

Statement of facts respecting Dr. Browne's conduct in visiting, without any authority, a patient of Dr. Holman's, in the Bath City Infirmary : with strictures on Dr. Browne's reply and Mr. Starke's observations in the 'Bath Journal'.

Contributors

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STATEMENT OF FACTS

RESPECTING

Dr. BROWNE'S CONDUCT

IN VISITING,

WITHOUT ANY AUTHORITY,

A PATIENT of Dr. HOLMAN'S,

IN THE

BATH CITY INFIRMARY:

WITH

STRICTURES

ON

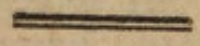
Dr. BROWNE'S REPLY

AND

Mr. STARKE'S OBSERVATIONS

IN THE

BATH JOURNAL.



N. B. The Expences attending the Publication of this Pamphlet are not to be paid out of the Fund of the Charity.

PRINTED BY R. CRUTTWELL.

1797.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

relating to

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in visiting

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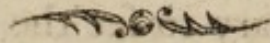
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1857.





STATEMENT OF FACTS.



ON Wednesday the 21st of June, 1797, a servant of Mr. Starke, dangerously ill in the confluent small-pox, was admitted an in-patient of the Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary, under the care of Dr. Holman. The day prior to his admission Mr. Starke was informed that he must become a subscriber, in order that his servant might receive the benefits arising from the institution. The day subsequent to this information having been given to Mr. Starke, Dr. Browne's servant applied to the Apothecary, with a ticket from a subscriber for the introduction of Mr. Starke's servant into the common ward, so as to save Mr. Starke the necessity of becoming a subscriber, and of paying half-a-guinea per week, the usual acknowledgment during the indisposition of a servant residing in the House.

On the Apothecary's discovering that the patient recommended was a servant, and refusing to admit him under the authority of a ticket, Mr. Starke paid

his subscription, and the servant was received into a large, airy, and separate chamber in the House, on Wednesday as above stated in the evening, notwithstanding the former attempt to introduce him under a different character.

On the Tuesday following, June 27th, Mr. Starke came to the Infirmary to see the patient, and shortly after his return home wrote the following note to Mr. White the Apothecary :

“ Bath, Tuesday.

“ SIR,

“ I AM just returned from seeing John, who, I am extremely sorry to say, appears to me to be most dangerously ill. I have seen a great deal of the small-pox, have been much amidst it, and know pretty well the best practice in it. If it can be done, consistently with the rules of the Infirmary, I could wish a large blister immediately applied to his neck, much Port wine given him, and two or three grains of James's Powders every two or three hours. To me his life is above price, and I would most willingly take the risk of this practice upon myself. I know well that the ablest physician in the world can know nothing of the small-pox but from experience.

“ I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

“ BURWELL STARKE.

As this note interfered with the treatment of the case, Mr. White very properly sent it to Dr. Holman, upon which Dr. Holman wrote the following note to Mr. Starke :

“ SIR,

“ SIR,

“ I HAVE just seen your letter to Mr. White, apothecary at the Infirmary, respecting your servant. He is certainly most dangerously ill, and there is every reason to suppose that he cannot survive it; but as we have received him under our roof, and every possible attention has hitherto been paid to his situation, I cannot possibly allow any other practice to be made use of but what we may deem most expedient. You, Sir, do not seem satisfied with our mode of treatment; I must, therefore, beg of you to have the poor unfortunate removed this evening, to be under your own care; or rather, as I conceive it, under some other advice, which seems to have influenced you.

“ I am, Sir, your obedient humble servant,

“ J. HOLMAN,

“ Physician to the Infirmary.

“ No. 14, Great Pulteney-street.”

