

**An account of the first festival of the Royal Jennerian Society ... on Thursday, May 17, 1803. [-Verses for the first anniversary of the Jennerian Society].**

**Contributors**

Royal Jennerian Society.

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ROYAL JENNERIAN SOC.



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AN ACCOUNT  
 OF THE  
 FIRST FESTIVAL  
 OF THE  
 ROYAL JENNERIAN SOCIETY  
 FOR THE  
 EXTERMINATION OF THE SMALL-POX;

ON THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1803.

EXTRACTED FROM THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE.

*Nichols and Son, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street.*

MR. URBAN, May 23.  
 I respect your Miscellany too highly to wish it to be made the vehicle of any ordinary Festival; but, when the important object of the Royal Jennerian Society for the Extermination of the Small Pox is contemplated, and that millions of millions of lives depend upon its success, no apology is requisite for my requesting to record, in your valuable pages, the first Festival of this Society, which was held on the 17th instant, to commemorate the birth-day of Dr. Edward Jenner.

At five o'clock about 300 noblemen and gentlemen assembled at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand, to partake of an elegant dinner, under the direction of the following stewards:  
 Earl of Egremont, Lord Carrington,

Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Sir Walter Farquhar, Bart. John Coakley Lettson, M. D. Thomas Baring, esq. Henry Cline, esq. Henry Hoare, esq. Robert Thornton, esq. John Furnell Tuffen, esq. William Vaughan, esq. David Pike Watts, esq.

After dinner, *Non nobis, Domine*, was delivered in a grand style; which was succeeded by,

1. The KING, the PATRON of the Society; and immediately a song in grand chorus,
- "God, save the King," succeeded by
2. The QUEEN, the PATRONESS of the Society.
3. His Royal Highness the Prince of WALES; and the other Royal Vice Patrons and Patronesses.

The Chairman, Lord Egremont, then read

read a letter from his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, to the Earl of Berkeley, in answer to an application to his Royal Highness to honour the Anniversary by taking the chair, which is so characteristic of his Royal Highness's good sense, and just discernment, that we presume to gratify the publick with a copy.

*Carlton House, May 14, 1803.*

"My Dear Lord,

"The Prince of Wales has commanded me to assure your Lordship of the great pleasure and satisfaction he should personally feel in taking the chair at the Jennerian Society, were it not that it had been adjudged contrary to etiquette in his Royal Highness's station to do so; that he had been obliged to decline the application of several great and National Institutions on similar occasions.

"The Prince additionally regrets the strictness of this etiquette, because, in the enthusiastic admiration he feels for so valuable a discovery, his Royal Highness cannot but combine the highest esteem for the worth and character of its respectable author.

"I have the honour to remain, my dear Lord, with great respect and regard,

"Your obliged and faithful servant,  
J. Mc MAHON.

*Earl of Berkeley, &c. &c."*

4. The health of her Royal Highness the Princess of WALES, which was drunk with the more enthusiasm, being also her Royal Highness's birth day.

5. The NAVY of Great Britain.

This was received with long and reiterated plaudits; and encouraged by an appropriate speech from the chairman, who observed, that the Society was founded in an auspicious moment, when we were upon the eve of war, which would be more than compensated by the number of lives saved to the community by the extension of the Cow Pock; which he aptly illustrated, by comparing its success to the nature of a sinking fund of useful subjects saved to the nation: this produced the popular song of, "Rule, Britannia."

6. "The ARMY of Great Britain" was received with great ardour, and followed by "Britons, Strike home."

