

A brief account of Mr. Valentine Greatrak's : and divers of the strange cures by him lately performed / written by himself in a letter addressed to the honourable Robert Boyle. Whereunto are annexed, the testimonials of Robert Boyle, Bishop Wilkins, Bishop Patrick, Dr. Cudworth, Dr. Whichcot, and many other persons of distinction; concerning the chief matters of fact therein related.

Contributors

Greatrakes, Valentine, 1629-1683.

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Whichcote, Benjamin, 1609-1683.

Publication/Creation

London : Printed and sold by J. Downing, 1723.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/xz2t6yjh>

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A
B R I E F A C C O U N T
O F
Mr. *Valentine* G R E A T R A K's,
And divers of the
Strange Cures
By him lately Performed.

Written by himself in a
L E T T E R
Addressed to the Honourable
R O B E R T B O Y L E Esq;

Whereunto are annexed,
The Testimonials of ROBERT BOYLE Esq;
Bishop WILKINS, Bishop PATRICK, Dr.
CUDWORTH, Dr. WHICHCOT, and many
other Persons of Distinction; concerning
the chief Matters of Fact therein Related.

L O N D O N:

Printed and Sold by J. Downing in Bartholomew-
Close, near West-Smithfield. 1723.

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ROBERT BOTTLE

IT IS THE PROPERTY OF
THE LIBRARY OF THE
BISHOP OF LINCOLN
AND HIS CHURCH
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*An Advertisement concerning
the present Edition.*



THE following Pamphlet being very scarce, and but in few Hands, and on a very curious and uncommon Subject, it is thought fit to Publish it once more. It was Printed in the Year 1666, a little before the great Fire, which reduced the much bigger Part of the City of London to Ashes, so that probably many Copies of the Impression perished in the Flames. Why it was not afterwards reprinted, I am not able to give any Account. The Facts herein related are so well attested, that they cannot reasonably be disputed. And to me they appear to be clear Evidences of a supernatural Operation, which is the great Motive of the Publication thereof at this Time, when almost every thing of that kind is called into Question, and by many, who know no better, made the Subject of Ridicule. If what is here offered contributes any thing towards

putting a stop to the growing Infidelity of the present Age, the Publisher has what he desires. The Author does not pretend to any new Revelation. He every where expresses himself with great Modesty, calling himself a worthless Instrument, and ascribing all to the Glory and Praise of God; with reference to himself, he seems to be concern'd for nothing so much as to be found a faithful Steward and Dispenser of the Talent committed to his Trust.

Several of the Persons who attest the Truth of the Facts here related, were eminent for their Learning and Piety in the Time wherein they lived. They were Men not easily imposed upon, being remarkable for their Skill in natural Knowledge, and curious Enquiries into the Reason and Nature of Things. Some of them were Physicians and Chirurgeons; others were cured by Mr. Greatrak's; others were Eye-witnesses, being present when the Cures were performed. Among them the Reader will observe the Honourable Robert Boyle Esq; Bishop Wilkins, the late Bishop Patrick, Dr. Cudworth, Dr. Whichcot, and many other Persons of Distinction. Those who can account for such Facts, without supposing something supernatural and miraculous, let them do it. I promise them I will attend to Reason and Argument, but I will despise Rallery and Banter; this may indispose and unqualifie the Mind to judge of Truth when it is offered to it, but it will be as far from giving Conviction to a reasonable Creature, as Force and Persecution.



A
LETTER

To the Honourable

ROBERT BOYLE Esq;

Most Honourable and most Worthby Sir,



HOUGH I had not the Happiness formerly to have an acquaintance with you; yet I was no stranger to your Worth and Virtue, which have made you as much admired and revered abroad, as honoured and beloved at home: And therefore I have assumed the Confidence to make this Address to your Honour, whose Repute and Testimony to the World will be so powerful (knowing your Wisdom, Devotion, and Learning to be so great) that Truth may find Belief, God have Glory, and his poor Instrument be justified before Men, who hath no farther Design in the Distribution of that Talent which the All-healing God has entrusted him withal, than the Honour of his Maker, and the good of his Poor Fellow-Creatures, whose Distempers (many of them) neither Art nor Physick,

sick, probably could reach; which caused him cheerfully (that he might not be found an unfaithful Steward) to cast all his worldly Pleasures and Delights behind his Back, to run himself into the midst of all Diseases, to make his House an Hospital, and forsake his own Interest and Advantages; to labour Day and Night, and oftentimes run the Hazard of his Liberty and Life by the Crowds, Pressings, Steams and Stinks of the Multitudes and Ulcerous Persons, (which you can well witness few Men can brook or undergo); and what is worse than all this, the scandalous and false Reports of lying Tongues; which have caused him, who never had the Ambition to publish himself to the World farther than by his Deeds, to write this Vindication, in Answer to a Pamphlet, called by the Title of [*Wonders no Miracles,*] wherein the Author, a certain obscure Person, one that never saw me, nor knew any thing of me, very confidently takes upon him to be my Herald and Confessor, and to represent me in such black Characters, as if I were so horrid a Monster, that my very Name should affright the Reader.

Sir, I never injured this Gentleman in Word or Deed in all my Life, and yet he who pretends himself to be a Minister of the Gospel, is so extremely (beyond the Rules of Charity) invective against me. But (you know, Sir,) if to be accused only be sufficient, who can be found innocent? I have enough of Provocations given me to reflect, but God be praised I have learn'd a better Lesson, and shall return him Good for Evil, if it lies in my Power.

I beseech God, I may never suffer as a Murderer, or as a Thief, or as an Evil-doer, or as a Busy-man in other Mens Matters; but if I suffer for doing Good to Persons in Misery freely,
ly,

ly, I hope I have no cause to be ashamed, but to glorify God on this behalf, who gave both the Gift and Mind to use it.

This Gentleman was the Man (as I am certainly informed) that writ that Pamphlet, Entituled, *The Countess of Bridgewater's Ghost*, for which he lay six Months in Prison; one would have thought this might have proved a sufficient warning to him to be more sober for the future, who, you may see, was ashamed to fix his Name to his Book, lest the Contents thereof (though it might carry somewhat of Truth in it) might totally be discredited for the Author's sake. I do not instance in this Gentleman to shame him (for that is no ways my Design) but so far to invalidate his Testimony, that I may not be the worse thought of for his Evil-speaking, who makes it his Trade to put forth Libels on any one, so he may get but a little Money from the Printer, or those that employ him. I pray God he may better make use of his Time and Parts hereafter; and that he would take all Rancour and Malice out of his Heart, and give him the Spirit of Meekness, Charity, and Love: for if we bite and devour one another, we may chance to be consumed one of another.

For me to answer each particular Allegation of his, would require too much time to be so ill spent, and therefore I will overlook his Calumnies, desiring God to forgive him; nor shall I render Evil for Evil, or Railing for Railing, only I shall instance in some few Particulars, for the Satisfaction of the Reader, who by those, as by a Touch-stone, may try what Metal the rest are made of. And,

First, In Folio 14. he charges me to have writ to that Right Reverend and pious Person the Lord Bishop of *Chester*, with several other Instan-

ces which I shall make use of, which are most, if not every one of them, feigned and false. The Words are as follow :

That he had a Voice from Heaven assuring him first, That he had a Power to cure the King's-Evil, and afterwards, that he might cure all Diseases: That he could not be quiet till he had undertaken it; and that a Woman unknown to him had a Vision to come to him; and that hereupon (notwithstanding he was dissuaded by his Friends from the Practice, and jeered out of the Imagination,) he had a constant Impulse to force him upon the several Experiments he had made, till the whole Country thronged to him. And this, the Pamphleteer saith, is what the Man saith for himself.

Now by this Testimonial of my Lord Bishop of Chester, written with his own Hand at his House in *Tutthill-street*, (which I herewith send you) you may please to judge how misbecoming the Pretence of a Clergy man he has acquitted himself, in Fathering such Forgeries upon one of the Fathers of the Church, whose Testimony he would have made use of to create a Belief in the Reader, and scandalize an innocent Person. The Words are as follow.

Whereas in a late Book, Entituled, [Wonders no Miracles,] the nameless Author hath thought fit to take notice of a Letter of Mr. Valentine Greatrak's directed to me; wherein he is charged to avouch a Voice from Heaven twice heard by him, by which he was employed to cure the King's-evil, and afterwards to cure all Diseases; mention being made also of a Vision which a Woman had to come unto him, &c. I cannot but so far do right to the said Mr. Greatrak's, and disabuse all Readers of that Book, as to Testifie, That the Letter which I received from him, had no such Passages savouring of Phanaticism, as a pretended
Voice

Voice from Heaven and a Vision do import; and that this is but one of many other Falsities in that Book.

April 27. 1666.

Geo. Cestriens.

Next, as to my Education; in the ensuing Part of my Letter, you shall receive a Refutation sufficient to convince you of the Untruth which this stranger to my Breeding charges me with. Then passing by many other of his Assertions, not worth the taking notice of, nor having the least Colour of Truth in them, I come to *Page 17.* wherein he charges me with swearing by my Maker, at Mr. Cresset's House in *Charter-house-yard*; an Oath which never was heard to come out of my Mouth: But if you observe, the Author of that Report is as nameless as his Book; and Mr. Cresset (who with several others were present all the while I was in his House) hearing of that Falshood fastned on me, hath herewith also sent you his Testimonial to the contrary, writ with his own Hand, in the following Words:

Whereas in a Pamphlet lately Printed, Entituled, [Wonders no Miracles,] the Author thereof charges Mr. Valentine Greatrak's to have sworn at my House in Charter-house-yard, by his Maker; I do hereby Testifie, That I was continually by him whilst he was in my House, unless when he was in his Bed, and went with him from my House to the Old-baily that Day that the Author alledgeth he did swear the said Oath, and I did never hear him swear the same Oath, nor any other whatsoever, either on that said Day, or in my House, nor at any other Time, or in any

B

other

other Place whatsoever: Witness my Hand this
5th of May, 1666.

John Cresset.

Then he charges me in *Pag. ibid.* with being a *Good Fellow* (according to his Sense), and *having Converse with Women notoriously scandalous*; and also with *many Fallacies put upon poor People as to the Place of my abode*; and several other Things as true as these.

To which my Answer is, That there is no Person that knows me, but will acquit me of being excessive either in Eating or Drinking; neither was I ever charged or suspected (till by this Gentleman, who puts his Name to nothing, nor seems to care what he says of Man, Woman, or Child) to be incontinent with Women, or to have to do with any [but my Wife] in all my Life-time.

Then, as to the Fallacies put upon poor People as to the Place of my abode, you your self can acquit me of that Calumny, who have been pleased oftentimes to do me the Honour (with several other Honourable, Reverend, and Worthy Persons) to come to *Lincolns-Inn-Fields*, whither for several Weeks I repaired five Days in the Week, where I laid my Hands on all that came, without regard of Persons, that People might not be disappointed in hunting me up and down. And farther, to shew you the Disingenuity of this Person, I went to him, who was reported the Author of that Pamphlet, with Dr. *Whitchcot*, and Dr. *Cudworth*, (my honoured Friends, who were pleas'd to afford me the Favour of their Company) and reason'd with the Gentleman about several Things he charged me with being guilty of in his Book, and desired before them, to know whether he knew me, that he gave such a Character of me; or whe-

whether this Practice of his, in Slandering of a Stranger, and an innocent Person for ought he knew, were according to the Rule of the Gospel, or that of Moral Honesty? And also I told him; that his carriage in this Affair, could not but subject him to the Censure of wise Men, who would lie inveighing in his Closet, by judging and condemning what he knew not, and denying the Verity of what was obvious to all Persons that had the Curiosity of Coming, whenas he might purchase the Knowledge of Truth by an ocular Testimony, in repairing to the House which I frequented in *Lincolns-Inn-fields*, where I promised to make Way for him, and to accommodate him with a convenient Place, that afterwards (when he had informed himself) he might be able to relate the Truth of Things to others, since he had such an itching desire to write: At length, the honest Gent. promised that he would come, but never did; fearing that by the Glass of Truth there, he might discover the Deformity of his Carriage, and be forced to a Recantation. But to proceed further.

In Page 20. he useth these Words: *He takes nothing in Publick himself, but it hath cost some good round Sums of Money to his Followers, who are observed to be noted Projectors; Jo. Terrill Gent. expending 100 l. to come at him; James Birion 40 l. and William Fettyplace 60 l. &c. To this I answer,*

That he speaks Truth in saying that I take nothing in Publick, but in saying, That it hath cost some good round Sums of Money to his Followers, who are observed to be noted Projectors, he says an unhandsome Untruth, known to many Thousands; for I never suffered, nor would keep any Servant that I knew would take a Farthing of any one that comes to me:

Nor have I any Follower, but a simple Youth, whom I never suffered to be a Door-keeper, to avoid scandal. And as for *Jo. Terrill, Ja. Biration*, and *William Fettyplace*, (I say) I know them not by their Names, nor did I ever hear of them but in his Book, who is their Godfather I believe.

