands at parting for the night—and—*for ever in this World!* And can we, my fellow members, part with our Friend, our Associate, and our President, without regret?† Can we recollect, without emotion, the many pleasing and instructive hours we have passed with him, in his closet, in our meetings, and at his social board? Can we forget his virtues? or can we, without the most pungent sorrow, reflect that the heart which they once filled, now ceases to beat?

\* Light lie the earth upon thy grave.

† Lowell.



and the eye through which their emanations were conveyed, is closed for ever? Is it less philosophical to indulge the tear that flows from those principles of sympathy which expand and elevate the heart, and dignify the man, than to affect a cold apathy which nature, or its Author, has never given him? No — let us feel, but submit — let us deeply engrave on our minds the impressions of his character, and, animated by his virtues, imitate his example.

What Fothergill said of Russell, I can, with strict propriety, say of Lettsom: “ For  
“ my own part, when I recollect what I have  
“ lost in him, the sensible, firm, and upright  
“ friend, the able, honest, and experienced  
“ physician, the pleasing instructive com-  
“ panion of a social hour, expression fails  
“ me.”

“ Amicum perdere est damnum maximum.”\* Syrus.

Let not the stranger imagine that the praise we bestow is given with the liberality so common in respect to those who have recently

\* To lose a Friend is the greatest of all losses.”



deceased.\* The sighs of those who have lost a beloved friend and the physician to whom they looked almost for life itself, are ascending to Heaven, in numerous attestations of his virtues. His death has occasioned a real chasm in society. Science and humanity will delight in dwelling on his name; and they will unite with affections too tender for public exposure, in deploring his loss.

I have purposely abstained from making any observations on the principles of religion which he professed, or the political opinions he entertained; the consideration of these subjects are wisely prohibited by the laws of our Institution, and I should deeply regret were I to depart from them on any occasion whatsoever.

His person I need not describe to you — in his deportment there was nothing peculiarly imposing; yet his manners were graceful; they had the affability and dignity of true politeness. To the young and the hum-

\* This was justly remarked by the learned Eulogist of the late worthy Dr. Warren, a correspondent of Dr. Lettsom's.



ble he was always accessible and singularly agreeable. From this cause the junior Members of our Society were extremely fond of consulting him; for, while they were sure of benefit from his advice, they had never to apprehend that they should be borne down by the display of his superiority.

The attachment he manifested to this Society should unite us more closely, and determine us to exert our utmost abilities for its advancement.

“The pursuit of knowledge,” says Mr. Henry, in an Essay on the Advantages of Literature and Philosophy, inserted in the 1st volume of the Memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, “when  
“properly directed and under due influence,  
“is of the utmost importance to mankind, and  
“it is to the honour of the present age, that  
“it has extended the empire of science and  
“the arts so far beyond its ancient boundary.  
“The spirit of literary enterprise has gone  
“forth, and has already won large domains  
“from the regions of darkness.”

Happily we are not subject to the infelici-



ties of former ages, when attempts to emerge from darkness were opposed by ignorance, barbarism, and superstition — nor are we exposed to the persecutions of the votaries of slavery for any endeavour to correct the errors of the present age, to dispel its ignorance, and to restore it to truth and sound philosophy.

It is in our own country, says an elegant author, that we may best observe the cultivation of manners, of reason, and of talents. It is here that the heaven-born mind, unshackled by the fetters of bigotry, or tyranny, exults in its native freedom, and pursues its flight in regions unexplored by former ages and nations. It is here that polite scholarship and liberal manners are rewarded with the warmest applauses. It is here that learning in all its various branches flourishes under the auspices of a Monarch, and the protection of Princes, whose patronage of the sciences and the arts adds lustre to royal dignity, while the brightest productions of genius complete the triumph of the muses.