7. The Duke of BEDFORD, President of the Society.

8. Dr. JENNER.

This toast was received with an impressive enthusiasm we never before witnessed. After the room was ready to burst with echoing of repeated plaudits, Dr. Jenner attempted to speak; but Lord Gwydir repeating the toast, which Lord Egremont had previously given, the loudest acclamations ensued, and reverberated from every part of the room, for a considerable period before Dr. Jenner could be heard; when he modestly expressed his grateful feelings

for the honour and approbation he had experienced, from the Sovereign on the throne, to his subjects in every department of the empire. Overcome and oppressed as he appeared to be with the unanimous and distinguished approbation of the company, he confessed that he had not words to express the gratitude of his heart, or the extent of happiness they had conferred; an equal, and if possible a superior degree of which, he wished might fill the bosom of every individual present, and of every friend of humanity throughout the Universe. After repeated and loud applauses had succeeded this address, T. F. Dibdin, esq. late of St. John's College, Oxford, delivered the following speech:

"Mr. Chairman,

"We are met to celebrate, on this day, the triumph of Vaccination, the birth of its Founder. Let Joy and Benevolence reign unbounded in our bosoms!

"Gentlemen, it is needless to describe to you, in glowing colours, the ravages of that horrid disease, which has deprived many of us of parents, relations, or friends.—You yourselves have witnessed its progress—have witnessed the disasters which seldom fail to attend it.—Let us exult in the consoling reflection, that its terrors are shortly to cease. To Dr. Jenner, and to every medical gentleman present, worthy associates in the cause, we owe this peculiar blessing, which now seems diffused to almost every civilized part of the globe.—Without presumption, therefore, we may conclude, that it has been directed and supported by the interposition of Heaven.

"Gentlemen,—I stated to you, that the Small-pox was about to take its departure from suffering humanity—Yes, like the shades of night before the morn, it has hid its abhorred face, and fled the presence of Vaccination! From the Severn to the Ganges, the mild virtues of the Cow-pock have been seen, felt, and acknowledged—along the shores of Asia, in the cot of the Hindoo, and in the temple of the Bramin, it has been contemplated with rapture, and cherished with adoration!! This enlightened country, this glorious island (for glorious it will be, in spite of every effort of a proud and implacable foe), has given birth to a blessing which has operated to the preservation of thousands. Happy thought! consoling reflection! We are now assembled under the sanction of a Monarch, who, with his royal offspring, have dignified the Institution with their patronage; and we have also to boast of the support of some of the brightest characters in the realm. When I look to the Chair, I see, with peculiar satisfaction, how our feast is ennobled\*.

"Gentlemen,—We shall live to view a rising generation of beauty and perfection;

\* The Earl of Egremont in the chair.



the son preserved to his father, the daughter inheriting the bloom and loveliness of her mother—the tear of sorrow about to be wiped away, and the pang for premature death no longer to be felt!! What prospects are these to contemplate! What joy and consolation ought they not to infuse!!

“Let us, therefore, Friends and Countrymen, indulge a fervent wish for the preservation of that life which has been instrumental to such blessings; and let us hope that Time itself shall cease, ere the name of JENNER be forgotten!!”

After the warm and repeated plaudits which succeeded began to subside, the Chairman proposed

IX. Success to the ROYAL JENNERIAN SOCIETY! and to the extermination of the Small-pox!

This was likewise received by loud and enthusiastic applauses; and was followed by an Address to Dr. Jenner, on his birth-day, written and recited by Isaac Brandon, esq.

“THE wreath of Conquest, and the voice of Fame, [his name!—  
Have crown'd the Warrior, and proclaim'd  
Say, what fair leaf shall bind the brow of those, [woes;—  
Whose gen'rous labours lessen human  
Who wield no sword,—who wake no orphan's tears, [biers?  
—But snatch our infants from untimely

Twin'd with the olive, be that fragrant flow'r [its hour:  
Whose sweets still live, when it has spent  
For, like the rose, the Guardians of mankind, [sweets behind!  
Tho' sunk in death, shall leave their  
Round thee, O JENNER! let this garland blow, [glow!  
And, while it sweetly shades, still sweetly  
'Tis said, that bursting from the angry skies,  
The lightning harmless o'er the laurel flies— [nius twine,  
Then o'er that brow where Peace and Ge-  
With brightest ray, may suns eternal shine!