Then in the same Page he saith, I borrow Money of my Patients, though I take none; in Answer to which, I call the God of Heaven to witness, I never borrowed so much as one Farthing (to the best of my remembrance) in my Life, nor does he instance in one, nor can any Man living.

Then in the same Page you may further observe how like a Deceiver he speaks: *What if it be proved that such as he have those that maintain them, and hire them Patients; And in the 21 Page he chargeth me in these Terms: And the dullest Nose may smell the Matter when he heareth this Tradition of him: That being a Member of an Independent Church, He was excommunicated thence for pretending to the Gift of Heaven, and thereupon his Gift left him, until being absolved, he was readmitted at once to his Church-Privilege and his Gift.* To which I answer,

That I never was a Member of an Independent Church in my Life, and so could not be Excommunicated by them, neither do I acknowledge any such Power in such a Church.

But passing by many of his Invectives, which his own Conscience (if he has any) cannot but smite him for, being guilty of so many groundless and simple Untruths, I come to that of the 22 Page, where he says: *That it's evident that this whole Affair is but a Cheat, and that there is not a Man, Woman, or Child, that may be trusted, and are well known, that is the better for him.* Which Reproach, your Honour,

nour, I am sure, as well as Thousands else, knows to be otherwise; and therefore I think it needless to say any thing more to this particular, than to refer the Reader to the undeniable Testimonials following.

Then in Page 23, (on which single Instance this Architect builds so large a Structure) he says; *I launced a poor Man troubled with a sore Knee, in the Charter-House, and that I pinched the poor Man, and the Sore Gangrened, and that if it had not been for the worthy Doctor Bevier, Physician to that House, and Mr. Harrison the Chirurgeon, there had been Life and Limb lost; and that when I heard of this, I came to the Man, and would have been tampering with him, but the Man would not endure me, charging me with his Blood if he had died, and wishing me no more to delude the People. To which I make this Answer :*

That true it is, on the Request of a poor Man that came to me in the *Charter-House*, I made a small Incision a little above the Pan of his Knee (as I take it) which was full of small concreted Juices like Measles; and it may be, as it is usual, (where there is any Humour) that the Place where the Orifice was, did swell, grow red, and fiery, as it must consequently before the Tumour comes to a supuration (which, in laying my Hands on it, and spitting thereon, would, as it is usual, immediately have ceased) but that it came to a Gangreen, or that the Doctor or Chirurgeon without dissecting the Limb so affected cured him afterwards, carries so great an improbability in it, that any ingenious Person cannot but abhor his Malice and Folly herein: and whether the latter Part of his Charge be true, I refer you to the Testimony of Captain *Cresset* herein, who was the only Person present when

when I went to the poor Man: which I herewith fend your Honour, writ with his own Hand, as follows.

Whereas in a Pamphlet lately Printed, Entituled, Wonders no Miracles, the Author thereof, amongst other his Charges against Mr. Valentine Greatrak's, layeth to his Charge the Spoiling of one of the Officers or Servants of the Charter-House, and the endangering of his Life, by making some Incision in his Knee or Thigh, that afterwards did gangrene, and had like to have cost him his Life; and further saith, that when the said Valentine Greatrak's did come a second time to see him, the said hurt Person would not let him meddle with him, but bid him go away and leave off fooling, and charged his Life or Blood upon him if he should die. I do hereby Certifie, that I was with Mr. Greatrak's when he went to visit the said Person, hearing he was very ill, and he used no such Words or Expressions; but when Mr. Greatrak's told him, that he doubted not but to allay the Inflammation with his Hand, the said Person desired Mr. Greatrak's to excuse him, for the Doctör and Surgeon had been with him, and applied Medicaments unto him, and he durst not take them off for fear he should so far incur the Displeasure of the said Doctör and Chirurgeon, as that they should not come to him any more, but thanked him for his kindness: In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand this 5th of May, 1666.

John Cresset.

Then in Page 25 he uses these Words: But his Jack-puddings (I mean) his Vouchers and Familiars, who have been caught in fearful Untruths about him, and his Acquaintance with Fryers, he speaking one thing, and they another, he saying

ing he had not heard from such a Man in eight Years, and one of his Followers shewing a Letter he had in eight Days from him: He shewing how he had cured one with a Stroke, and one of his Comrades asking the Man unawares how his Pill, Glyster, and Plaster wrought last Night. My answer to this is,

That he is the Jack-pudding that has told so many Fables, which are so Senseless, that I will say no more of them, nor hinder you or the Reader with making further Objections, more than by giving an Account of my Life from my Birth to this Instant; which I will do (God willing) in Sincerity and Faithfulness, knowing that God would be offended with me should I be guilty of speaking or publishing a Falshood, and the World would quickly discover me.

The Reports of the World, as well as the Author of the Pamphlet, touching me, and that Talent which God has entrusted me (a worthless Instrument) withal, are so various and fabulous, that I conceive my self in Conscience bound, to leave a Testimony of Truth behind me, before I turn my Face homewards; and therefore shall give your Honour and the World, a brief and true Narrative of my Self from my Birth to this Instant, and those wonderful things which God has been pleased in Mercy to effect upon several Persons by my Hand.

I was Born the 14th Day of February, 1628. I was the Son of *William Greatrak's* of *Affane*, in the County of *Waterford*, Esq; one that had a liberal Education, and competent Estate left him by his Father, (who was known to be a worthy Person, and well esteemed in his Country) a Man lookt upon to be of a generous Spirit,

Spirit, but one that had a Mind above his Fortune. My Mother was the Daughter of Sir *Edward Harris* Knight, one of his late Majesty's Justices of the King's Bench in the Kingdom of *Ireland*, who had the Reputation of a learned and a just Judge; and this I dare say of her, (who died some few Years past, for I do but justice to her Memory) she was a virtuous and discreet Woman, an excellent Neighbour, and a most indulgent and provident Parent; she took Care of my Education (my Father dying when I was tender in Years) which was briefly as follows.

First, After I had learn'd to read, I was sent to the Free-School of *Lismore*, (once famous) which was erected by the Charity of your Father, the late Earl of *Cork*, where I spent my Time till I was 13 Years of Age, and had made such a Proficiency in Learning, that I was designed for the Colledge the ensuing Year, but prevented therein by the late Rebellion in *Ireland*; from whence I was forced with my Mother and several other small Children, to flee for Refuge hither into *England*, and by the Charity of my Uncle, Mr. *Edm. Harris*, were relieved and provided for, and had the Principles of Religion confirmed in me by him, who was a Protestant, and one of so severe and pious a Life, that he devoted his whole Time to the Service of God, and the Works of Charity: He was one that in many Years before his Death, was not known to speak an idle Word, or spend a vain Hour: In brief, he was a Saint in his Life and Conversation, and one whose Memory I shall ever reverence and love; but God, in Mercy to him, (who though in the World, was not of the World) was pleased, after some few Years, to take him to himself out of this troublesome Life, who, before his Departure, left my Mother the third Part of his

his Estate, and me, in a most solemn manner, his Prayers and Blessing.

After his Decease, my Mother, who had a special Care of my Education, for my further Progress in Literature, sent me to a learned and reverend Man, *John Daniel Getseus*, an High-German Minister of *Stock Gabriel*, in the County of *Devon*: where I spent some Years in studying Humanity and Divinity, and found from his Hands much Favour and Love; for which kindness, I pray God to recompence him and his. Afterwards (*sumptâ virili Togâ*) I considered with my self, that the Fortune which my Mother enjoyed in *England*, was very small to maintain her self and so many Children as she had, (who grew daily more expensive as we grew in Years); and thereupon I addressed my self to her, resolving to lose my Life with my Fortune in *Ireland*, or regain it, who gave me her Blessing and Consent; and so after some five or six Years Absence, I returned to my native Country, which at that time was in a most miserable and deplorable State, as you may well remember; for then it was not as formerly, a National Quarrel, *Irish* against *English*, and Protestants against Papists; but there were high and strange Divisions throughout the Kingdom, *English* against *English*, and *Irish* against *Irish*, and Protestants and Papists joining Hands in one Province, against the Protestants of another: which differences to me seemed so unnatural, that I resolved not to intermeddle therein, till the Mist of Confusion was over, and so for Refuge retired my self to the Castle of *Caperquin*, where I spent a Years time in Contemplation, and saw so much of the Madness and Wickedness of the World, that my Life became a Burthen to me, and my Soul was as weary of this Habitation of Clay, as ever the

Gally-slave was of the Oar, which brought my Life even to the Threshold of Death; so that my Legs had hardly strength to carry my enfeebled Body about: All Company seemed irksome and distasteful to me; so epidemically lewd, blasphemous, and sottish were many become, that I saw the many and great Judgments of the Lord that the Kingdom groaned under had not reclaimed, but, *Pharaoh-like*, hardned our *Egyptian* Hearts; which caused me seldom, during that time, to go from my Cell.

In the Year 49, (as I take it) some small time after the Rout at *Dublin*, *Oliver Cromwell*, then General of the Army, after the taking of *Tredagh*, sent part of his Army into *Munster*, under the Conduct of Colonel *Robert Phaire*; but before his Landing at *Youghall*, *Cork* and *Youghall* had revolted from their Obedience to their General, the Earl of *Inchequin*, then Lord President of *Munster*, under the Command of his Majesty, who is ever to be honoured by all *English*, for the eminent and faithful Services done to the Protestants in the beginning of the late Rebellion there: So that all, or most of the *English* and Protestants joined with the said Colonel *Phaire* against the *Irish* and Papists, their Interests as well as Judgments being opposite; so that in a small time, most of the Towns in *Munster* were reduced to Obedience, and the Command of the Horse in the said Province was given to (that Renowned and Worthy Person) your Brother, the Earl of *Orkerry*, in whose Regiment I was made a Lieutenant: during all which time, which was six Years, I will boldly say, I never suffered Quarter to be broken, nor Violence offered to any that were in Protection; nor did I suffer any one under my Command to oppress or injure
any

any that were in Quarter, without bringing them to condign Punishment: nor did I permit any Women or Children to be killed, tho' out of Protection, where I had a Power to restrain the Fury of the Soldier. In the Year 56, great Part of the Army was disbanded, and I among the rest, and then I betook my self to a Country Life, and lived at *Affane*, the Habitation of my Ancestors, where I have continued ever since, and got by my Industry, a Livelihood out of the Bowels of the Earth, and daily employed many poor People to work, and improved that little Estate which I had so, that, I bless God, I lived as comfortably as he that had Thousands, and daily relieved those that were in Want, and gave my Friends and Strangers a hearty Welcome to what God, in Mercy, had bestowed upon me, who never coveted much, nor denied my self and others the Enjoyment of what I had. But by the way;

As soon as I was retired into the Country, I was, by the Kindness and Respect of the then Governour, made Clerk of the Peace of the County of *Cork*, and Register for Transplantation, and Justice of the Peace: In which Employment I studied so to acquit my self before God and Man, in singleness and integrity of Heart, that, to the Comfort of my Soul, and praise of God that directed me, I can with confidence say, I never took Bribe nor Reward from any Man, though I have had many and great ones offered me (when I was Register for Transplantation :) Nor did I ever connive at, or suffer a Malefactor to go unpunished, if the Person were guilty of any notorious Crime (where I had a Power :) Nor did I ever take the Fee belonging to my Office, if I found the Person were injured or in Want: Nor did I ever

commit any one for his Judgment or Conscience barely; so it led him not to do any thing to the Disturbance of the Civil Peace of the Nation: Nor did I take any thing for my Fee when he was discharged; for, I bless God, he has taken away a persecuting Spirit from me, who would perswade all Men to be Protestants, those Principles being most consonant to Truth and the Word of God, in my Judgment, and that Profession which I ever have been of, and still am: But Truth it is, that when I was Justice of the Peace, I endeavoured to convert as many Papists to Protestantism as I could, and prevailed with many Hundreds to go to Church, for these two Reasons:

1. For the good of their Souls, who lived in Ignorance, having no Priests in those Days, and being little the better for them now, (I conceive) the common People understanding little *Latin*.