It has been repeatedly observed that So-



cieties instituted for the purpose of a free communication of ideas may be ranked among the most useful means of promoting knowledge — they bring literature and philosophy from the college and the closet into public view, into the walks of common life, into scenes which would otherwise have been merely the haunts of business or of dissipation, and subject numbers to the influence and enrich them with the treasures of learning and science, to whom little was previously known of either but the name. When once such an Institution is planted in a soil congenial to its growth, the studious member is excited to a persevering exercise of his talents, by the laudable example of his associates, and by the desire (a desire far from reprehensible when kept under the controul of proper motives) to be qualified to bear his part in the discussion of the various subjects submitted to the Society at its meetings, and to contribute his due proportion to the general stock of instruction. Every man is capable of being useful, in some respects, to others; and by his connexion with Society



cannot stand an indifferent spectator. If he does not accelerate, he will retard some motion in the system, and thereby increase its disorder. He who with talents capable of being employed to the service of others, sits down with views that centre only in himself, and neglects to employ them further than his own necessities require, is guilty of a breach of trust, for which not the slightest palliation can be offered.

This Society is founded, on a liberal and comprehensive plan, inviting, without exception or exclusion, the learned and beneficent, industrious and disinterested of all countries to partake of its advantages. Its professed design is to encourage the diffident, to aid the diligent, to protect and support every effort of genius, to give to all an opportunity of improving others, and of being themselves improved.\*

Having entered into such laudable resolutions, let us not draw back, nor be tempted

\* This description was given by Dr. Wallis of the Medical Society, and is particularly applicable to the Philosophical Society of London.



to swerve from the purposes of our association, but strenuously exert our utmost abilities in fulfilling our engagements. Remembering that those who are actuated by the purest motives are not therefore less liable to err. Let prudence, therefore, and moderation, guide and guard us from intemperate zeal. Having no other emulation, but to vie with each other in promoting the honourable purposes of our association, let us, without magnifying our own services, or lightly esteeming those of others, unite in improving and exalting our views—Thus shall our Institution acquire stability, be rendered useful in our own times, and transmitted with renown to future generations.



to, however, from the purposes of our associa-  
tion, but continuously exert our utmost effort  
in fulfilling our engagements. It seems  
to me that those who are actuated by the  
most motives are the best, and those who  
are not. Let me, therefore, endeavor, and endeavor  
to do so, and guard against any mistake  
of. Having no other consolation, but to be  
a church, other than the church, the church  
of our association, let us without  
neglecting our own service or lightening  
for those of others, make an improvement and  
a study for them. Thus shall our labor-  
ing people be able to be rendered useful in  
our own time, and transmitted with reason  
to future generations.



## NOTES.

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### NOTE A. Page 7.

Among the Correspondents, several of whom are now numbered with the dead, may be found many names deservedly ranking high as men of Science, Literature, and Benevolence.

In the first class may be enumerated the great Linnæus, the Swedish Naturalist; — Baron Haller, of Switzerland, the greatest Physiologist that ever existed; — Dr. Erasmus Darwin, the celebrated author of *Zoonomia*, *Phytologia*, &c. — Dr. William Cullen, of Edinburgh; — Dr. William Hunter, whose splendid Museum\* is attached to the University of Glasgow; — Dr. Zimmerman, the first Physician to his Majesty at Hanover, and the author of the well known *Essays on Solitude, National Pride*, &c.; — Dr. Alexander Russell†

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\* Captain Laskey has lately published an excellent general account of the Hunterian Museum, including Historical and Scientific notices of the various objects of art, literature, natural history, anatomical preparations, antiquities, &c. in that celebrated collection.

† Dr. Lettsom published *Biographical Sketches of Dr. A. Russell, Dr. W. Cuming, Dr. G. Cleghorn, and Mr. Peter Collinson*, together with the more perfect life of Dr. John Fothergill, his Patron.