Class'd in that roll where dwell the sons of Mind,  
Guardians of science, fathers of their kind,  
Thy name shall live!—for Immortality  
Is worthy him, whose bosom, beating high,

Lifts his mild shield that braves th' infectious breath, [Death!  
And strikes the poison from the dart of

Weak is the praise my willing Muse bestows, [throws!—  
When solemn Science round her incense  
When Britain's Genius, turning from the field, [shield!—

Traces thy name with triumph on her  
When grateful Europe strews her festive flowers, [their bowers! \*—  
And her fair groups come dancing from  
See p'fowling Indians fix'd at thy applause,  
Trace thy vast gift from the Eternal Cause;— [air,”

With peals of rapture rend the “wond'ring  
Lay bare their arms, and mark thy glory there †.

Yet such there are, whose jealousy and hate ‡ [create:  
Spread the quick lie, and groundless fears  
But such is life!—to streams will reptiles run, [sun.

Infects will breed, wherever warms the  
When genial Spring with promise crowns the fruits, [lutes!  
See how the worm the gen'rous bough pol-  
Though some few leaves the greedy spoiler tear,

The tree still pours its treasures on the air.  
Almighty Egypt rais'd with giant hand  
Its hallow'd Tentyris, o'er its wondrous land; [hung,  
Its “learned walls” with ripen'd Science  
Where ev'ry stone seems quicken'd with a tongue: [crown'd,

Four thousand years its awful brows have  
And stamp't them Gods, who rear'd the mass profound: [hand,  
—Though rude barbarians lift the spoiling  
And here and there a column strew the land, [rage;  
The godlike structure triumphs o'er their  
And hands its glories down from age to age!

Ab, turn from these!—Behold the Mother's care! [there:  
Seek the Child's crib, and Gratitude is  
The parent eye the tender tribute sheds,  
As o'er the arm the mild contagion spreads:—

\* In several places on the Continent Festivals are annually celebrated in honour of the discovery of the Vaccine Inoculation.

† Some Chiefs of the Cherokee Indians attended the presidency of the United States of America. They had heard (as they expressed it) “that the Great Spirit had gifted a white man, over the Great Water, with a power to prevent the Small Pox.”—Eagerly enquiring, and being informed of the fact, they received the infection on their arms, and carried it into the midst of their tribes. It is a pleasing reflection that these untutored Savages have spread it throughout their country, and that they are eminently expert in the practice of the new Inoculation; they are preparing their rude but sincere presents to Dr. Jenner, a token at once of their admiration and their gratitude.

‡ This allusion extends only to those, who from envy, self-interest, or hatred of innovation, diffuse falsehood to retard the progress of improvement.



'Tis *there*, Philanthropist, thy worth is  
taught! [thought!]

—JENNER and MERCY mingle in her

As from rude chaos fair creation rose,  
As from the bud th' expanding floweret  
blows, [ing springs,

As from dim night the beautiful morn-  
And o'er the landscape spreads its purple  
wings— [dian fire

From slumb'ring stone, the hand of Phi-  
Shall JENNER call, and all the mass in-  
spire! [methean eye!

Come, heav'nly SCULPTURE, with Pro-  
Thy kindling chisel o'er the marble ply!—  
As the fond tendril twines the shel't'ring  
tree, [NER's knee:

Let babes cling smiling round their JEN-  
Tow'rd his fond looks, where mildness  
reigns serene,

With lifted gaze, each artless face is seen,  
—The sunder'd lips—the cherub eye in-  
tent— [tent,

The pause of fondness—and the still con-  
Then sweetly shape,—with all thy softest  
powers [flowers:

The grateful Mother—offering fruits and  
Could breath be moulded by thy beautiful  
art, [should start!

From the rais'd breast the cherish'd sigh  
And, could thy hand the feeling tear con-  
troul, [roll,

The silent blessing down her cheek should  
Beneath his feet let cypress boughs be seen,  
And venom'd nettles wither'd lie be-  
tween: [wreath,

Nor round his brow forgotten be the  
Where shades the olive, and the roses  
breathe.

O had thy talents with the SCOURGE\*  
been born,

How many eyes had yet beheld the morn!  
No horrid fretwork had destroyed thy face,  
Where Guido's genius might have sought  
for grace!

No taint had blasted Nature's fair design,  
Sapt all the blood,—and curs'd a future line!  
Hearts that were broken had been sav'd by  
thee!