As Dr. Holman was particularly hurt at the reflections contained in Mr. Starke's letter, and as he had been all along peculiarly anxious about the patient's dangerous situation, he was induced now, as well for his own reputation, as the satisfaction of Mr. Starke, to pay an immediate visit to the Infirmary. Dr. Holman's surprize and concern on this occasion was increased on his being informed by the Apothecary, that Dr. Browne had visited the patient, without the permission or knowledge of either the Physician, Apothecary, or Matron; this palpable intrusion from a medical man forced from Dr. Holman the following severe and justifiable censure:

“ SIR,

“ ON my calling at the Infirmary this evening to see Mr. Starke's servant, I was very much surpris'd to learn that you had dared to visit him as my patient. Your conduct is very extraordinary, and extremely officious, and must excite the indignation of every professional man, regularly educated, as well as of every gentleman who can feel for his own reputation. I insist, Sir, on knowing your motive for this presumption; and, unless you satisfy me immediately, the other professional gentlemen attached to the Infirmary will unite with me in laying it before the Committee, as we all conceive ourselves concerned in this affair.

“ I am, yours,

“ 27th June.

J. HOLMAN.”

Without any comments here, we subjoin the answer:

“ SIR,

“ I HAVE this moment received your note, which astonishes me not a little. It is true I have called twice at the City Infirmary, at the particular request of Mr. Starke, whose servant I presume is the person you allude to; but in no respect whatever to interfere either with you or any of your colleagues of the Hospital, which is the last thing I should ever form any idea of. However, I must confess the contents of your note to me are such, that, had you considered for a moment, you would have dictated with more coolness and composure. No threats whatever will intimidate me, when conscious of not having done wrong.

“ I am, Sir, yours, &c.

“ G. G. BROWNE.

“ Brunswick-Place,

“ Wednesday, 11 o'clock P. M.”

Dr. Holman,

Dr. Holman, even upon reflection, and after a conversation with his friends of the Infirmary, was induced to return the under-written note :

“ SIR,

“ As you own in your letter that you called at the Infirmary at the particular request of Mr. Starke, I am more clearly convinced that it must have been in a medical capacity; this, with the concurring opinion of those concerned in the Infirmary, with whom I have communicated, determines me in repeating deliberately the sentiments of my former letter.

J. H.

“ Great Pulteney-street, June 27th.”

Unconnected as Dr. Browne's conduct must have been with any interference on the part of Mr. Starke, yet the following answer shews that he had no scruples in throwing upon his invalid friend, already suffering too much, the weight and burthen of the whole affair :

“ SIR,

“ IN answer to your second note I refer you to Mr. Starke, and the poor Servant himself, in confirmation of what I wrote last night, And am, Sir,

“ Yours, &c.

“ G. G. BROWNE.

“ Brunswick-Place, June 28th, 1797.

“ Seven o'Clock, A. M.”

Prior to the receipt of Dr. Browne's first answer, Dr. Holman received the following from Mr. Starke :

“ SIR,

“ SIR,

Tuesday Evening.

“ FROM the character given me of Dr. Holman, from my friend Mr. Bradshaw, I have no cause to doubt either his skill as a physician, or humanity as a man; but directly the reverse. But more than ordinarily anxious about this poor fellow, for reasons that it is unnecessary to mention, and not considering the Infirmary at all in the light of a regular small-pox hospital, I was induced to write my note of this morning to Mr. White. The fact is, I have been extremely amongst the small-pox, and know well the practice which obtains in America. What the practice that has been used, or is usual here, I know not, and therefore I am not dissatisfied with it: but the moment I saw the servant this morning, I was satisfied that his case was desperate, and therefore recollected those remedies which we frequently find in America to produce suppuration, and of course to give a favourable turn to the disorder. You say there is every reason to think that he is so ill that he cannot survive: I fear he is so; how then is it possible to remove him? I can repeat that I am not dissatisfied with the treatment he has received: yet being no physician, in a desperate case like his, if myself, I should deviate from the general line of practice. The wording of my note must shew that I did not, and could not, expect a deviation from the usual practice, unless desperate cases were viewed with the same eyes by you as by myself; and indeed it was intended only to shew that I knew, from experience, that warm remedies, of the sort I mentioned, had produced surprising effects. I therefore, Sir, cannot think of removing him from the Infirmary, nor do I wish it.