the author of the History of Aleppo, &c.; — Dr. William Cuming, of Edinburgh; — Dr. George Cleghorn, the Professor of Anatomy in the University of Dublin, and who published on the Diseases of Minorca; — Dr. Edward Jenner, to whom the world is indebted for the discovery and application of that inestimable blessing the Cow Pock, as a security against that most dreadful of diseases, the Small Pox; — the ingenious Dr. John Haygarth, of Bath; — Sir Gilbert Blane, Bart., Physician to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent; — Dr. Hope, the Professor of Botany; — Dr. Andrew Duncan Senior, the Professor of the Institutions of Medicine; — Dr. A. Hamilton, the Professor of Midwifery; — and Dr. Francis Home, the Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh; — Dr. James Johnstone,\* of Worcester, who published some Medical and Physiological Essays of great value; — Dr. Bardsley, of Manchester; — Dr. Cheston, of Gloucester; — Dr. James Currie, of Liverpool; — Dr. William Falconer, of Bath, the author of a Dissertation on the Influence of the Passions upon the Disorders of the Body, &c.; — Dr. Dixon, of Whitehaven; — Dr. Renatus Desgenettes, and Dr. Felix Vicq d'Azyr, of Paris; — Dr. John Ferriar, the author of the Medical Histories and Reflexions; — Dr. Thomas Garnett, the late Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Institution; — Dr. J. F. Blumenbach, the Professor of Medicine in the University of Göttingen, and author of several works distinguished for learning and sound judgment; — Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton, the learned Professor of Materia Medica, Natural History, and Botany, in the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; — Dr. I. C. Warren, the

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\* A Biographical Memoir of Dr. Johnstone, written by Dr. Lettsom, will shortly make its appearance in the Second Part of the First Volume of the Transactions of the Medical Society of London.



Professor of Anatomy and Surgery ; and Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, \* the Professor of the Practice of Physic in the University of Cambridge, Boston ; — Dr. David Hosack, the Professor of Botany and Materia Medica in Columbia College, New York ; — Dr. Maclurg, of Richmond, Virginia ; — Dr. Valentine, of New York ; — Dr. Muller, of Christiana, Norway ; — Dr. Louis Odier, of Geneva ; — the celebrated Dr. Percival, of Manchester ; — Dr. Pulteney, the author of a View of the Writings of Linnæus, &c. ; — Dr. Jonathan Stokes, of Chesterfield, who published in 1812 an excellent Botanical Materia Medica ; — Dr. C. A. Struve, of Görlitz, author of many valuable works ; — Dr. James Sims, † now of Bath, many years President of the Medical Society of London ; — Dr.

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\* Dr. Waterhouse was the means, through Dr. Lettsom, of propagating the beneficial practice of Vaccination throughout America.

† It was with Dr. Sims that Dr. John Miers Lettsom, eldest Son of the late Dr. Lettsom, visited several parts of Europe. The death of this amiable young man was a calamity from which Dr. Lettsom never recovered, and is thus pathetically and justly described in the Gentleman's Magazine, for January 1800. " After twelve days illness, from a fever, supposed to  
 " have originated from his unremitting attention to the duties of  
 " his medical profession, and particularly to the sick poor, to  
 " whom he was a Friend and Benefactor, that bright ornament  
 " of the community, DR. JOHN MIERS LETTSOM, eldest Son  
 " of Dr. Lettsom, died, at his house in Sambrook Court, Basinghall Street, in the twenty-eighth year of his life.

" In the station of a Son, it is believed, that he never occasioned one sentiment of disapprobation ; in that of a husband,  
 " and of a parent, he might be imitated, but could not be  
 " excelled ; whilst the uniform suavity of his manners, and the  
 " undeviating rectitude of his character, rendered him universally



Withering, the author of a Botanical Arrangement of all the Vegetables of Great Britain; — Dr. Walker, of Leeds; — Drs. Mitchell, I. R. Cox, Allvey, Ash, A. Fothergill,\*

“ beloved, as he is now universally lamented; and prepared him  
 “ to retire from the society of friends to that of angels, to which  
 “ his spotless mind was ever congenial.”

My learned friend the Rev. Thomas Maurice, who had the honour to enjoy the friendship and esteem of Dr. Lettsom for a long series of years, wrote the following beautiful Epitaph on this occasion, which I cannot deny myself the pleasure of here inserting :

EPITAPH ON JOHN MIERS LETTSOM, M.D.

On virtuous LETTSOM, in his manly bloom,  
 Resistless, death's eternal shades descend;  
 While kindred love and friendship round his tomb.  
 In speechless agony distracted bend.

Ah! what avails above the vulgar throng,  
 To rise in genius, or in worth to soar;  
 Impetuous rolls the stream of time along,  
 The bubble bursts, and life's gay dream is o'er.