2. For the Preservation of our own Bodies and Estates, which I found, by sad Experience, as well as the rest of the poor Protestants of *Ireland*, could never be secure whilst such dangerous Principles were instilled into them as these; *That there was no Faith to be had with Hereticks, and so it is lawful to make a Prey of our Lives and Fortunes.* The Papists may deny that this is one of their Tenets, but I am sure it was the Practice of my Countrymen, for whom I have this Charity, That if they were not strangers to the Word of God, they would not have run into such violent Courses as they did: Yet (though there were Orders from the Power that then was, to all Justices of the Peace, for Transplanting all Papists that would not go to Church,) I never molested any one that was known, or esteemed to be innocent, but suffer'd
them

them to continue in the *English* Quarters, and that without Prejudice: So that I can truly say, I never injured any Man for his Conscience, conceiving that ought to be inform'd, and not enforc'd. Besides (Sir) I have so far observed the immoderate Courses of several that were in Power and Authority in those Days, amongst those different Judgments, who have had their several turns at the Helm, That they have driven *Jehu* like, when they have had the Reins of Authority in their Hands, and by their own Fury destroyed themselves and Interests, God abhorring the violent and cruel-minded Man, who would have all Knees bow to his *Dagon*, or take occasion either to cashier or put them by their Employments, (as was the usual Practice of the Army there in those Days,) so that Charity had left Religion, which too too many made a meer Design to promote their Interests and Faction: Thus one Faction destroyed another, till at length they all lay down in Sorrow, and he that was most violent still came to the worst.

Thus far I have given you a brief Account how I spent my Time before I laid my Hands on any; and now I shall proceed to let you know how I have demeaned my self since, with the Circumstances and Causes that moved me to attempt practices of this Nature, for which I have been judged and condemned by many, and that as ignorantly as maliciously: But, blessed be God, I have discharged a good Conscience, in not burying that Talent which God so entrusted me withal, and his Mercy has shielded me from their Darts.

About four Years since, I had an Impulse, or a strange Perswasion in my own Mind, (of which I am not able to give any rational Account to another) which did very frequently suggest to me, that there was bestowed on me the Gift of Curing the *King's-Evil*: which, for the extraordinariness of it,

it, I thought fit to conceal for some time; but at length I communicated this to my Wife, and told her, That I did verily believe, that God had given me the Blessing of Curing the *King's-Evil*; for whether I were in private or publick, sleeping or waking, still I had the same Impulse; but her reply was to me, That she conceived this was a strange Imagination: But to prove the contrary, a few Days after, there was one *William Maher* of *Salterbridge*, in the Parish of *Lismore*, (a Tenant of your Brother's, the Right Honourable the Earl of *Burlington* and *Cork*) that brought his Son *William Maher* to my House, desiring my Wife to cure him, who was a Person ready to afford her Charity to her Neighbours, according to her small skill in Chirurgery; on which my Wife told me, there was one that had the *King's-Evil* very grievously in the Eyes, Cheek, and Throat; whereupon I told her, that she should now see whether this were a bare Fancy or Imagination as she thought it, or the Dictates of God's Spirit on my Heart; and thereupon I laid my Hands on the Places affected, and prayed to God for Jesus sake to heal him, and then I bid the Parent two or three Days afterwards to bring the Child to me again, which accordingly he did, and then I saw the Eye was almost quite whole, and the Node, which was almost as big as a Pullet's Egg, was suppurated, and the Throat strangely amended, and to be brief (to God's Glory I speak it) within a Month discharged it self quite, and was perfectly healed, and so continues, God be praised.

Then there came one *Margaret Mac-shane* of *Ballineely*, of the Parish of *Lismore*, and a Tenant of your Brother's, the Earl of *Cork*, who had the Evil seven Years and upwards, which had spread it self from the Bottom of her Stomach upwards, all over to her Throat, Neck, and Nose, and so all over her Back, Shoulders, and Arm-pits, so that

I could not see one Place free from the Evil, where you might put a Sixpence, and, to speak the Truth, she looked so dreadfully, and stunk so exceedingly, that she would have affrighted and poisoned any one almost that saw or came near her; whereupon I spoke to one Doctor *Anthony*, (a famous Physician, then at my House), desiring him to take commiseration on her for God's sake: His reply was, That she was eaten out with the Evil, and that all the Men in *Ireland* could do her no good; whereupon I said, I did believe that there was one that could do her good, and cure her; the Doctor demanded who that Man was; my Answer was, That, through God's Blessing, I could; but he slighted the Matter, saying, if he saw that Person cured, he would not question but I might heal all Diseases; but I replied, I was not of his Opinion as to the latter part, but said, he should be convinced of the former; which accordingly fell out, (God be praised) for my Hand suppurated the Nodes, and drew and healed the Sores, which formerly I could not have endured the Sight of, nor smell, nor touched them without Vomiting; so great an aversion had I naturally to all Wounds and Sores: So that the poor Woman, about six Weeks afterwards, came perfectly well to my House, (and so continues) where Doctor *Anthony* was then also, to see my Wife, and gave God Praise, and me Thanks; who carried her to Doctor *Anthony*, and told him, That hence he might see, that God could, and did great Things, by poor and worthless Instruments, and therefore he should not limit Him for the future.

After this, several People infected with the *Evil* came to me from several Counties, and I stroked them, and desired God, out of his abundant Mercy, to heal them; who (blessed be his Name) heard my Prayer, and delivered them: So that few or none, unless those whose Bones were infect-

ed and eaten, returned without their Cure. This Course I kept for three Years, not meddling with any other Distempers; about which Time, the *Ague* was very Epidemical, whole Families being struck down with it; when I found, as formerly, the same kind of Impulse within me, suggesting that there was bestowed upon me the Gift of Curing the *Ague*: This also I told to my Wife, who could not be perswaded to it: And the next Day there came to my House a Neighbour's Wife, who lived nigh *Tallow-Bridge*, (a Place well known to you) by Name, *Bateman*, the Naylor's Wife that is there, who had a most violent *Ague*, on whom I laid my Hands, and desired God Almighty to cure her, who, in Mercy, heard my Prayer, and so the *Ague* run through her, and she went away immediately, perfectly cured of her *Ague*: upon which her Husband and Children, who were afflicted with the same Disease, applied themselves to me, on whom I laid my Hands in like manner, with the same Success; and so many more came to me afterwards, and were cured by God's great and wonderful Power in the like Nature.

Within some small Time after this, God was pleased, by the same, or the like Impulse, to discover unto me, That he had given me the Gift of Healing; which the Morning following I told my Brother and Wife, but neither of them could be prevailed with to believe it, though for my own Part, I had a full Assurance thereof within me. This Impulse I had the Sunday after *Easter-Day*, the 2d of *April* 65, early in the Morning, and the *Wednesday* ensuing I went to *Cornet Deans* (about some Occasions I had with him) to *Lisimore*, where there came into his House to me a poor Man, that with a violent Pain in his Loins and Flank went almost double, and had also a most grievous ulcerous Leg, very black, wherein were five Ulcers; who desired me, for God's sake,
that

that I would lay my Hands on him, and do him what good I could. [But, by the Way, take notice, That as God gave me the several Gifts from Time to Time, he always sent Patients that applied themselves to me, for I never sought after any from the first Moment to this very instant.] Whereupon I put my Hand on his Loins and Flank, and immediately run the Pains out of him, so that he was released, and could stand upright without the least Trouble: Then I put my Hand on his ulcerous Leg, (which the *Chirurgeons*, after they had shewed all their Skill on him, told him it was perished at the Bone, and so must be cut off, but that he wanted 3*l.* to give one of them for his pains, as he informed me) which forthwith changed colour, and became red, and three of the five Ulcers closed up, and the rest within a few Hours afterwards; so that he went out well, that could hardly, by the Help of his Staff, crawl in, and, within two Days afterwards, he fell to his Labour, (being a Mason by Trade) and so continued several Months afterwards, to my knowledge, and to this instant (for ought I know). The Man was a *Yorkshire* Man, one that the Right Honourable the Earl of *Cork* brought from thence, and employed about the making of his Park-Wall nigh *Lismore*. This and the former Instances I relate unto you, That you may not seek far for the Confirmation of the Truth, if you or others should distrust my Report.

The *Thursday* following I went to see Colonel *Phaire* at *Cahirmony*, in the County of *Cork*, who, when I came, told me, he was vexed with an *Ague*; my Reply was, that, through God's Blessing, I could cure him: He told me that I was welcome, and within an Hour it would seize him, who thought it impossible for him to live two fits more, for after the cold fit, his hot one continued for fourteen Hours in that extremity, that no *Fever*

could be more violent: accordingly, as he had said, his cold fit arrested him, and then I bid him to give me his Hand, which he did, and it pleased God, that from that Time his Fit left him, so that he had it no more. Then there came several People to his House troubled with several Diseases, desiring me, for God's sake, to cure them, (at which Passage I was much amazed, not having told him, nor any one, but my Wife and Brother, of the Impulse I had, which was but the *Sunday* before,) some had the *Ague*, several others the *Falling Sickness*, others the *King's-Evil*, one the *Fever*, some Pains, some Aches and Lameness, on whom I put my Hands, little thinking that the Pains would skip and fly from place to place till they did run out, but that the Persons might be cured without any such Motion, by the laying on of my Hands; and several, nay, most of all Diseases, were immediately cured, and those that came exceeding Lame, and so had continued for many Years, (by their own Reports and others) went well home, rejoicing and praising God: At which extraordinary Appearance of God, the Lord knows, my Soul was wrapt up with Wonder and Amazement, and my Heart filled with Praises and Thanksgivings to the Almighty and most merciful Lord God, to whom be the Glory, Power, and Praise for evermore ascribed: And certainly my Heart melted into Tears, and has often since, with this Consideration, That the Holy One of *Israel*, among so many Millions of Men more pious, more wise, and more learned, should make choice and use of so poor, so vile, and so contemptible a Wretch as I am, to be so peculiar an Instrument in his Hand, of shewing Mercy and Deliverance to afflicted poor Creatures: Thus much I can say, it was for no Worth or Sanctity of mine, for I acknowledge mine Iniquities, and my Sins are not hid from me, and confess it is thy Mercy in Jesus,
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my blessed Saviour, that I have not been consumed long since, but preserved to this Moment, to the Praises and Glory of thy Name, to whom my Soul doth offer up daily (as is most just and due) new Songs of Mercy and Deliverance on my own Account, and others to whom thou extendest thy bountiful Favours.

These Considerations, Sir, transport me, carrying me from the Relation of what has been done by the Instrument, to the Commemoration and Admiration of the first and principal Agent, *Jehovah*: But I know this Digression will not seem harsh in your Ears, whose Heart, like a well-tuned Instrument, is strung with Prayer and Praises; and therefore I will take yet a further Latitude before I return to the Narrative Part of my Discourse, as to Matter of Fact, by answering some few Queries or Objections, which I have often heard from many, which may not seem impertinent to be placed here, that it may prove a Bridle to their Tongues for the future. The first Query is,

What need had God to cure Diseases in this Age of the World by any extraordinary Means, when as there is no new Doctrine to be expected, or promulgated? and many the like fond and confident Assertions tending to this purpose. To which I answer,

First, They are not of God Almighty's Privy Council, neither have they so much Reason or Religion, as Confidence; for if they had, they would be more sober, and less presumptuous than to interrogate what his Mind or Will is, in doing what they see (*de facto*) done; and so rather with humble Thoughts admire and praise him, whose Mercy endureth for ever, than expostulate the Cause of things, why, and wherefore he has done it, or made use of such Instruments; as one queried of me at a great Man's Table, and would have Reason wherefore God did make

choice of me sooner than another, to do things in an extraordinary manner, or what it was he saw in me more than another Man, and many such Questions; my Reply was a Smile, which was the best I could use in answering such fond Enquirers. But by the way, Sir,

Give me leave to presuppose two or three Reasons why, or wherefore God should now cure Diseases in an extraordinary Manner. The first is, to convince this Age of Atheism, which (I am sorry to say it) many of our pretended Wits, I fear, are fallen into, who make it their Pastime to deride at Jesus and Christianity; who cannot yet but believe Jesus to be God, when they see Pains and Diseases to vanish, and Evil-Spirits flee his Power; as I have good Cause to believe the Falling-sickness, and other Distempers I have met withal, sometimes to be, which I intend upon another Occasion to prove, by such Reasons drawn from my own Experience, as may convince any Man that is but a curious Observer, and trusts not the Writings of Men that speak but their Thoughts in Cases of this Nature, more than his own Eyes, or the Eyes of faithful Witnesses. Next, the Goodness of God, out of Compassion to poor distressed Man, may make use of never so worthless an Instrument, to magnifie his own Mercy and Power, as he did of a brazen Serpent in the Wilderness, that the Glory and Praise of all, may be solely ascribed unto him, who by a little Dust and Clay can cure, and cause Diseases to run through Men, which no Physick could move. Next, God may, to abate the Pride of the Papists, (that make Miracles the undeniable Manifesto of the Truth of their Church) make use of a Protestant to do such strange things in the Face of the Sun, which they pretend to do in Cells. There may also other Reasons be given, and such as may
tend

tend to God's Glory; but I shall decline mentioning of them, lest I fall under the Lash of unmerciful Pens, and the Censure of Criticks, knowing that Truth it self is sometimes better concealed than published.