I am, Sir,

“ Your most obedient servant,

“ BURWELL STARKE.

“ Dr. Holman, No. 14, Great Pulteney-street.”

As

As it now appeared to Dr. Holman, that not only the established rules of the institution were infringed upon, but that its welfare was thereby endangered, he thought it his duty to call a Special Committee of the Managers to consider the subject, and to have their sanction for any measures which had been or might be taken. They met accordingly on Wednesday morning, and unanimously agreed to send the following notes:

“ DR. HOLMAN having represented to the Committee of Managers of the Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary, convened at the request of the Medical Gentlemen, that Dr. Browne had visited a patient now in the House, without any authority; and it having appeared to the Committee, from the correspondence which passed between Dr. Browne and Dr. Holman, that Dr. Browne had twice officiously intruded himself into the said Infirmary; it is the unanimous opinion of the said Committee, that Dr. Browne’s conduct is extremely reprehensible, inconsistent with the character of any professional gentleman regularly bred, and incompatible with the rules of every public Hospital. It is therefore required that a very ample apology should be made by Dr. Browne to the Committee and Dr. Holman, to prevent their being obliged to call upon him in a more public manner.

“ Present, Rev. Mr. DOBSON, Chairman,
Mr. WATERS,
Mr. PIGOTT,
Mr. JEKYLL,
Dr. MOODIE,
Dr. HOLMAN,
Dr. GIBBES,
Mr. NOOTH.

“ Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary, June 28th, 1797.”
“ To Dr. Browne.”

“DR. HOLMAN having laid before the Committee of Managers of the Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary, summoned by request of the Medical Gentlemen, two letters from Mr. Starke, respecting his servant, now a patient at the Infirmary; the Committee are sorry to observe, from their contents, that some misrepresentation must have been made to Mr. Starke, respecting the treatment of the case; they beg leave to assure him, that it is their opinion that every proper means have been used, and every humane attention shewn to his servant by Dr. Holman, a gentleman of regular education, and professional abilities; and likewise, that proper attention has been given to the patient by the Apothecary, Matron, and Nurses.—June 28th.

“ To Mr. Starke.”

On Dr. Holman's return home from the Committee, he found the subjoined note addressed to him from Mr. Starke:

“ Bath, Wednesday Morning.

“ SIR,

“ As Dr. Holman appears not to be satisfied with the explanation of my note last evening, I do not know that I can convince him that Dr. Brown did not dare to visit Mr. Starke's servant, at the Infirmary, as a physician; a term by the bye pretty strong, for one gentleman to use to another. The fact is, it was owing to Dr. Brown entirely that he was sent to the Infirmary; he first proposed it to me; he recommended it as a place where he would meet with proper treatment, and a good room: he got a ticket from Mrs. Deane for his admission, not knowing that for his admission it was necessary that I should become a subscriber to the Infirmary. When I found the disorder to be the small-pox, and that I could not keep John in a lodging-house, I had