In every stage of varying life approv'd,  
 And still of toiling want the stedfast friend,  
 He pass'd his *transient day* — admir'd — belov'd;  
 ALL prais'd him living — ALL bemoan his end.  
 From Heaven's high throne the Almighty Sire look'd down,  
 Well pleas'd to view such worth *below the skies*;  
 He saw him ripe for an immortal crown,  
 And bade his soul quit *Earth* for PARADISE.

\* By the Will of the late Dr. A. Fothergill, Dr. Lettsom was to publish the MSS. left by him, the result of many years of patient attention, diligent enquiry, and extensive reading.



Broadbelt, Dubourg, \* Wall, Hoffman, Bancroft, George Pearson, Young, Peart, Denman, George Gregory, Wilmer,

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• Jacques Barbeu Dubourg, Professor of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris; Member of the Royal Society of Sciences of Montpellier, of the Medical Society of London, and of the Royal Medical Society of Paris; of the Academy of Sciences of Stockholm, and of the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia; was born at Mayenne, on the 15th of February, 1709, at which place he received the rudiments of his education. At 15 years of age he had so far completed his education as to resolve upon that plan of life which seemed destined for his future attachment and cultivation. He devoted himself to the church, and in the pursuit of theological information he is said to have acquired a critical knowledge of the Hebrew language, as to have been frequently consulted in the interpretation of the most difficult passages. At the arrival of the period at which he was to assume the sacerdotal office, he abandoned the choice he had previously made, and resolved upon the cultivation of literature in general. In the year 1748 he was admitted a Member of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris. His Theses were

1. *Daturne etiam vitalium organorum somnus?* aff. 1746.
2. *Utrum anni climaterici cæteris periculosiores?* neg. 1747.
3. *An Variolarum morbus absque eruptione?* aff. 1747.
4. *An Trachæotomiæ nunc Scalpelli, nunc trigonus mucro?* aff. 1748.

Dr. Dubourg was one of the most intimate associates of the celebrated Franklin, an edition of whose valuable works he published in French; Dr. Lettsom was introduced to Dr. Dubourg by a letter from Franklin, part of which is published in the second volume of Franklin's Works, and is the first instance of Dr. Lettsom's name appearing in print. Dr. Dubourg was the first



Rush,\* Sir Lucas Pepys, Bart. Mr. Dalton, Mr. John Mason Good, &c. &c. &c.

Among the Correspondents, not medical men, are Jacob Bryant, the author of the *Analysis on Ancient Mythology*;—

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Corresponding Member elected into the Medical Society of London. He died on the 13th of December 1779, in the 71st year of his age.

Besides the Theses before mentioned, he published the following works, which remain as testimonials of the erudition he possessed, and the application he bestowed to literature and science.

1. Lettre, &c. à l'Abbé Desfontaines, au sujet de la Maîtrise-ès-arts, 12mo. 1743.

2. Deux Lettres à une Dame au sujet d'une Expérience de Chirurgie faite à la Charité, le 22 Juin, 1744, 8vo.

3. Lettres sur l'Histoire, traduites de Bolingbroke, 2 tom. 12mo. 1752. \*\*

4. Recherches sur la durée de la Grossesse, et le terme de l'Accouchement, Amstel. 1765.

5. La Botaniste François comprenant toutes les Plantes communes et usuelles, disposées suivant une nouvelle méthode et décrites en langage vulgaire, 2 tom. 12mo. 1767. ††

6. Petit code de la Raison Humaine, ou Exposition succincte de ce que la Raison dicte à tous les Hommes, &c. 1773.

7. Œuvres de M. Franklin.

\* \* Dr. Dubourg had the happiness to enjoy the friendship of the celebrated Lord Bolingbroke.

†† This work he dedicated to his wife.

\* A short time prior to his decease, Dr. Lettsom printed for the information of his friends, a Biographical Sketch of his friend and correspondent, under the title of "*Recollections of Dr. Rush.*"



the Rev. Thos. Maurice, the author of *Indian Antiquities*, and many other equally valuable productions; — Lord Buchan, who wrote the *Life of Lord Napier*, and a *Specimen of a Biographical History of Scotland*; — John Scott, of Amwell; — the Rev. Dr. Knox; — the Rev. J. Plumptre; — C. Pratt, the author of the *Gleanings, &c.*; — George Costard; — Richard Gough, the celebrated Antiquary; — John Nichols, the author of many well-known works on general Literature, Topography, and Antiquities; — Miss Porter; — Miss Hutchinson; — &c. &c.