In the next Place, many demand of me, Why some are cured, and not all; and if this work were of God, all would be cured? To which Question I make this Answer; That God may please to make use of such Means by me, as shall operate according to the Disposition of the Patient; and therefore cannot be expected to be like effectual in all. They also demand further, Why some are cured at once coming, and not all? and why the Pains should flie immediately out of some, and take such Ambages in others? and why it should go out of some at their Eyes, some at their Fingers, some at their Toes, some at their Noses, others, at their Ears or Mouths? To which, I say; if all these things could have a plain and rational Account given of them, then would there be no reason to account them strange.

Let them but tell me what Substance that is which removes and goes out with so great Expedition, and it will be more easie to resolve their Questions; but till then, let them be silent, and admire the Works of God, whose Ways are past finding out, and whose Majesty is not confined to Time, Manner, or Measure.

Some will know of me, why, or how I do pursue some Pains from Place to Place, till I have chased them out of the Body, by laying my Hands on the outside of the Cloaths only, (as is usual) and not all Pains. To which I answer; that I and others have, by frequent Experience, been abundantly satisfied that it is so, though I am not able to give a Reason why it should be so; although I am apt to believe, there

there are some Pains which afflict Men after the manner of Evil-Spirits, which kind of Pains cannot endure my Hand, nay, not my Glove, but flie immediately, though 6 or 8 Coats and Cloaks be put betwixt the Party's Body and my Hand; as at *York house*, the Lady *Ranagh*, and divers other Places since I came to *London*, (where many wise and learned Men have been present, as well as frequently in *Ireland*) has been manifested.

Sir, I hope you will pardon me, when I relate to you my own Observations, and what my Experience inclines me to believe, in saying that I have met with several Instances which seemed to me to be Possessions by dumb Devils, deaf Devils, and talking Devils; and that to my Apprehension, and others present, several Evil-Spirits, one after the other, have been pursued out of a Woman, and every one of them have been like to choke her (when it came up to her Throat) before it went forth; and when the last was gone, she was perfectly well, and so continued. There have been others that have fal'n down immediately as soon as they have seen me, which the Mayor of *Worcester*, Colonel *Birch*, Major *Wylde*, and many Hundreds, both at *Worcester*, and here, and other Places, were Eye-witnesses of; many, when they have but heard my Voice, have been tormented in so strange a manner, that no one that has been present could conceive it less than a Possession; as I will instance in one at *York-House*, (where Sir *John Hinton*, Colonel *Talbot*, and many others were present) who had somewhat within her which would swell her Body to that excessive Degree on a sudden, as if it would burst her; and then as soon as I put my Hand on that Part of her Body where it did rise up, it would fly up to her Throat (or some other Place), and then

then it would cause her Neck to swell half so big again, and then almost choak her, then blind her, and make her dumb and foam, and sometimes fly into her Hand, and so contract and fasten it, that neither Sir *John Hinton*, or any else that did try, (as there were many) could with all their Strength open one Finger of her Hand; nor would it fly his Hand in the least, nor any other Persons there, till I put my Hand on it, or my Glove; nay, I oftentimes brought it up into her Tongue (by running my Hand on her Body, on the outside of her Cloaths, up to her Throat) which it has swoln in an instant nigh as big again, and has been seen plainly to play from place to place, and at length, with great Violence of Belching, (which did almost choak her, and force her Eyes to start out of her Head) it went forth, and so the Woman went away well. Whether this were a natural Distemper, let any one judge that is either a Divine, a Philosopher, or a Physician. I could instance you in forty as strange or stranger; but I will go no further than *London*, and places adjoining, for Instances of this Nature.

Now, Sir, another Question hereon will arise, (which I have oftentimes heard from others,) before I proceed; and that is, Whether this Operation of my Hand proceeds from the Temperature of my Body, or from a divine Gift, or from both? To which I say, That I have Reason to believe that there is something in it of an extraordinary Gift of God: The Reasons and Arguments which incline me to this Belief are, That I am very sensible of the particular Time when this Gift was first bestowed on me, before which Time I had it not; because, having my self for several Years together been most violently troubled with the Head-ach, though I have put my Hand a thousand
time

times to my Head, and held it, it would neither remove nor run out the Pain; but since God gave my Hand this Gift, I have no sooner put it on my Head where it was troubled, but I have removed and run it out. I have also oftentimes held my Friends Heads formerly, when they have been in violent Pains with the Head-ach; but I never could hear them say their Pain removed or ceased, which now immediately it does in very many. What the natural Efficacy of Effluvia's may be, I leave others to judge; and I suppose no Man will question but that an extraordinary Gift may be exercised by natural Means, or that God may confer in an extraordinary Manner such a Temper of Body upon a Person, as may, by a natural Efficacy, produce these Effects: Only, by the way, I shall suggest to you an Experiment made at the House of that excellent Person your Sister, the Lady *Ranalagh's*, where I tried (to satisfy the Curiosity of some there) with a Napkin which I rubbed my Breast withal, and with my Shirt which I had pulled off, being very hot, whether that would remove the Pains of a Woman which was in strange Fits there, (as my Glove, being tried, did oftentimes) and it would not.

I could use many more Instances, and answer several other Objections; but I think that will be more proper hereafter; and therefore I shall now return again to matter of Fact, by letting you know, that great Multitudes from divers Places resorted to me, so that I could have no Time to follow my own Occasions, nor enjoy the Company of my Family and Friends: Whereupon I set three Days in the Week apart (from six in the Morning, till six at Night) to lay my Hands on all that came, and so continued for some Months at Home: But the Multitudes which came daily were so great, that
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the neighbouring Towns were not able to accommodate them; whereon, for the Good of others, I left my Home, and went to *Youghall*, where great Multitudes resorted to me, not only of the Inhabitants, but also out of *England*; so that the Magistrates of the Town told me, that they were afraid that some of the sick People that came to me out of *England* might bring the Infection into the Place: whereon I retired again to my House at *Affane*, where (as at *Youghall*) I observed three Days, by laying my Hands on all that came, whatsoever the Diseases were (and many were cured, and many were not); so that my Stable, Barn, and Malt-house, were filled with sick People of all Diseases almost; yet so great was the Providence of God, that I do not remember that in all that Time any one of my Family (though I touched them in my House) was ever infected by them; neither did any of them, though they herded altogether, infect one the other. But this by the Way.

The Dean of *Lismore*, (my Reverend and Worthy Friend) by Orders from the Bishop and Clergy, hearing of Cures done in an extraordinary manner, cited me to appear at the Court of *Lismore*; to which Citation I gave Obedience, and accordingly appeared, desiring to know what they had to lay to my Charge; the Answer of the Court was, that they heard I had effected Cures in an extraordinary manner, and therefore desired to know whether the Report were true or no: To which I answered, That that Doubt might easily be satisfied, by coming one Day to my House, where they might have an ocular Testimony of Truth in that particular, or that they might satisfy themselves by several that were without the Court, that, thro' God's Blessing, were restored, by laying my Hands

on them, from several Infirmities and Diseases which they formerly laboured under: On which the Judge of the Court caused the Recorder to enter what I had said, and took for granted that People were cured in an extraordinary Way: Then the Judge asked me, Where is your Licence for practising, as all Physicians and Chirurgeons ought to have, from the Ordinary of the Diocess? My Answer was, that I knew no Reason I had to take a Licence, since I took no Reward from any one; and that I knew no Law of the Nation, which prohibited any Person from doing what Good he could to his Neighbours; yet notwithstanding because I had no Licence (neither would I take any, not expecting any Advantage by what I did,) I was prohibited from laying my Hands on any for the future: Which Order I observed for two Days; but going to the Town of *Copoqueen*, where there were many poor People, that came out of *England* to me for several Distempers which they laboured under, and amongst the rest, two that had the *Falling-Sickness*, who no sooner saw me, but they fell into their Fits immediately, which caused so great Compassion in me, that I could not, nor durst not deny them my Help; whereupon I put my Hands on them, and, by the Power of God, restor'd them to their Senses forthwith, and pursu'd their Pains from Place to Place, till they went out of them; after that, I fell to my former Practice, and observed the three Days which I formerly set apart; whereupon the Lord Bishop of the Diocess sent for me, and told me, that he required me to lay my Hands on no more within his Diocess: But I answered his Lordship, that I conceived that I transgressed no Law of God or Man in doing the Works of Charity, and therefore I thought my self obliged

ged thereby not to deny any Man my Help (whilst God enabled me to do good) that came to me : And so I parted with his Lordship, and returned to my own House, where I persevered in my former Practice both at Home, *Dublin*, and elsewhere, wheresoever my Occasions called me, till at length, about *January* last, at the Request of the Right Honourable the Earl of *Orrery*, I was perswaded to come over into *England*, to the Right Honourable the Viscountess *Conway*, who, for many Years, had laboured under a most violent Head-ach, (which many of the ablest Physicians in *England* and *France* had unsuccessfully attempted the Cure of.) And so did accordingly, resolving to land by *King-Road* nigh *Bristol*, and so go to the Habitation of my Lord *Conway* in *Warwickshire* concealed; but the Wind falling short, we were forced into *Mine-head*, where I was so well known by several Patients that had been with me in *Ireland*, that I could not conceal myself; and so was by the Country (as I went) resorted to from place to place till I came to *Ragley*, the Residence of the Right Honourable and most worthy Person, my Lord Viscount *Conway*, to whom I am for ever endeared and obliged, for his Lordship's extraordinary Favour and Respect, (notwithstanding I could not remove or abate his Lady's Pain in the least;) which Kindness of his, I beseech God to return to him a thousand fold: But finding her Ladyship's Pain incurable by me, I resolved speedily to return home; but at the Entreaty of my Lord *Conway*, I remained with his Honour at *Ragley* three Weeks or a Month, where many Hundreds daily came to me from divers Counties, and many were cured of their Diseases and Distempers, and many were not: from thence, at the Entreaty of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of *Wor-*

cester, I went thither (where I met with several high Distempers and Diseases, many whereof, I bless God, were cured,) resolving to stay four or five Days with them; but in the Interim, I received an Order from the Lord *Arlington*, by Command of his Majesty, to come to *White-Hall*, which I forthwith observed, (being glad to be freed from so great Crouds as were at *Worcester*, where I was like to be bruised to Death,) resolving within three or four Days to return to my Lord *Conway's* again; but by the Entreaties of Justice *Godfrey* and others, my honoured and worthy Friend, I was perswaded to stay in these Parts, daily doing what Good the Lord enabled me, till I met with your Honour, whose Judgment and Wisdom was so great, that you would not credit or distrust Matters of Fact on bare Report, and were therefore pleased several Times, at the Place where I used to be in *Lincolns-Inn-fields*, (and elsewhere) to be an Eye-witness of what was done, and to bring several other learned and worthy Persons with you, that they might also bear Testimony to the Truth of what appeared, and to encourage me to give this Account to the World, and to take Testimonials of such remarkable Cures as I could remember were done since I came to *London*, and in the Presence of Men of Note: which Circumstance I therefore mention to you, that it may not be imagined that this is an Account of all the Distempers I have been instrumental in Curing, since I have omitted all those at which it did not happen that eminent Persons were present, and willing to attest them; and all those other Cures which had been already performed in several other Places, divers of which were so extraordinary, that if it be desir'd, I may hereafter give you an Account of them apart:

Which

Which Testimonials I herewith present unto you, (but what was done before your coming to *London*, I can give little Account of, it not being my Custom to ask any Man's Name, or the Place from whence he came, or whither he goes, till within this Month or five Weeks,) by which the Matter of Fact (I hope) will be so clear in it self, that I need not use any further Arguments to gain Belief in the Reader; I shall not here make use of any Cure done else-where, or of any common or trivial one, or of more than what I conceive will be sufficient to evidence Truth, to God's Glory, and the Satisfaction of all good Men: and when this is done (God willing) I will retire to my own Home and Family. Now whether I have done my Duty as a Christian, in employing that Talent which God had entrusted me withal, to the good of People distressed and afflicted, or no, judge you, and every good Man. Thus far I appeal to the World, whether I have taken Rewards, deluded, or deceived any Man; and whether I have not made it my constant Practice, when any came that I judged was incurable, to desire them to repair to their own home, and not put themselves to further Expence and Trouble: God (to whom I appeal, desiring Him still to shield me with his Mercy, and to keep me humble and faithful) knows what Injuries and Reproaches I have suffered, what Labours and Dangers I have undergone, and what Losses and Crosses I have sustained for his Name's sake, and the good of others. All that I will say is, I pray God forgive my Enemies, and make me never weary of Well-doing, let the World judge and say what they please, that I may be found a faithful Steward when I come to give up my last Account. This is a
 brief

brief and faithful Account of his Life and Carriage, who, though he have not now Leisure and Privacy to enlarge, nor to answer all the Queries you made me in the Paper you put a while since into my Hands, may yet hereafter find opportunity to give you satisfaction about those of them that are not already in this Paper taken notice of by,

SIR,

London, May
8. 1666.