had purposed to provide some place for him; and consequently as Dr. Brown had been consulted by me, from the recommendation of an old American friend in Yorkshire, he naturally would have been employed by me to attend John, so that in truth Dr. Brown's conduct has been highly disinterested. Mr. Bradshaw also mentioned, and recommended to me the Infirmary the first time he saw me, after it was known that the poor fellow had the small-pox: but Dr. Brown had known it first, and first recommended the same place. When he was carried to the Infirmary, I was so very ill that it was with difficulty that I could get to the Pump-Room, therefore had little expectation that I should be able to get to see him; I therefore requested Dr. Brown to have the goodness to call from time to time, and let me know how the poor fellow did. Dr. Brown was not requested to attend him as a physician, nor did he ever prescribe for him, or visit him as such. I mentioned to you last night that I had had much acquaintance with the small-pox. I have some pretensions to general knowledge, and can assure Dr. Holman, from what I know of, and have observed upon that disorder, if necessity required that my whole family, whites and blacks, should be inoculated in Virginia, I should not hesitate a moment to undertake it without medical aid. It gives me much pain, that my conduct should in this affair have given rise to a misunderstanding between you and Dr. Brown. If there be any blame in it, it all belongs to me, not to him: but I cannot help thinking that if Dr. Holman is not now perfectly satisfied, that the blame is to be attributed to medical etiquette, which I have found in more instances than one, is carried to a height in this country beyond any thing I could have conceived. John Ampy has for twelve years been one of the most diligent and faithful servants that ever waited upon a gentleman:—during my long and painful illness, his tender and diligent care could not be surpassed: I therefore not only consider

him

him as an humble friend, but have a great affection for the poor creature: nothing, therefore, could be more natural than my great anxiety about him: and therefore, nothing so natural as for an American to overlook the established forms of European etiquette.

“ I am, Sir,

“ your most obedient servant,

“ BURWELL STARKE.

“ P. S. The notes which have passed between you and Dr. Brown, which the latter has sent me this morning, have made, for my sake and every bodies, this explanation necessary.”

During the course of the same day, after the resolutions of the Committee had been carried into effect, Dr. Holman also received the two following notes:

“ Wednesday, One o’Clock.

“ Mr. STARKE presents his compliments to Dr. Holman, and in answer to his note this moment received, in addition to what he wrote to Dr. Holman, he can assure him that no misrepresentation has been made to him in regard to Dr. Holman, or the Infirmary, by any human being: that Mr. Starke’s extreme anxiety for his servant, as well as his own experience in the disorder, were the sole motives which induced Mr. Starke to write the note to Mr. White, as he considered the case of the poor fellow to be desperate. Mr. Starke, however, cannot refrain observing upon what has passed, that it would have been but doing justice to Dr. Brown, that enquiry had been made of Mr. Starke, if the Doctor had actually, or not, visited the servant as a physician, before his conduct was censured. Of that point, I trust, Mr. Starke’s note of this morning has fully satisfied Dr. Holman.

Holman. Mr. Starke concludes, by adding, from every thing he has seen, and every enquiry he has made, he is fully satisfied every care and attention has been given to the poor servant; and he is therefore extremely sorry that Dr. Holman should have been at the trouble of laying the matter before any Committee. If Dr. Holman would have had the goodness to have called on Mr. Starke, he readily could have satisfied him, that if there be any blame in this business it is attributable only to Mr. S."

" SIR,

Bath, Wednesday Afternoon.

" I HAD hoped that the very unpleasant business which my extreme anxiety about my servant had occasioned would have now been at an end: but I find, from the precipitate, and I have no hesitation in saying unjust censure, (for all censures or condemnations passed upon a party unheard must deserve both epithets) passed upon Dr. Brown by the Committee, which the Doctor has sent me, that I am mistaken. I had not supposed it necessary to write to the Committee, deeming it sufficient to write to you in consequence of the polite card I received from them yesterday: indeed, my state of health is so low, that it is fatiguing to write at all: will you therefore be so good as to send me by my servant the two notes I did myself the honour of writing to you to-day, in order that I may enclose them to the Committee, as it will save me the trouble of repeating what I have already written. With respect to Dr. Brown's making any apology or acknowledgment, I hope he will not, because I think he ought not, for no acknowledgment can be due when no offence has been committed.

" I am, Sir,

" your most obedient servant,

" BURWELL STARKE."

" Dr. Holman."