Dr. Lettsom was engaged in an extensive correspondence with many of the highest ornaments of the metropolis, whose attention was and is undeviatingly directed to the alleviation of the miseries of their fellow creatures. The names of John Howard, James Nield, Patrick Colquhoun, LL.D., Granville Sharp, Thomas Bernard, the Hon. Philip Pusey, the Rt. Hon. Lord Henniker, the Rev. Rowland Hill, the Rev. Dr. Collyer,\* and David Pike Watts, are among the most conspicuous in this list.

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Besides these, he published 35 Chronological Tables, which placed together, and rolled upon two cylinders, imitated the revolution of centuries, and composed a Chronological Table, extending to the year 1753, when our author wrote. He also conducted for three years, a Medical Journal, entitled, "*Gazette d'Epidaure,*" ou *Recueil Hebdomadaire des Nouvelles de Médecine, &c.* Paris, 1761-3. 8vo. 4 tom.

Vide *L'Histoire de la Société Royale de Médecine*, tom. 2, and *Memoirs of the Medical Society of London*, vol. 1.

\* My excellent friend, the Rev. Dr. Collyer, has paid a tribute of respect to the memory of Dr. Lettsom, in a very learned and elegant Anniversary Oration, delivered before the Philosophical Society of London, on the 22nd of November, which it is the intention of the Society to publish.



Most of the letters from these and numerous other correspondents, are preserved, properly arranged, and bound up, constituting several volumes of most valuable and interesting information.

NOTE B. Page 11.

“ Every practitioner” (says Dr. Lettsom in an Address upon the Presentation of the Fothergillian Medal, awarded by the Medical Society of London, to Dr. William Falconer, for the best Dissertation on “ the Influence of the Passions upon Disorders of the Body,”) “ who studies the honour of his profession, and the happiness of his patients, should sedulously endeavour to cultivate an acquaintance with the anatomy of the mind, as well as that of the body. The first, arduous as it is, is so connected with the rational and metaphysical nature of man, and all his moral actions, as to add to investigation, the knowledge most highly estimated by sages, *the knowledge of ourselves.*”

On this subject, Dr. Falconer justly observes, “ compassion towards the distressed is a general obligation, but bears a peculiar reference to a profession, whose sole employment consists in relieving a large class of the misfortunes incident to humanity.”

It is scarcely possible to imagine that there can be any persons, conversant with such scenes of distress, as are so often exhibited in medical practice, but must frequently feel their hearts sympathize with the sufferings of their fellow creatures ; but it is well known that various degrees of this quality appertain to different individuals, and it is the duty of a physician to encourage such benevolent sentiments, and to strengthen their force by the habit of frequent exertion, and not to suffer the repeated sight of misery to render his feelings callous to tender impressions.

It is not, however, sufficient for a physician merely to possess



a humane disposition, and benevolent intentions: It is necessary that he should render it apparent in every part of his conduct towards the sick, that he not only possesses these virtues, but that he studies to exercise them in the mildest and most agreeable manner. "Gentleness of behaviour," (says the elegant and humane writer before quoted,) "makes the approach of a physician be felt like that of a guardian angel, sent to afford ease and comfort, whilst the visits of the rough and unfeeling, resemble those of a minister of vengeance and destruction."

*Vide Falconer's Dissertation.*

NOTE C. Page 13.

The Philanthropic Society was instituted in September, 1788, for the Prevention of Crimes, and the Reform of the Criminal Poor; by the encouragement and the culture of good morals, among those children who are now training up in vicious courses, public plunder, infamy, and ruin.

NOTE D. Page 13.

The Society for the Discharge and Relief of Persons Imprisoned for Small Debts, originated with Mr. Nield; whose Remarks on Prisons appeared in the Gentleman's Magazine, with Introductory Observations, by Dr. Lettsom. Mr. Nield has had the candour to acknowledge, that had it not been for the energetic strictures of the liberal and enlightened mind of Dr. Lettsom, on his faithful communications from time to time, he is fearful the Prisons, in many instances, would not only have remained without further improvement, but, what is worse, that, in lamentable gradation, the improvement which had commenced in some of them, would either have dwindled, or have been wholly done away.