But selfish Glory blesses the decree,  
That gave to us the honour of thy birth!—  
May hoary Time long crown thy hallow'd  
worth!— [close,

As glides the brook at evening's tranquil  
So flow thy days,—the mirror of repose!  
May blooming health embow'r thy calm  
retreat! [sweet

May joys domestic shed their influence  
With growing love, affection's gentle rage,  
The throng'd respect that crowds the couch  
of age! [skies,

And future Nations, when thou seek'st  
Shall own thy Genius bade their *myriads*  
rise!"

Here the enthusiasm of the company  
again burst forth, with acclamations of

every voice in the room, till Dr. Bradley  
addressed the company with an elegantly  
condensed history of the progress of Vac-  
cine Inoculation; and particularly alluded  
to the success of Doctor de Carro, of Vi-  
enna, in transmitting the Cow-pock, by  
the route of Bassorah, to India, where the  
Small-pox had broke out among the Gen-  
toos, the believers in Brahma, among whom  
nearly nine out of every ten persons fell  
victims to this dreadful disease. The Brah-  
mins, who venerate the Cow as a sacred  
animal, received the Cow-pock with reli-  
gious zeal; and the pious Gentoos were thus  
preserved by the opportune arrival of this  
providential blessing. The same means had  
been extended to Ceylon, and 7000 lives  
had already been saved by the introduction  
of the Cow-pock.

Dr. Bradley's health was then drunk by  
the company, with thanks for his valuable  
remarks.

BENJAMIN TRAVERS, esq. one of the ear-  
liest institutors of the Royal Jennerian Society,  
now proposed the health of, and thanks to,  
"Lord EGREMONT, the noble Chairman." He  
expatiated, in an elegant speech, on his  
Lordship's public and private virtues; which  
led him, although exempted, by his rank  
and fortune, from feeling the wants  
of the poor, to devote his patronage and  
purse to mitigate their miseries, and to pro-  
mote their comforts. He then delivered  
a most impressive eulogy on the views and  
the probable success of the Jennerian Insti-  
tution, and congratulated the company on  
the heartfelt satisfaction they would expe-  
rience in reflecting upon the millions they  
would prove the means of saving by perse-  
vering in the laudable work they had begun;  
thus imitating their great Master, who de-  
clared, that "he came into the world, not  
to take away men's lives, but to save."

His Lordship returned thanks for the ho-  
nour conferred upon him, in placing him  
in a station which ought to have been filled  
by one of the Royal Vice-patrons. He re-  
joiced in the success of the Society, which  
he compared as a sinking-fund of popula-  
tion and strength to the State.

ROBERT THORNTON, esq. M. P. drank  
to the VICE-PRESIDENTS. With this toast  
he united the VICE-PATRONESSES; ob-  
serving that, by the virtuous union of the  
sexes, subjects of Vaccine Inoculation would  
ever be afforded to exercise the talents of a  
Society, which would tend to save more  
lives than even the losses by war would  
occasion.

The Earl of BERKELEY, as one of the  
Vice-Presidents, returned thanks to the dis-  
tinguished Commoner who proposed the  
toast; and hoped, that the union he re-  
commended would ever prove productive  
to the individuals, and prosperous to the  
Nation.

LORD CARRINGTON, as one of the Vice-  
Pre-

\* Small Pox.

Presidents, also addressed the company, and paid many elegant compliments on the character and virtues which distinguished the noble Vice-patronesses.

When the BOARD OF DIRECTORS was proposed as a toast from the Chair, JOHN TOWELL RUTT, esq. in an animated speech, gave an account of the formation and progress of the Society; and rejoiced in the gratification it afforded them, in witnessing its unparalleled utility and success.

Then followed the thanks to the MEDICAL COUNCIL; to which Dr. DENMAN returned an appropriate speech, which was followed by the Chairman's drinking to

"The Right Hon. the LORD MAYOR, BENJAMIN TRAVERS, esq. and JOHN JULIUS ANGERSTEIN, esq."