Your faithful Honourer,

and Humble Servant,

Val. Greatrak's.



TESTI-



TESTIMONIALS.

*April 26. 1666. Mr. Boyle's, Sir W. Smith's,
Dr. Denton's, and Dr. Faireclough's Testimony.*



*ANNE Kelly, of Shalin-gate, in the
Parish of Old Windsor, 21 Years
old, hath had the Dead Palsie
14 Years on the right Side, not
able to go, nor to lift her Hand
to her Head: She was first
touched by Mr. Greatrak's the be-
ginning of April 1666. who
found ease the first Day she was touched, and so
got strength more and more every Day; and now,
being the 26th of April 66. she goes well without
help of any Stick, and hath very good Use of her
right Arm, heretofore useless; only she goes as if
her right Leg were somewhat shorter than the left.*

Examined 26 Apr.

66. by

Robert Boyle.

W. Smith.

Gul. Denton, M. D.

Ja. Faireclough, M. D.

Mr.

Mr. Boyle's, Dr. Denton's, and Dr. Faireclough's
Testimony.

Lewis Bonnivent, aged 27 Years, upon a Cold taken after Child-birth, about a Month before Michaelmas last, fell into a Lameness in her Shoulder, Arms, Knees, and Hands, with a violent Pain in her Stomach, Head, and Ears: Upon the first Stroking by Mr. Greatrak's (which was about three Weeks since) she could lift her Hands to her Head, which she could not do before; upon the second Stroking, she recovered her Knees, of which she had no use, as to going, before, but went upon all four; and upon the third Stroking, (which was in our Presence) she could go without rocking or waving, and feels her self well at this present.

Examined 26 Apr.

66. By

Robert Boyle.

Gul. Denton, M. D.

Ja. Faireclough, M. D.

Mr. Boyle's, Sir William Smith's, Dr. Denton's, and
Dr. Faireclough's Testimony.

Elenor Dickinson, aged 45 Years, had a Dropsie 12 Years in her Belly only, without any Tumour in her Legs, but with a Drought, was Stroked by Mr. Greatrak's about 16 Days since, at seven a Clock at Night, and drank at the same time about six Spoonfuls of his Water, and rubbed some of it on her Body, which she did of her own accord: the same Night she felt a queasiness in her Stomach, and about Midnight she felt a rumbling in her Belly and Stomach, and brake great store of Wind *per anum & per partem domesticam*; and then she made Water in very great Quantity, as 4, 5, or 6 Gallons in 24 Hours, and continued making Water, though in lesser Quantity; so that at this present Day the Skin of her Belly is as empty as a Glove or Purse, and

and wraps over, and hath no drought, and her Belly quite down.

Examined 26 Apr.

66. By

Robert Boyle.

W. Smith, Baronet.

W. Denton, M. D.

Ja. Faireclough, M. D.

Elenor Dickinson's Certificate.

Elenor Dickinson of Clerkenwell, Widow, aged 45 Years or thereabouts, having been troubled with an exceeding Timpany in her Belly, for the Space of twelve Years past, and used all Means possible for her Health, insomuch that the Prosecution thereof cost her above 60*l.* but altogether ineffectual. The 16th of this instant *April*, she came into *Lincolns-Inn-Fields*, the Place where Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's* used to lay his Hands on the Diseased; but not being able to come near him, by reason of the Throng, she snatch'd some of his Urine, and drank it, some of which she also put into her Ears, which were so stopp'd she could not hear, and immediately she heard the Noise of the People all round about her: Then going home, some Hours after, the same Urine began to work in her Belly, and she voided near upon 4 Gallons of Water, with a great quantity of Wind at her privy Parts; and her Belly, which was before two Yards in compass, doth not now exceed three quarters of a Yard. She likewise saith, that at the same time she vomited out of her Mouth several Pieces of thick Skin drawn over with blue Veins like to a fresh Bladder: so that now she confesses her self to be perfectly cured, and hath ascertain'd this as a Truth under her own Hand, *April* 21. 1666.

Elenor Dickinson.

In the Presence of
 us who saw her Tim-
 panied belly, and af-
 terwards saw her per-
 fectly well,

Albertus Otto Faber, Med.

M. R.

Ja. Faireclough, M. D.

Tho. Pooley, M. A.

Note the 19th Day she came again to Mr. *Great-
 rak's*, and was by him stroked on the Belly, which
 he then found lank and loose like an empty Purse;
 and being in the like manner stroked this 21st in-
 stant, she continues perfectly well.

Note also, That she was twice stroked by Mr.
Greatrak's before the 16th Day, viz. on the 12th
 and 14th Days of the said Month of *April*.

Mr. *Boyle's*, Dr. *Faireclough's*, Mr. *Williams's*, and
 Mr. *Coxe's* Certificate.

A N N E, the Wife of *Thomas Field*, a Pastry
 Cook in *Woodstreet*, aged 28, afflicted
 with a violent Head ach for five Years, a Blindness
 in both her Eyes, insomuch that she was not able to
 distinguish one Person from another at four Yards
 distance; after three or four times stroking was
 perfectly freed of her Pain in her Head, and her
 Eyes so amended, that she can now read a small
 Print: After the first stroking of her Head by
 Mr. *Greatrak's*, the Pain immediately descended in-
 to her Neck and shoulders, together with an hard
 Swelling, both which continued for 14 Days; then
 being stroked, the Pain and Swelling both descend-
 ed into her Legs, where it continued for 6 Days,
 after which, being stroked in those Parts, the
 Pains and Swelling ceased. Attested by her self,
 12. *April* 1666.

In Presence of

Anne Field.

Ro. Boyle.

Ja. Faireclough, M. D.

Tho. Williams.

Daniel Coxe.

Walter Dolle's Certificate, attested by Mr. Boyle,
25 April 1666.

Walter Dolle, the Son of *Walter Dolle* Goldbeater, at the Hand and Hammer in *Pye-Corner*, now servant to *William Faithorn*, Engraver, aged 19 Years, was totally deprived of the Use of his right Hand, Leg, and Side, for the space of ten Months, insomuch that he had no more Motion on that side than a dead Carcass, and had always two Persons to help him to Bed, and from Bed, and always some to help him when he eat, and had natural Evacuations; for whom his Father had been at much cost in Medicines, and upon divers eminent Physicians, but without the least Help, or hope of Amendment: Until at length he applied himself to Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's*, when he was brought to him in a Coach, and betwixt two Persons, into Justice *Godfrey's* House, where he was first stroked, and was thereby enabled to walk alone immediately, which is about six Weeks ago; and since that time has grown daily in Strength and Vigor, and is now able to walk two or three Miles without resting, or any manner of Help, and begins to draw again in the Way of his Master's Trade, having been five or six times stroked by the said Mr. *Greatrak's*. Attested by himself and his Father, this Day and Year above written,

In Presence of

Ro. Boyle.

Walter Dolle senior.

Ja. Faireclough, M. D.

Walter Dolle junior.

William Yates.

Mr. Boyle's and Dr. *Faireclough's* Testimony.

Robert Furnace, a Mettleman in *Clerkenwell* Parish, lame for 8 Years, had been thrice in *St. Bartholomew's* Hospital for eleven Weeks at one time, and nine or ten Weeks a second time, and for a Month the last time, without benefit, being

in great Pain in his Hips and Thighs, Legs and Feet, was stroked by Mr. *Greatrak's*, April 3. 1666. and found present ease in his Hip upon the first touch of Mr. *Greatrak's* Hand, wherewith the said *Furnace's* Pain was driven downward from Place to Place without much grievance, until it came to his Foot; but when the Pain was only in his Foot, it was then most intolerable in it, which being gently stroked, he was quite freed from all Pain, and walked without his Crutches, which he could not have done for seven Years before. Attested by himself this sixth Day of April, 1666.

Robert Furnace.

In Presence of

Ro. Boyle.

Ja. Faireclough, M. D.

Mr. Hawtrey's Certificate, attested by Mr. Boyle.

J O H N *Hawtrey*, of the Town of *Burnham*, in the County of *Bucks*, being troubled with the *King's-Evil* in his Lips and Nose for the Space of two Years, was (being thrice touched by Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's*, after the Humour had broken out something in the affected Place) perfectly cured. Which is affirmed to be true in his own Writing,

John Hawtrey.

Written and attested

before us,

Ro. Boyle.

Ja. Faireclough, M. D.

Sir William Smith's Letter to Dr. Faireclough,
April 6. 1666.

S I R,

A Ccording to your desire, I thought fit to give you an Account of Cures, which, upon my own knowledge, I know to have been done by Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's*. One *Thomas Burt*, a Day-Labourer, who lives in the same Parish with me at

Rad-

Radcliff, in the County of *Bucks*, was, the beginning of *February* last, sent by me into *Kent*, to do some Work for me there, and got an *Ague*, which held him very violently for many Hours every fit, and likewise fell into his Thigh and Knee, and did very much swell in his Knee, and put him to very great Pain, so that he was forced to leave his Work, and came to my House in *Lincolns-Inn-Fields*, where he had his *Ague* as before, and the Swelling of his Knee I saw, which was very great, and made him so Lame that he could scarce go: I got Mr. *Godfrey* to procure him to be stroked by the said Mr. *Greatrak's*, on *Thursday* the sixth of *March*, in the Morning, and he came to my House at Noon, and shewed me his Knee, and the Swelling was gone, and so was all his Pain and Lameness, and he had no more fits of his *Ague*; he is gone to his work again, and hath continued well ever since. A Servant of mine own, *William But*, who likewise got an *Ague* at the same Place in *Kent*, was cured by him, without taking any thing for it, and continues well. A Servant of mine, one *Mary Dimmack*, who nursed my eldest Son, hath had a sore Leg almost these 8 Years, which the Chirurgeons said was a *Cancer*, but she could have no help for it, either from Chirurgeons or Physicians, but it grew worse and worse; by stroking it four or five times, it is in a manner healed, and I am confident, in a short time, will be perfectly healed. I have likewise been present when I have seen him do very many great Cures, and namely, Pains in the Head I have seen him drive out of the Body, and cure divers of the *Sciatica*, who, as they said themselves, had many Years been lame with it; and one who came with Crutches, and went away without them.

Sir,

Your humble Servant,

W. Smith.

Sir

Sir William Smith's and Sir Nathaniel Hobart's
Certificate, April 24. 1666.

Joseph Warden, an able Seaman, belonging to the
Royal Charles, aged 45 Years, labouring with
violent Pains in his Hip, Ham, and Ankle, contra-
cted with carrying out and wading in Water, was
sent the Day abovesaid by Doctor Micklethwait to
Mr. Greatrak's, out of St. Bartholomew's Hospital,
where he had been for some time without Success;
and had his Pains removed by the said Mr. Great-
rak's stroking, first out of his Hip, then down
his Thigh and Leg, until he had driven it quite out
of his Toes: Infomuch as he who came on his
Crutches, walked up and down very lustily with-
out them, and so departed, resolving speedily to
return to his Ship.

Also William Levell, a Cook, at the Cock in Lea-
den-hall-Street, aged 24 Years, troubled with a grie-
vous Pain in his Hip, especially when he walk'd,
and a very great Pain in his Knee, when he sat
down, sent from the said Doctor out of the said
Hospital, where he had been a Patient for ten
Months, had his Pains likewise driven downwards
from his Hip out of his Toes; so that he confessed
himself to be in perfect ease.

Lastly, Francis Steele, aged 63 Years, sent from the
said Doctor and Hospital, where he had continued
about three Weeks, had been disabled for 6 Months
to put on his Cloaths, or to put his Hands to his
Head, and sore pained and weakned in his Knees,
so that he could not walk, nor rise up when he was
sat down, without help, had the perfect Use of his
Arms restored, and could, and did rise and walk
without pain, help, or difficulty, before us,

W. Smith Baronet.

Na. Hobart Knight,
Master of the
Chancery.

Ja. Faireclough, M. D.
Sir

Sir John Godolphin's Testimony.

A *NNE Robinson*, Servant to Major *Wilmott*, next Door to the *Hand and Pen* in *Aldersgate-street*, troubled with a *Ptytick* for the space of six Years, was stroked 21 *April* 1666. and the Pain removed out of her Stomach into her left side; thence at a second Stroking it removed into her Thighs and Legs, and lastly into her right Foot and Toes, whereinto (her Eyes being covered) a Pin was thrust divers times, without her feeling or being sensible of it, until her Foot and Toes were stroked; but then she immediately started at the first touch of the Pin, and she declared her Pains were gone, as well out of her Foot and Toes, as out of all other Parts.

In Presence of

J. Godolphin Knight.

Alb. O. Faber, Med.