As Dr. Holman had now submitted the whole consideration of the business to the Committee, he wrote the following answer to Mr. Starke's letters:

“DR. HOLMAN'S compliments to Mr. Starke. As the circumstances alluded to in their late correspondence are in the hands of the committee, he must beg leave to decline any further communication with Mr. Starke on the subject. Dr. Holman is extremely sorry to add, that the poor unfortunate patient died this morning at half past ten, an event which Dr. Holman had but too much reason to expect from the very time of his admission into the Infirmary.”

“June 29th.”

Dr. Holman having thus declined any further correspondence with Mr. Starke, the Chairman of the Committee received the following note from that gentleman:

“Bath, 29th June, 1797.”

“Sir,

“I INTENDED to have done myself the pleasure of waiting upon you this morning, in consequence of the very disagreeable, and to me painful business, which I very innocently have occasioned: but my health being worse to-day than it has been for some days past, and the morning very unpromising, I am obliged to decline it.

“Since the receipt of the card from the Committee, I have written two notes to Dr. Holman, stating very fully to him the causes that induced me to write the note to Mr. White; and which ought to satisfy him that Dr. Brown is entirely free from blame in this affair: I did not write to the Committee, because, as it had risen, I did not suppose it
would

would meet again, and knew not of its resolve respecting Dr. Brown till late yesterday afternoon: and I thought it sufficient to write to Dr. Holman, as he was the person who supposed himself ill treated.

“ I can assure the Committee, that no misrepresentation respecting the Infirmary has ever been made me by Dr. Brown or any human being: I can equally assure them, that from what I last saw when there, and every enquiry I have been able to make, I am satisfied that all due care and attention has been given the poor servant: so much so, that I did not hire a separate nurse for him, from which I desisted, when upon enquiry I had reason to believe it unnecessary.— So far from Dr. Brown misrepresenting the Infirmary, or its management in any respect, he was the first person who proposed to me my getting my servant admitted there, or in one of the Hospitals, as the properest place he could be in: he was at the pains of procuring, from Mrs. Dean, a ticket of admission for me; neither of us then knowing that for his admission it was necessary that I should become a subscriber. I proposed to have sent the servant to some private place, when I discovered that the disorder was the small-pox, and that he could not be permitted to remain under the same roof with me: in which case I should naturally have requested Dr. Brown to attend him: yet the Doctor mentioned to me the Infirmary and Hospitals, as a still better mode. Beyond measure anxious for the life of a servant who had been about me for twelve years, and whose merit was such, though a black, as that I considered him as an humble friend, and whose extraordinary good conduct, during my long and painful illness, had endeared him to me; I requested Dr. Brown to call upon him from time to time as my friend, to give me an account of him; for at the time he was sent to the hospital, I was so low, that I did not expect to be able to get to see him at all. Dr. Brown called
but

but twice, and never as a physician; he never prescribed for him, or to him, or to me, nor pretended to it.

“ The last time I saw the servant, was the day I wrote the unfortunate note to Mr. White, which has given so much offence, and occasioned so much trouble. (So much for medical etiquette!) The moment I saw him, I observed the great change for the worse that had taken place since the day before, and I considered his case as desperate; the moment I got home, therefore, I wrote hastily the note to Mr. White. Over-solicitous about the fate of my poor servant, whose attachment to me had induced him to cross the Atlantic, though he had every reason to believe that he had never had the small-pox. I now perceive, too late, that I have not paid sufficient attention to rule. The fact is, I know much of the small-pox from experience: I have lived much amongst it, have seen it in all stages, and am acquainted with all our American modes of treating it: indeed I had it since I was a man very bad, and was from peculiar circumstances obliged to be my own physician, which I have been all my life in all cases, till I was attacked with the disorder which is now carrying me to the grave. You will now judge, Sir, if the Committee has not passed a precipitate censure upon Dr. Brown, and if they ought not first to have heard what he had to say, or to have enquired of me whether or not Dr. Brown had officiously interfered in this business; and had called to see the servant in the character of a physician?

“ I am, Sir, very respectfully,

“ your most obedient servant,

“ BURWELL STARKE.”