*Vide Nield's Account of the Society.*



## NOTE E. Page 13.

The names of the Thirty-two Gentlemen, who, with Dr. Hawes and Dr. Cogan, laid the foundation of the Royal Humane Society, in 1774, deserve to be recorded. The following is a correct list of them :

Mr. Armiger	Robert Palmer, Esq.
Rev. Mr. Bouillier	Mr. Patten
Fred. Bull, Esq. and Alderm.	Mr. Michael Pearson
Dr. William Cooper	Mr. Phipps
Mr. Delver	Samuel Prime, Esq.
Mr. Denham	Mr. John Bewley Rich
Mr. William Fox	Rev. Mr. Sowden
Dr. Oliver Goldsmith	James Horsfall, Esq. F. R. S.
Rev. Richard Harrison	Mr. John Jacob
Mr. Benjamin Hawes	Mr. Joseph Jacob
Dr. Heberden	Rev. Dr. Jeffries
Thomas Tower, Esq.	J. C. Lettsom, M. D. F. R. S.
Rev. Dr. Towers	Rev. Mr. Van Effen
William Towgood, Esq.	Mr. Warrand
Dr. William Townsend	Dr. Watkinson
Dr. Kooystra	Mr. Wright.

## NOTE F. Page 20.

The Oration comprehends only the first chapter of a History of the Origin and Progress of Medicine, and its Professors, upon a very extensive scale, which there is good reason to regret that want of leisure did not permit our author to pursue. To exhibit distinctly such a variety of objects as a plan of this kind must comprehend, Dr. Lettsom suggested that it would be proper to divide it into periods, which form certain particular æras in Medicine, and are connected with



some important circumstances in the general History of the world, each of which might contain four divisions in the following order :

1. Of Medicine in general.
2. History of Discoveries in Medicine.
3. History of Benefactors to Medicine.
4. History of Arts and Sciences in general.

I. The first Period to commence with the Creation, and end with the Trojan war, 1184 years before Christ; and to be comprehended, under the title of NATURAL and FABULOUS MEDICINE.

II. The second to begin with the Trojan and end with the Peloponnesian war, at the time of Hippocrates, about 400 years before the Christian æra, and 50 before the birth of Alexander the Great: this to be distinguished by EMPIRICISM from NECESSITY.

III. From Hippocrates to the Destruction of Carthage, at the time of Serapion, 146 years before Christ, including DOGMATISM.

IV. From Serapion to the birth of Christ, about the time of Themison, in the reign of Augustus; in which period would be included PROFESSED EMPIRICISM.

V. From Themison to Galen, the physician and peripatetic philosopher, who flourished under the emperor Marcus Aurelius, about 160 years after the birth of Christ. This era might be properly called the period of METHODISM.

VI. From Galen to the time of Paracelsus, who was contemporary with the emperor Charles V. and flourished in the beginning of the 16th century; which period might be distinguished by PERIPATETIC DOGMATISM.

VII. From Paracelsus to Harvey, who lived in the reign



of Charles I. near the middle of the 17th century, and discovered the circulation of the blood, the **CHEMICAL DOGMATISM**.

VIII. From Harvey to Boerhaave, who flourished early in the 18th century, the **MECHANICAL DOGMATISM**.

IX. From Boerhaave, who introduced a new system, which included all the others, to the present time, **GENERAL DOGMATISM**.

As the opinions of mankind are no more uniform than their constitutions, it cannot be supposed that any of these systems prevailed universally, at any one period; it was sufficient to ascertain when each of these principally flourished, and the improvements in the healing art which resulted from them.

The Oration treats only of Medicine, in general, which commences with the Creation, and ends at the Trojan war. This æra of **NATURAL** and **FABULOUS MEDICINE** is treated of in seven sections: 1. Of the Practice of Physic:—2. Of Surgery:—3. Of Midwifery:—4. Of Anatomy:—5. Of Botany and Pharmacy:—6. Of Chemistry:—7. Of Mystic Medicine.