George Weldon.

J. Faireclough, M. D.

Ed. Sleigh.

John de Bruy.

Note, That no Blood issued upon the Pricking of this Woman's Toes, nor of divers others who have been pricked in the like Case, before me,

J. Faireclough, M. D.

Colonel Weldon's Certificate.

T H E S E are to Certifie, That I have several Times had some Inspection into several Cures that have been done by the Hands of Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's*, which I cannot attribute to proceed but from some extraordinary Power. My self having observed very much his Life and Conversation, and by my Enquiry of several others who were formerly acquainted with him, I could never hear him justly impeached of any unhandsome Carriage in his Deportment. I having examined several Persons, before they came under his Hands, what their

Infir-

Infirmities were, and how long they had been troubled with their Grievs; who have answered me, some a Year, some more, some less; and after he had done with them, I examined what Benefit they had received, who answered, very much; for before, some could not go, nor move their Hands to their Heads; but after he had done with them, they could do both, my self having been a Spectator of several of those Passages. Besides, I cannot but testify some Experience of my own self, by whom I am satisfied I did receive a very great Benefit, I having a very great fit of the Stone. I having not risen out of my Bed two Hours, but a violent Fit of the Stone seized on me; insomuch that I could not stand on my Feet, nor make Water, and was going into my Bed again; and in less than half a quarter of an Hour after he had touched me, I did void a very great Lump of Gravel, besides several smaller Parcels; after which I did make Water very freely, and was very well, and have so continued ever since. In witness whereof I have set my Hand,

George Weldon.

Alderman Knight's Certificate.

GRACE, the Daughter of Alderman *William Knight*, of London, aged nine Years, or near thereunto, after she had had the Small Pox and Measles, continued troubled with a Flux of Rheum in her left Eye for the Space of five Years or upwards, insomuch that it grew less than the other, in the Apprehension of her Parents, who thereby much afflicted, used all lawful Means for her help and relief; but all in vain, until she was brought to Mr. *Greatrak's*, who divers times applied his Hand and Spittle to her Eye; by which means the Flux of Rheum has been perfectly stayed, for the Space of three Weeks last past, and her Eye at present is
very

very well, and 'tis hoped will so continue. This is believed to be Truth

By *William Knight*.

Attested by *Alderman Knight*, Father of the
said Child.

In Presence of

Ja. Faireclough, M. D.

John Cresset.

Sir Charles Doe's Son's Letter to Dr. Faireclough.

S I R,

WHereas you desire to know what effect Mr. *Greatrak's* Hand had on me; this may satisfie you, that the Head-ach, which I laboured under 3 or four Years (and used what Means the Physicians prescribed, though unsuccessfully) which oftentimes was very violent, was cured by the laying on of Mr. *Greatrak's* Hand, in the Manner following, viz. about the beginning of *March* last, hearing that Mr. *Greatrak's* was at my Lord Mayor's House, I repaired thither unto him, and desired him (having the Head-ach violently then on me) that he would be pleased to use his Endeavours to cure me; whereupon he demanded of me in what Part of my Head the Pain lay, which I shewed him; and thereupon he laid his Hand upon the Place affected, and immediately I found the Pain remove to another Place of my Head, which I also directed him to, who pursued it till it went out of my Head; and so following it from Place to Place (laying his Hands on that place of my Body whither my Pain did remove) till he drove it into my Foot, where it was very painful to me, till at length he chased it out at my Toe, I not putting off my Stocking: Which he did at two several Times, the Pain (as I conceive) being divided; whereupon I forthwith found my self freed from all manner of Pain both in Head and Body, and have so continued ever since (blessed be God) in perfect Health: And not only was I freed from the aforesaid Pain of the Head, but also from a con-

stant bleeding, which continually attended it, whereas I did use to bleed every Day, (or every other Day at least,) which bleeding I am very little troubled with: This is that, Sir, which I affirm to be true, who am

Your humble Servant,

May 9. 1666.

John Doe.

Sir Abraham Cullen's, Mr. Rushout's and Captain Owen's Testimonies.

WE do certifie in behalf of Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's*, That we saw a great Cure wrought by him, upon the Body of one *William Jones*, (inhabiting in the Parish of *Mortlack*, where we also reside) he having been very much bruised, by reason whereof he was in great Danger of his Life: But by the Prevalency of Mr. *Greatrak's* stroking, and the Blessing of God thereon, was perfectly removed and drove out at his Toes, after many removals from Place to Place: The said *Jones* continues in perfect Health, it being three Weeks since the said Person was cured, and this we affirm under our Hands, this 9. Day of *April* 1666.

Abraham Cullen, Bar.

William Rushout.

John Owen.

Sir Abraham Cullen's, Mr. Rushout's, and Captain Owen's Testimony.

WE do further certifie, That we heard *Dorothy Wardant* affirm, that she was for twelve Years last past, very much troubled with a great Pain in her Side, as also a violent Pain in her Head; she likewise had at the same time an Ague that held her about three Weeks, all which Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's* his stroking of her cured, and from that time has not felt any of her former Infirmities, it being three Weeks since she was stroked, which caused such violent Motions when the Pains flew from Place

Place to Place, that the raged *Dorothy* fwounded away. Given under our Hands, *April 9. 1666.*

Abraham Cullen Bar.

William Rushout.

John Owen.

Edwin Brewns.

Dr. Wilkin's, and Mr. Sankey's Certificate.

I Do hereby certifie whom it may concern, That I have been present at the Stroking of Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's*, on the 17, 19, and 24 Days of this present *April, 1666.* At each of which Times I found several Persons about him, who professed to have received great Benefit by his Hand, both as to the Cure of Swelling, Ulcers, Epilepsies, driving away of Pains, &c. And I my self did, at each of these Times, see several Cures wrought by him, which to me did seem very strange and extraordinary: As particularly that which was performed on the 17 Day, on a Woman about 30 years of Age, who (according to her own relation) had some Weeks before been cured by Mr. *Greatrak's* of the Falling-sickness, and did now come to him to be stroked for a Pain in her Head; upon his putting of his Hand on her Forehead, she said that her pain did forthwith remove to her Shoulder; upon the laying of his Hand on the Cloaths of her shoulder, she said it slipped into her Arm, and so, at another move, into her Hand; from whence, being by his touch, driven into her Fingers, which thereupon grew cold and stiff, I took her Fingers between my Hands, endeavouring by Friction, to recover them to some warmth, and limberness; and having continued this friction for some while, I let her Hand go, and would have perswaded her that she was cured: But she replied, that the Pain still continued upon her: To which Mr. *Greatrak's* added, that the upper Joints of her Fingers, into which he had driven the Cause of her Pain, were dead, and that

if she were wounded in them, she would neither feel it, nor would any Blood come: For the Trial of which, having first several Times pinched the Pulp of her Fingers betwixt my Nails with great Violence, I did several times thrust in a Pin near the Bone, but the Woman was not sensible of either, neither did any Blood come: But upon two or three slight Strokes of his Hand, she professed to be eased of her Pain, and her Fingers to be restored to their wonted Temper; and then being but gently pricked with a Pin, she was sensible of it, and the Blood followed upon it. This I can truly, and do willingly testify.

John Wilkins, D. D.

What is here certified by that worthy Doctor *Wilkins*, I was present at it, and, as carefully as I could, observed the same things: And do therefore subscribe the same Testimony.

C. Sankey.

Dr. Whichcot's Certificate.

S I R,

WHereas you desire some Account of Mr. *Greatrak's*, I make this return: I have seen and been present at *Aulcester* and *Ragly* in *Warwickshire*, and since in *London*, when and where Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's* hath relieved and restored very many Persons miserably afflicted with several Distempers; particularly the Evil, the Falling-sickness, Convulsions, Palsie, Sores, and Ulcers, Aches, and Pains, Deafness, Dimness of Sight, Lameness, and Feebleness of Limbs, and other great Evils, so as that the Parties afflicted have freely and abundantly expressed and declared, that they have found themselves much better than they were before, eased of their Aches and Pains, and restored to the Use of their Limbs and Senses, whereas they had been disabled, or deprived for many Years before: I have
been

been present when sundry Persons thus helped and relieved, have with an abundance of Joy and Chearfulness given God thanks for the great Benefit they had received by means of Mr. *Greatrak's*: I have been in Company of Persons of good Understanding and Credit, who have of the own accord declared and testified that they themselves have been Eye-witnesses of the like good Effects: 'Tis true, he doth not cure such in whom Nature is spent, or where the Parts or Principles of Nature altogether are defective, to whom at first coming to him, he doth commonly declare that he cannot help them. Some others, at their first or second Application to him, he doth not help, who afterwards are restored at their oftner coming to him. And as concerning the Way of his curing Maladies, I have very diligently observed him, but did never perceive him to use any Form of Words, nor saw him do any thing (in my judgment) liable to any suspicion of an ill Art or Device. And for his Conversation, I have been much in his Company, for the Time of his being in *England*, and I never saw any ill Behaviour or unseemly Carriage in him, nor any Intemperance, Disorder, or Excess: I have great Cause, from mine own Observation, to esteem him a sober and well-governed Person, affable, civil, and courteous in his Converse, and for his Temper in Religion, he is not (so far as I could discern) of any fond Perswasion, or vain Conceit, in Matter of Religion; but a devout Acknowledger of God, and of Jesus Christ; in whose Name alone, and by whose Power, he professeth upon all Occasions to act. He declares himself a Protestant, and an hearty lover of the Reformed Religion, and professes to worship God according to the Rules and Principles thereof, and to live in the Obedience of, and Communion with the Church of *England*: I believe him to be of an unexceptionable and unblameable Conversation, through the Experience I have had
of

of him: And for my own particular, he hath been to me an happy Instrument of God, to relieve and ease me of a very dangerous and painful Malady, which, for many Years, had greatly disabled and sorely afflicted me, for which, before my coming to him, I could have no Remedy; but notwithstanding the Use of all Means I could hear of, which all proved unsuccessful, I was wholly left in despair of ever obtaining a Cure; yet I neglected not the Advice of Persons of Art and Skill: But now, by his Means, and his often Application of his Hand and Spittle, I am rid of all the Pain and Inflammation of the Part disaffected, and the Tumour, fungous, and superfluous Flesh, formerly very grievous to me, is greatly abated, and decreaseth more and more daily; so that I am in very great hope that in a little more time, by his means, it will wholly waſt away and consume, as the greater Part, ſince his touching, already is, through God's Mercy, for which I give hearty Thanks to the Divine Goodneſs. This I account my ſelf bound, in acknowledgment of God as Principal, and of doing Right to Mr. *Greatrak's*, as his Instrument, to teſtifie and declare, and in witneſs whereof I ſubſcribe my Name, *April 3. 1666.*

Benjamin Whichcot, D. D.

Dr. Cudworth's Certificate.

S I R,

I Can certifie you, That the Tumours in my little Son *Charles* his Breſt are very happily cured by Mr. *Greatrak's*, who opened the ſame, and let out the corrupt Matter, and ſince the Sores are healed, and the Wounds dried up.

April 18. 1666.

R. Cudworth, D. D.

Dean

Dean Rust's Certificate.

BEing desired to give my Testimony of Mr. *Greatrak's* and his Cures, I do hereby certifie, That I have with some Curiosity been an Observer of him and his Operations; and I take him to be a Person of an honest and upright Mind, a free and open Spirit, a chearful and agreeable Humour, an inoffensive Conversation, of large and generous Principles, and that carries on no design of Faction or Interest. I have been an Eye-witness of many Hundreds that have come under his Hands, especially during his being at my Lord *Conway's* for three Weeks or a Month together, and I must profess my self convinc'd (however it be, whether from an immediate Gift, or a peculiarity of Complexion) that he has a Vertue more than ordinary; for though I have seen him touch many with little or no success, yet it must not be denied but that I have seen too, in very many Instances, by his Spittle, and the touch or stroking of his Hand, Humours put into odd and violent Fermentations, Pains strangely fly before him, till he has chased them out at some of the extreme Parts of the Body; the King's-Evil, in a few Days, wonderfully dried up, Knobs or Kernels brought to a Suppuration; Tumours ripened; ulcerous Sores skinn'd and amended; hard Swellings in Womens Breasts abated; cold and senseless Limbs restored to Heat and Life; Scabs all over the Body, which have been for many Years, and counted incurable, deadned, and dried up; many People relieved in Cases of Deafness, Lameness, dimness of Sight; twenty several Persons in Fits of the Falling-sickness, or Convulsions, or Hysterical Passions, (for I am not wise enough to distinguish them) upon the laying his Hand upon their Breasts, (often upon the Top of their Cloaths) within a few Minutes brought to their Senses, so as to be able to tell where their Pain lay, which he has followed till he has pursued it out of the Body. I

can

can say little to the Permanency of his Cures, many (I believe) do continue firm, but several of those of the Falling-sickness I heard had relaps'd afore I left the Country, but after much longer Intervals than they were wont to enjoy. There was a poor Woman at *Aulcester* that I sent to speak with at my coming away, who had been troubled with these Fits ever since she was 13 Years old, and I take her to be now betwixt fifty and threescore; and for some Years past there was scarce a Day that she had been free from them, and she was inclin'd to them to that degree, that coming near any hot Meat would bring her Fit upon her. Mr. *Greatrak's* brought her out of her Fit, and she had then continued well by the Space of three Weeks, and could eat or dress hot Meat without any disturbance: What has since become of her, I can give no account. The Forms of Words he uses are, *God Almighty heal thee for his Mercy sake, (or) for Jesus sake*; and if they profess to receive any Benefit, he bids them give God the Praise; and that (so far as I can judge) with a sincere Devotion. This is in short the matter of Fact, which is testified to be true by me,

March 28. 1666

Geo. Rust, D. D. & Dean
of Connor.