“ The Rev. Mr. Dobson,

“ Chairman of the Committee of the Bath Infirmary.”

The Chairman of the Committee is not ashamed to confess himself guilty of an apparent incivility, by not acknowledging the receipt of Mr. Starke's letter; which was occasioned by the servant's not waiting for an answer, and Mr. Starke's omitting to mention where he lodged; this he trusts will be considered by Mr. Starke as a sufficient apology for his inattention; especially as the contents of his letter could not be answered, until it had been laid before the Committee. Mr. Starke is pleased jocosely to style the Chairman the Hierophant, alluding, perhaps, to his profession, of which he is not ashamed; but is determined that no *profane** intruder shall, with his consent, interfere in the management of this useful and well-conducted institution, as long as he continues a member of the Committee :

Procul ô, procul este profani!

The Committee having waited several days, in order to give Dr. Browne an opportunity of making the required apology, and he not having complied with the same, they unanimously concurred in the necessity of inserting in the Bath Chronicle their late advertisement.

“ Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary.

“ At a Special Meeting of the Committee, held on Wednesday the 28th of June 1797, It having appeared that Dr.

* Vide Mr. Starke's Advertisement in the Bath Journal, July 10th.

Browne had twice officiously and clandestinely intruded himself into the Infirmary, to visit a patient as a medical man, in opposition to the established rules of this and every similar institution, and not having made the required apology for the same, the Committee feel themselves obliged thus publickly to express their entire disapprobation of such conduct, and have in consequence come to a resolution of forbidding Dr. Browne from visiting in future any patients in the Infirmary, on any pretence whatsoever.

“ By order of the Committee,

“ July 3d, 1797. J. DOBSON, Chairman.”

After this plain statement of the business, relating to the visits which Dr. Browne made to a patient of Dr. Holman's, at the Bath City Infirmary, it must appear, to every unprejudiced person, that Dr. Browne had no authority for what he did, and that his interference, whether as a physician or as a friend, was, when without leave, contrary to the rules of all regular establishments of the sort, and could not but excite the indignation of every one who felt concerned in promoting the good of the institution.

As the affair could have been settled, and as time was given for Dr. Browne to acknowledge the error under which the Committee were persuaded he lay, they feel themselves peculiarly chagrined at such want of decorum in a medical man; and are resolved thus publickly to express their disapprobation of such unwarrantable conduct. Aggravated as the affair has been
by

by subsequent explanations, they have been careful to exhibit, as far as they have been able, a fair and consistent account of every circumstance which has been agitated.

After this statement, it must be admitted, that Dr. Browne called at the Infirmary, and that he inquired respecting the symptoms of the patient's case, and the medicines which were used to remove them; it must also be apparent, that this could not be done without strong presumption that Dr. Browne acted in a medical capacity.

Allowing only these facts, which are acknowledged by Dr. Browne, and which the Committee have pledged themselves to prove; the offence cannot be questioned by any one who will attend, not only to the rules of this Infirmary, but of any institution, whether medical or not.

If a person places himself in any peculiar situation in life, and acknowledges that he expects to derive advantage from it, we contend that it is that person's duty to submit to the rules which have been established for its welfare; or, on breaking through them, to forfeit the benefits which that situation might otherwise bestow upon him.

As institutions for the cure of the sick are peculiarly under very strict rules, this observation in a particular manner applies to them. Were people admitted perpetually into the wards of an hospital
without

without restraint, the patients must, in a great number of instances, become victims instead of being benefited by the institution. It is not necessary, in this statement, to enter into any arguments in support of medical establishments, as the present business requires not prolixity to assert the propriety of the part which the Committee have taken in it.