The Oration is illustrated by an immense number of references, and a variety of interesting anecdotes and quotations.

#### NOTE G. Page 24.

“Every man,” as the Stoics used to say, “is first and principally recommended to his own care; and every man is certainly, in every respect, fitter and abler to take care of himself than of any other person. Every man feels his own pleasures and his own pains more sensibly than those of other people. The former are the original sensations; the latter the reflected or sympathetic images of those sensations. The former may be said to be the substance; the latter the shadow.



“ After himself, the members of his own family, those who  
“ usually live in the same house with him, his parents, his  
“ children, his brothers and sisters, are naturally the objects  
“ of his warmest affections. They are naturally and usually  
“ the persons upon whose happiness or misery his conduct  
“ must have the greatest influence. He is more habituated  
“ to sympathize with them. He knows better how every  
“ thing is likely to affect them, and his sympathy with them  
“ is more precise and determinate than it can be with the  
“ greater part of other people. It approaches nearer, in short,  
“ to what he feels for himself.”

*Smith's Theory of Moral Sentiments.*



"After doing the number of his own family, those who  
usually live in the same house with him, his parents, his  
children, his friends and others, are naturally the objects  
of his warmest affection. They are naturally and usually  
the persons upon whose happiness or misery his conduct  
must have the greatest influence. He is more intimately  
in sympathy with them. He knows better how every  
thing is likely to affect them, and is especially with them  
more precise and deliberate than he can be with the  
greater part of other people. It is a common error, in fact,  
to what he feels for himself."

Smith's Theory of Moral Sentiments

The first part of the book is devoted to a discussion of the  
principles of moral conduct. Smith argues that the foundation  
of morality is the feeling of sympathy. We are naturally  
disposed to sympathize with the happiness or misery of  
others, and this feeling is the basis of all moral action.  
He then discusses the various virtues and vices, and how they  
arise from the principle of sympathy. The second part of the  
book is devoted to a discussion of the principles of justice.  
Smith argues that justice is a negative virtue, in that it  
consists in the absence of certain vices, such as envy and  
malice. He then discusses the various branches of justice, and  
how they are related to the principle of sympathy.



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EDITED BY

**THOMAS JOSEPH PETTIGREW, F.L.S.**

*Member of the Royal College of Surgeons ; Surgeon Extraordinary to H.R.H.  
the Duke of Kent and Strathearn ; Fellow and Registrar of  
the Medical Society, &c. &c.*

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“ He that enlarges his curiosity after the works of nature,”  
says a celebrated writer, “ demonstrably multiplies the inlets  
“ to happiness. A man that has formed a habit of turning  
“ every new object to his entertainment, finds, in these pro-  
“ ductions, an inexhaustible stock of materials upon which he  
“ can employ himself, without any temptations to envy or  
“ malevolence ; faults, perhaps, seldom totally avoided by  
“ those whose judgment is much exercised upon the works  
“ of art. He has always a certain prospect of discovering



#### PREPARING

“ new reasons for adoring the sovereign author of the universe,  
‘ and probable hopes of making some discovery of benefit to  
‘ others, or of profit to himself.”

No method appears better calculated to enlarge our knowledge of Natural History, than visiting foreign countries, and carefully attending to the different objects they afford, which more or less delight by their novelty and variety; but our enquiries should not be confined merely to private gratification; there are duties of a more rational nature; to be useful to society by distributing happiness amongst our fellow creatures, is one of the highest and most necessary. The numerous products of nature, their application to the wants, the comforts, and even ornaments of life; the manners, customs, and opinions of mankind; agriculture, manufactures, and commerce; the state of arts, learning, and the laws of different nations, when judiciously investigated, tend to enlarge the human understanding, and to render individuals wiser, better, and happier.

Many gentlemen, and sea-faring persons, who go abroad, by their office and situation in life, enjoy both time and opportunity for collecting the best information on such subjects of general utility, especially the natural productions peculiar to the place they visit, or reside in, which they are induced to overlook for want of proper directions for distinguishing and preserving them, whereby things of great value and use are lost to the public, and the time of the traveller less beneficially employed.

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