Mr. Patrick's Certificate.

HAVING been present sundry times when great Numbers of People resorted to Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's*, and beheld many wonderful Cures done by his Hand, I could not refuse his desire, that I would in Writing declare something of what I have seen; and therefore do certifie as followeth:

I was by, when he stroked a Servant of Mr. *Faithornes* (an excellent Engraver near *Temple-Bar*) who had been Lame a Twelve-month by a dead Palsie on the right side. After the second stroking
he

he was able to go about the Room with the Help of a Stick, and in a little time grew to such Strength, that he can now work at his Trade again.

The Wife of *Samuel Smith* of *Newbury*, has been afflicted with a violent Pain in her Back and Hip seven Years; which made her so lame, that she could not stir without some torment, and by the continuance of it, her Life was become (as she said) a burden to her. By gentle stroking he brought it down to her Foot, and in a few Minutes (renewing his stroking in those Places where she said any Pain was remaining) drove it quite away, so that she could go without her Staff as fast as any of us there present. I have seen her several times since, and she continued in the same Strength; only coming to him sometimes to confirm it to her, (and to remove some small Grudgings which she had of it) before she went into the Country.

There was also, a little after, a well known Artist in this Town, who desired his Help, having lain in intolerable Pains (as himself told me) for the Space of eleven Months. I saw him stroke his Arm, and Thigh, and Leg, whither he pursued the Pain till he chased it out at his Foot, and the Patient said he was perfectly free. I hear indeed since, that his Pain is returned; but I have good Reason to conclude, that if he had applied himself again to the same Hand which eased him before, he might have received a greater Benefit: For I know one whom he gave Relief unto, that had been long tormented in that fashion; but within a Day or two was in such Pain, that she could not stir in her Bed, and judged her self worse than ever. Upon my desire that he would go again to her, (for she could not come to him) he went, and after a few gentle strokings, freed her so perfectly from her Pains, that for a considerable time after she felt none at all; and, I hope, still remains at ease.

These are but a few of those Instances which I could give of this Nature: To which, if I should add what I have seen him do in the Case of Deafness, of the Evil, Fits of the Mother, Wind, and such like, it would be enough to fill a Volume: And yet I have not seen half so many Cures as other Persons of unspotted Credit have done, who had the Leisure and Opportunity to be more frequently with him. I never yet met with any, who would have the Patience diligently to attend him for a few Hours, who came away unsatisfied about the Reality of such things as are reported. Nay, some Persons (not too forward of Belief) have been convinced in a few Minutes: A small Acquaintance, and short Converse with him, would also soon satisfy those who doubt, that he is a Man of no Designs: for he appears to me of too free an Humour, and open Disposition, to be able to conceal or disguise himself: There is nothing of Reservedness to be seen in his Temper: I could never discover any thing that looks like Craft and Subtilty in him: He seems to be of a singular good Nature, and to be void of all Covetousness, Pride, or hatred of others: His Charity and Good-will to Mankind seems to be great; and to be the only thing that moves him to engage himself in such perpetual Labours: I never heard him speak any Words unbecoming a Christian: He professes all Loyalty to his Prince, due Reverence to his Spiritual Governours, and to be of the Reformed Religion, as it is here by Law established. All which considered, methinks he merits much Respect: And if this Testimony of mine may do him any service, I shall be very glad of it; because of the Obligation I have to him for a Cure done upon my self.

April 14. 1666.

*Simon Patrick, Rector of
St. Paul's Church Covent-Garden.*

Sir

*Sir William Smith's, Mr. Windham's, and Dr. Evans's
Testimony, April 3. 1666.*

Robert Furnace of Clerkenwell, had a *Sciatica* in both Hips, for the Space of 8 Years, as upon Examination he affirmed: Upon Mr. *Greatrak's* stroking the Parts affected, the Distemper went out of his Toes, so that he walked away without a Stick, who came into the Room with Crutches.

The same Day *Elizabeth Sharp* of *Dowgate*, in *Thames-Street*, who had a Pain in one of her Legs for near 12 Years (so that she could not lift her Leg from the Ground,) upon the same Person's stroking of it, she could not only lift it from the Ground, but also walk upon it.

W. Smith.

Tho. Windham.

Geo. Evans, D. D.

*Dr. Whichcot's and Dr. Cudworth's Testimony,
April the 3d, 1666.*

E*lizabeth (Bis) Thomas*, of *Petty-France* in *Westminster*, having been troubled two Years with a violent Pain from her Head down her Back; by stroking, had it removed downwards, till at last it was driven out at her Toes. Done the 3d of *April*, in the Sight of us, being present,

Benjamin Whichcot, D. D.

R. Cudworth, D. D.

Dr. Whichcot's and Dr. Evans's Testimony.

Robert Toples of *Ellison* in *Staffordshire*, having had the *Kings-Evil* in his Face in 2 Places, as big as two Eggs, in 3 Days space was suppurated, and by Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's*, had all the Corruption and

the Roots taken out, and was made perfectly well.
In Presence of

R. Cudworth, D.D.

Benjamin Whichcot, D. D.

Geo. Evans, D. D.

Mary Jackson of Woodstreet, was cured of an Imposthume above her Eye, the corrupt Matter being pressed out.

B. Whichcot, D. D.

*Two Certificates from the Countess of Devonshire's,
April 30. 1666.*

I Having been an Eye-witness of several very wonderful Cures performed by Mr. *Greatrak's*, and being desired to give under my Hand what I know of them, I do affirm, That the Right Honourable the Countess of *Devonshire's* chief Cook, a Man of about 55 Years of Age, having been of a long time troubled with the Sciatica, was gently stroked by Mr. *Greatrak's* his Hand, and hath ever since continued very well, it being now almost two Months since. I likewise saw a Woman, living in *Rochampton*, who had a great Wen over her Eye, which, by a Mischance, she had gotten above fourteen Years since; only by having it launced, and the Corruption twice pressed forth by Mr. *Greatrak's*, was perfectly cured by him, without the Use of any Plaster or other Chirurgical Remedy. I likewise saw a Man in the same Town, who had an ordinary Tertian Ague about three Quarters of a Year, which afterwards turned into a Quartan, and had hung upon him almost half a Year: This Person I saw stroked, who went immediately home very well, and hath ever since so continued. I likewise saw a Gentlewoman in the Countess's Family, immediately cured of a violent Fit of the Tooth-
ach;

ach; and one of her Ladiship's Gardeners (who had for some Years a Cancer in his Nose, and for the Curing of which, he had, without success, consulted several Physicians,) so much amended since the Application of Mr. *Greatrak's* Hand, that himself does not doubt of a perfect Recovery. To those who find Benefit from him, he only bids them, Be thankful to God, to whom alone belongs the Glory. This I have been an Eye-witness of, and therefore do attest it under my Hand,

Walter Stonehouse, Gentleman of the
Horse to the Countess of *Devon*.

I Do also hereby Attest the Truth of this Testimonial of Mr. *Stonehouse*, having been an Eye-witness of the said Particulars therein specified. And also I do further aver, That I was present at *Mortlack*, where I saw, at Captain *Owen's* House, Mr. *Greatrak's* lay his Hand upon several Persons for divers Diseases, who were strangely cured of several Distempers which they laboured under several Years; particularly *Walter Jones* his Son of *Mortlack* aforesaid, who was forely bruised, brought in between two Men; and upon his laying on of his Hands, the said *Walter's* Pains run from place to place, till they were forced out at his Toes; and immediately he acknowledged himself well, and went away without any help, and voided many Clots of Blood by Stool, and out of his Mouth, and also Blood by Urine; whereby he continues perfectly well to this instant, being about five Weeks since.

Also I saw a young Man of *Lambeth*, who was for four Years exceeding ill by a violent Pain in his Head; which Pain Mr. *Greatrak's* drove out of his Head into his Body, where he drove it,

it, on the outside of his Cloaths, from place to place, till he drove it into his Feet, and so out at his Toes. The Truth hereof, and of several other things which I might instance, I do hereby testifie under my Hand, this thirtieth Day of *April*, 1666.

Richard Mulys,
Auditor to the Right Honourable
the Countess Dowager of *Devon*.

Mr. Barcock's Certificate.

B *Enjamin Barcock*, Son of *Mr. Edmund Barcock*, of the Parish of *St. Bennet Fynck*, London, was ever since *Michaelmas* 1664. affected daily by several Fits, with tormenting Gripings in the bottom of his Belly, and in the small of his Back, and a continual Pain in his Stomach; for which he had taken much Physick, and changed Air, but without any Benefit at all: Being five several times stroked by *Mr. Greatrak's*, mended sensibly upon the first Stroking, and every time better and better; and since the last Stroking, hath not been sensible of any Pain.

And *Mr. Edmund Barcock*, the Father of the said Young Man, having had a great Deafness in his left Ear for twenty Years; being touch'd and rubb'd but one time, had the Hearing of that Ear restored to him, to the great Comfort of his Life.

April 1. 1696.

This is testified by me,
Edmund Barcock.

We whose Names are subscribed, were present when this was dictated by *Mr. Edm. Barcock* and subscribed.

Ben. Whichcot, D. D.

R. Cudworth, D. D.

Jane

Jane Deanes Certificate.

JANE Deane, of *Swallowfield*, in the County of *Berks*, aged 18 Years, or thereabouts, saith, That for the space of four Years last past, she hath been exceeding Lame in her right Foot, and for Recovery thereof, applied her self to several Bone-setters and Chirurgeons, but never received the least Benefit by any of them, rather growing worse than better under their Hands; insomuch that for this last Year, her Lameness so much increased upon her, that she being altogether unable to go, was forced to creep on her Knees and Hands from place to place; until *Saturday* last, being the 21st of this instant *April*, at which time she came to Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's*, and was by him stroked on the Part grieved, and found some ease immediately thereby: But coming again to him this Day, the 24th, she was by him in like manner stroked as before, and (blessed be God) doth find her self able, and accordingly did walk up and down the Room in the Presence of a great Company, at Sir *William Smith's* in *Lincolns-Inn-Fields*. The Truth whereof she attesteth under her own Hand, the Day and Year abovesaid.

In Presence of

Jane Deane.

John Wilkins, D. D.
and others.

Dr. Faireclough's Letter to Sir William Smith,
Baronet.

Honourrd Sir,

SINCE I had the Favour of your Letter, I have been called upon and importun'd by divers Friends, and Persons of Quality, inhabiting several Parts of the Nation, to inform my self, and give them some Accounts concerning Mr.
Greatrak's,

Greatrak's, and his Attempts of curing Diseases: I shall now take the Liberty (according to Promise) to give you in Gross, what others have receiv'd from me by piece-meal; and (by the way) I beg leave to acquaint you, that whilst I was making superficial Enquiries after him, and before I had ever seen the Gentleman's Face, a virtuous Lady, sometime my Patient, came to Town, on purpose to implore his help; and calling on me, would not be satisfied until I had suffered my self to be prevailed with to accompany her to Colonel *Weldon's*, where Mr. *Greatrak's* then was, who, at first Sight, very frankly declared himself to be cheerfully willing to gratifie all Doctors in their Requests; and thereupon, though he had been at hard Labour most part of the Day, and had sufficient Cause (as the By-standers said) to be thoroughly wearied, he bestowed a full half Hour on this infirm Lady, gently rubbing her Head, Neck, Arms, and Back, her benumm'd Leg and Foot, as I had before directed him, the Lady's Woman and another assisting to put off her Cloaths, and to put them on; which when he had done, he ingenuously told me and the Gentleman that attended the Lady, that he conceived himself unable to do her any considerable good, Dead Palsies on the left Side, seldom giving Place to, or being helped by the Application of his Hands; but if she pleased to come to him, he would freely afford her his pains, which he did once or twice afterwards, to the great and only satisfaction of her Mind, the Success, as to her Body, hitherto complying with his Prediction. Notwithstanding I must needs confess I then observed strange things performed by him, enough to puzzle a stronger Head-piece than mine, though not to satisfy my Curiosity, which being pushed on by the Contents
of

of your Letter, and eagerly hurried with an earnest desire of seeing (as you had done) Agues cured with easie Frictions, hath ever since induced me to improve all my Leisure in observing Mr. *Greatrak's* his Cures or Operations, the like whereof ('tis presumed) will hardly be found in any Author. I have lately spoken with Mr. *Buts*, one of those Servants you mention, who had the good Fortune to lose their *Kentish* Agues by the Contact and Stroking of this wondrous Man's Hand ; he tells me, his Fellow-servant continues at Work in your Saltern in *Kent* : that both of them have stood sound these two Months, their Agues never attempting to recoil upon them : I have also had Conferences with diverse eminent and worthy Divines, inferior to few for Parts, Piety, and Learning, who acknowledge and affirm themselves to have received Help and Cure from his Hand and Spittle, of such Distempers in their own Bodies as had eluded the most exquisite Methods of Physick, and the best Remedies that could be prescribed or administred to them in their particular Cases, by the most skilful and experienced Artists.