It appears, from the evidence of the nurse, that Dr. Browne had called at the Infirmary prior to Mr. Starke's sending his first note to Mr. White. We do not, however, positively infer from hence that the medical treatment recommended in that note was suggested by Dr. Browne to Mr. Starke: we hope it was not; as otherwise, the insinuations and reports circulated so industriously, both here and in London, according to Dr. Browne's letter in the Journal, might not have been so unjust or ill-founded as he there supposes. It is not upon this coincidence, nor on the circumstance of Dr. Browne's servant having so often called to see the poor patient as his friend, that we depend for supposing that Dr. Browne interfered in a medical capacity; but on the fact of his having felt the patient's pulse, inquired into the symptoms, and particularly whether the remedies mentioned in Mr. Starke's letter were employed; and, when attending Mr. Starke as a medical man, he owns that he came to the Infirmary at his particular request.

Dr. Browne states, that he formerly called at the Infirmary to visit General Peche's servant: this he

brings forward as a case similar to the one in question. It is necessary that the public should know, that he did not then call in a medical capacity, or to visit him in any respect as a patient, but he came in an open manner to the Apothecary, at the request of the General, who was then in London, to give some instructions to the servant, and to know when he would be capable of undertaking the journey to his master. Dr. Browne's conduct, in this instance, was not therefore incorrect, nor in any way similar to the present.

After Dr. Browne's having owned that, at his first visit to the Infirmary to see Mr. Starke's servant, he inquired whether any physician was in the house; he certainly must have known that his second visit, without such inquiry, was made in a clandestine manner. Most cordially would every man sympathize with Dr. Browne in feeling as he does, if the cause which he adopts were justifiable, or the part which he has acted defensible. Contempt for injuries committed against a person, and disregard for unjust treatment, when conscious of no offence, are qualities belonging to a superior mind: but the assuming contempt, from ignorance or inability to judge of actions committed, cannot be held in too great detestation. Specious as the representation of Dr. Browne may seem to be, yet we still believe, we have proved that neither the cause of humanity has been supported, nor the feelings of the Committee distressed, by the partial, and we may say

say ill-conducted defence of Dr. Browne and Mr. Starke in the Bath Journal.

If the Committee did not think that their silence would be construed into a tacit acknowledgement of their wish to give up the cause of those medical gentlemen, who honour them with their attention, they would think it unnecessary, in this publication, to support a cause which at first view they were convinced was a good one; but as the concerns of medicine are as connected with those who judge by inclination, as those who judge by reason, they are determined thus to defend the right cause to its utmost extent.

The words *regularly-bred*, have been used both by the Committee and by Dr. Holman, and they have applied those words as being incompatible with the conduct of Dr. Browne; they still assert, that if Dr. Browne had attended to the institutions of those hospitals, which in the course of his education he must be supposed to have visited, he must have known that such conduct was inadmissible.

Mr. Starke has taken up this business not only against the physician, under whom he had placed his faithful servant, but, by a general levelling observation respecting the mode of obtaining diplomas, against all the most celebrated seminaries for education of every kind. Does Mr. Starke mean to imply that it is precisely the same thing whether a man be educated

or not? Or does he mean to say, that the science of physick needs no industrious exertions towards its acquirement? Mr. Starke, perhaps, does not know that degrees may be purchased both at Aberdeen and St. Andrew's, without the purchasers becoming students, or giving any personal proof of their abilities; Mr. Starke may know, that neither genius nor learning can be commanded by money. For Mr. Starke to be ignorant of the conduct of an institution under which he had placed his faithful servant, nay more, his humble friend; for Mr. Starke to submit the person for whom he had such affectionate regard to the care of a physician whom he has treated with the most illiberal disrespect; for Mr. Starke, we repeat, in all parts of his conduct to wound the reputation of the person he confided in, without any acknowledgment of the offence, is more, we assert, than can be submitted to by any gentleman who feels the dignity of his reputation in his character as a physician, or the value of his honour in his character as a man.

By order of the Committee,

J. DOBSON, Chairman.

Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary,

July 17, 1797.

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