This again called up Mr. TRAVERS, who expatiated with his usual animation on the rapid formation of a Society, which in six months had acquired the highest splendour, confirmed by the appearance of one of the most numerous and respectable meetings ever convened together; and whose sublime object, joined to the united endeavours of so many illustrious characters, afforded the bright prospect of being crowned with success. He concluded with highly complimenting Dr. JOHN WALKER, the resident Physician of the Society's Central House, who early united in the formation of the Institution, and, before its establishment, had devoted his time and attention to gratuitous Inoculation; and, after proposing his health, the Doctor rose, and hinted at his success in stopping the progress of the Small-pox, which had broke out in the army and navy with Gen. Abercrombie in the Mediterranean, as well as in Malta, Palermo, and Egypt; which he effected by means of the Cow-pock.

The Chairman next proposed "the health of Dr. WILLIAM WOODVILLE, and the rest of the friends of the Cow-pock (for the extermination of the Small-pox) in every part of the World."

This called up Dr. LETTSOM; who informed the company, that Dr. Woodville had just left the room; and, in his absence, he would offer some remarks upon the Doctor's distinguished and independent conduct. In consequence of being at the head of the Hospital for the Small-pox and inoculation, his experience was deemed so superior to every other medical practitioner, as to induce the first professional men to call him into consultation upon every difficult and important case, as being decidedly the most competent to the subject. He had, nevertheless, as soon as the Cow-pock was promulgated by Dr. Jenner, embraced the discovery, and encouraged it in his public and private capacity; and had probably inoculated more persons with it, in consequence of his public situation, than any

other individual, Dr. Jenner excepted; and had thus, with great disinterestedness, sacrificed the extensive prospects of private emolument to public good. At this time, of the multitude who applied to him at the Small-pox hospital, only two patients were in the Hospital under the Small-pox, and not one for several weeks previously; which might be ascribed to his successful exertions in promoting the Cow-pock. Among other friends to Vaccine Inoculation, Dr. Lettsom could not pass by Dr. De Carro, of Vienna, who had forwarded the Cow-pock to India; and particularly to Dr. Waterhouse\*, the Jenner of America, who first introduced it into that Hemisphere. He concluded this animated address with an eulogy to the Faculty, who had almost unanimously united their endeavours to exterminate the Small-pox, one of the most lucrative sources of emolument; and elucidated this independent conduct by remarking that, as about 3000 persons had died annually in London by the Small-pox, it might be calculated that 30,000 persons must have been attacked with this disease; and admitting that each might devote for medical aid only three guineas, the sum of 90,000 guineas would thus be sacrificed by the Faculty at the altar of public good. He apologized, as a professional man, for offering such an eulogy for an unparalleled disinterestedness; but he trusted that his period of life would exempt him from any censure on this ground.

Toward the close of the evening, Lord Egremont withdrew; and Dr. Jenner, who sat at his right hand during the day, accepted the Chair, and preserved to a late hour rational conviviality, chastened and refined by the sublime sentiment of rescuing from the grave more human beings than ever was even suggested by the warmest imagination could possibly result, from the institution of any other Society, in the records of history or time; a sentiment rendered still more highly gratifying by the presence in the Chair, on the present auspicious occasion, of that man, without whose discovery the Society would not have existed; and by which, millions of rising generations, upon whom the future must necessarily depend, are saved to enrich the State, to implore blessings on the Discoverer, no less distinguished for his

\* Dr. Jenner sent to Dr. Waterhouse a silver box, inlaid with gold, of exquisite taste and workmanship, with this inscription, "Edward Jenner to Benjamin Waterhouse;" but Mr. Ring, the mutual friend of the kindred Physicians, who had the care of forwarding this valuable present, annexed this superscription: "From the Jenner of the Old World to the Jenner of the New World."

amiable and endearing manners, than for the modesty and humility with which he has received the applause and gratitude of an admiring World; and which cannot but inspire every virtuous heart with pious ad-

ration of that Supreme Power, which hath vouchsafed in mercy to dispense the means of preserving mankind from the most mortal disease that ever visited the children of men.