I minded very heedfully his Comportment towards the Lady that first brought me to him, and likewise towards many others since that time, and have always observed it to be very comely, grave, and dispassionate. I could not perceive, nor learn from others, that he used any Form of Words, either immediately before, or during the Time he lays his Hands on any Person ; but when he hath done, 'tis familiar with him (his Hands and Eyes lift upwards) to repeat the Ejaculation mentioned by Dean *Rust*, varied now and then a little, viz. *God Almighty heal, or help, or strengthen you, or thee, for Jesus sake, or, his Mercies sake ; and*
I
to

to those who thankfully tell him they find ease or benefit, he always replies, *The Lord's Name be praised*, or, *Give God the Praise*. It is agreed by all who have had Opportunities of frequent Converse with him, that he appears to be a Man of a free, generous, and open Temper, courteous, and debonaire, without any thing of Affectation or Reservedness, of singular Patience, and Tender-heartedness towards all Persons in Pain or Trouble, and one who declares himself, in Word and Deed, to be a true Loyal Subject to his Prince, and an hearty Lover of those in present Service at Sea or Land, as hath been often manifested, by his preferring Seamen and Soldiers, who applied themselves to him for Help, and ease of their Aches, Pains, and Lameness, to others of much higher Rank and Quality. And indeed, I saw not one of these poor Persons, who had been rendred useles for present Service, through their Pains contracted by Heats and Colds, but went away, after stroking, very well pleased, with a professed Enjoyment of present Ease, and Resolution of repairing speedily to the respective Ship or Colours whereunto he did belong.

I shall only instance in *Joseph Warden*, a stout Seaman, belonging to the *Royal Charles*, who was sent on Crutches (as you may remember) from *St. Bartholomew's Hospital* to *Mr. Greatrak's*, then in *Chancery Lane*, and complained not so much of his Pains, though those he affirmed to be very grievous in his Hip, Thigh, Ham, and Ankle, as that he (who had been in all former Engagements against the *Dutch*) should now be disabled (if I may use his own Words) to have the other warm Bout with them: Upon which I need not tell you (being there present) with what Alacrity and Heartiness *Mr. Greatrak's* stroked him, I think, thrice over from his Hip down-

downwards, until all his Pains were driven out at his Toes ends, and the Man walkt lustily too and fro in the Garden, professing his Apprehensions of being able to do so for 10 Miles, and carried those Crutches one while in his Hand, another while triumphingly upon his shoulders, which had been his Supporters thither. I might add hereunto some Soldiers Names, who came from the *Tower*, and out of the Guards, as well as the Gunner *Benjamin Huskins*, and Ship-Carpenters, and others, who, for Lameness, Deafness, and other Infirmities, have received Benefit by his Hand. *Robert Furnace*, the noted Tinker of *Clerkenwell*, his Cure is talked of all over the Town: The Crutches on which he came to Mr. *Greatrak's* (and he had not been able to walk without Crutches for 8 Years last past) he brought in his Hand, and presented to me, after he had been strok'd three or four times, and found himself thereby enabled to walk without them. I may not here omit to acquaint you, that the Honourable Mr. *Boyle* being sometime present when this poor Man was under Mr. *Greatrak's* Hands, by the Application whereof his Pains being dislodged out of his Hip, and driven downwards to his Knee, that noble Person descended to stroke the Tinker's Knee, Leg, and Foot, with the inside of Mr. *Greatrak's* Glove, and so proceeded to pursue his Pains from Place to Place, until they fled quite out at the ends of his Toes.

Margery, the Wife of the abovenamed Tinker, by the Application of Mr. *Greatrak's* Hand to her Breast, Sides, and Bowels, was freed from an Ague, which flew (as she said) first to her Throat, next out at her Mouth, making her Tongue and Lips extraordinary Cold in its Passage, which were observed to be so by some other Persons as well as my self. I have felt

the Tongues of divers others wonderfully cold, when their Ptytick, or other Pains, have given Place to his Hand, and passed away out of their Mouths. *John Hayes*, Servant to Dr. *Worley*, troubled for many Years with stoppage of Stomach, and shortness of Breathing, being stroked upon his Breast and Stomach, voided Wind upward in abundance, insomuch as he feared to be choked with the Violence of it; but when that Belching ceased, and his Tongue (which was then as cold as Ice) had been touched with one of Mr. *Greatrak's* Fingers, he professed himself to be very well, and freed (as he conceived) of his former Distempers.

Anne Rose, a Widow, in the *Minories*, troubled with a Head-ach for twenty Years, so grievous, for the most part, by her relation, as no Tongue was able to express it, whereby her Life was become a Burthen to her; upon Mr. *Greatrak's* his laying his Hand on her Head, and gently rubbing it, the Pains removed thence into her Breast and Stomach, and made her wondrous faint and sick; but those Parts being stroked, she was immediately put into a tedious fit of Belching, which continued the space of an Hour or upwards, and that being over, she expressed her self to find more ease than she had done for 20 Years before, and that she was then void of all Pain, to her unspeakable Joy and Comfort. It would be endless to reckon up what I have seen of this kind, and hold it more advisable to break off here, than to proceed in giving you a further Trouble.

Colonel *Henry Sibthorp*, aged seventy and eight Years, or thereabouts, so Deaf, that his Servants and others were forced to shout to him, had the Hearing of one Ear so perfectly restored, that he could hear any low Word or Sound, by the only Application of Mr. *Greatrak's* Hand to his Head,
and

and putting his Fingers into the old Gentleman's Ears, wherein I instance, the like happening daily to younger Persons.

I had the Honour to be present at the Experiment made by the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount *Falconbridge*, upon *John Jacomb*, of *George-Ally* in *Southwark*, whose exquisite and continual Pains, by the gentle Touch and easie Friction of Mr. *Greatrak's* Hand, were allured out of his Arm and Shoulder to the extreme Joints and ends of his Fingers, which became thereby (as the Man affirmed) devoid of Sense, benumbed and deadened: Whereupon his Lordship thrust a Pin of about an inch long almost to the Head, into one of his Fingers, his Eyes first close covered, without the least sign of the Man's perception, or any Blood appearing when the Pin was pulled out: He then thrust it into another Finger, as deep as the first, and ask'd the Man, if he felt nothing? who made answer, that he could not tell; but after a little Pause, said, he thought he did; whereat my Lord admiring, pulled it out again, and Mr. *Greatrak's* slightly stroked the Man's Fingers twice or thrice, who continued hoodwink'd; afterwards the Pin's Point only touching one of his Fingers ends, he smartly cried out, Oh, you prick me, and Blood immediately issued out of those Places into which the Pin had been thrust: The Man professed himself free from all Pain, and may be presumed to have continued so, forasmuch as he was bidden by Mr. *Greatrak's* to come again if he felt the least Grudging, with Promise of easie access to him, and assurance of Help and Ease; but hath never appeared since.

A like Experiment was tried by the Reverend Doctor *Wilkins*, upon a Woman in my House, with some considerable Improvements; for when her Pains, by Mr. *Greatrak's* stroking, were brought into her Fingers, and those benumbed as the former,

mer, the Doctor endeavouring by rubbing and pinching, to reduce them to Sense and Life; which when he had continued a good while, he would have perswaded the poor Woman that her Fingers were freed and well, which when she complainingly denied, he proceeded to prick her Fingers, but without her Feeling, or Blood following, until her Fingers were gently stroked, which restored them to Sense and Motion.

I might add hereunto very many Instances of the same Nature, but am unwilling to be tedious, and shall therefore reserve them to a fresh Opportunity, together with a List of near One Hundred Persons Names, who, in my Hearing, have professed themselves helped of various Distempers, by the Hands, Urine, and Spittle of the said Mr. *Greatrak's*.

I shall for the present conclude with observing to you, that though his Hand had little or none effect upon the Lady that first brought me to him, yet have I often seen, in meaner Persons, wonderful Success to ensue in the like Case: As in *Anne Shelley*, *Jane Farrington*, and *Grace White*: the last whereof, by reason of a Palsie on her left side, had been disabled for five Years from walking without the Support of another, yet after 4 or 5 times stroking she confessed she had walk'd two Miles at one time, without any Assistance or Intermission. I beseech you, pardon the length of this Letter, and continue to oblige,

S I R,

May 5. 1666.

Your most faithful and

humble Servant,

James Faireclough.

Captain

Captain Owen's Letter to Mr. Boyle.

Mortlack, May 4. 1666.

S I R,

Upon the 2^d of this instant, (being *Wednesday*) I had taken a Purge, which, by reason of a small Addition more than I did formerly use to take, did work very violently the whole Day, at least 24 times. I could eat nothing that Day nor Night, only drank a little Mace-Ale. I rested pretty well that Night; but when I rose the next Morning, I was mightily griped in my Stomach and Bowels, with much Pain I went up and down an Hour or two, and when nothing would ease me, I resolved to lie down and rest my self; and going to take some rest, a Friend meets me, and persuades me to let Mr. *Greatrak's* touch my Stomach and Bowels; which I did consent unto, (he being in my House the same time, for he came the Night before) and I observed when he first stroked me, I was immediately without Pain, and went down from my Chamber very well, (as I thought) with intent to shew some Friends that came to see me, what a sudden change his Hand had wrought: But I had not been with my Friends six Minutes, but I felt a sudden change; for I had many Qualms in my Stomach, which forc'd me to vomit very much, and I was in a sweat all over, and very sick, and so continued half an Hour, when he came and stroked me again, which caused me to vomit the second time, and then I took a little rest upon my Bed; But the Pain in my Stomach was so great, that it did awake me, and presently I vomited the third time; which Mr. *Greatrak's* hearing (being in the next Room) came to me, (I being exceeding ill) and said, by the Blessing of God, this will do you much good, I will stroke your Head, Bowels and Stomach once more, and I believe you will do very well: Which when he had done, I laid me
down

down and rested well for an Hour, and then came from my Chamber very well, and went abroad with him all that Afternoon. I have one thing more only to add, That I was in a great Sweat all the Time, and do believe, and found most apparently, that by the Stroke of his Hand, all the sharp Matter which the Purge had stirr'd, and could not carry away downwards, was that which caused so much Pain, and was brought away by vomiting.

Your Honours humble Servant,

John Owen.

Mr. Sibley's Letter to Captain Owen.

S I R,

THIS is to satisfy you concerning the strange Effects the Stroking of Mr. *Greatrak's* Hand did work upon me the third of *March* last, at Sir *George Waterman's*: But first, I will let you know how I was. For 8 Years past I had been troubled with the *Ptytick*, a Cough of the Lungs, and a great Stoppage at the Stomach, insomuch that I could not walk the length of our Shop, or go up a pair of Stairs without much trouble, and many times have been fain to be helped to my Bed, and in foggy misty Weather, I have been forced to be set upright in my Bed with Pillows, and so to sleep; my want of Breath was so much, that when I went abroad I did reel like a Man in Drink, that I was ashamed of my self; and when it was so that I had been stroked by him, which was on the *Saturday* Night about eleven of the Clock, upon his immediate stroking I was ready to swoond, and was in a very great Sweat all over my Body, and in much burning all over, excepting my Tongue, and that was exceeding cold; insomuch that I continued in that Sweat from eleven of the Clock on *Saturday* Night, being the third of *March*, till *Sunday* Morning the next Day at ten of the Clock:
And

And this I testifie under my own Hand (blessed be God) this very Day, being in perfect Health, *May* 5. 1666.

Nathaniel Sibley.

This Relation I had from himself several times before he now sent it me in Writing: He lives in *Coleman-street*; his Age is 24 Years.

John Owen.

Dr. Faireclough's and Dr. Faber's Testimony.

April 19. 1666.

Sarah Tuffly, Servant to Mr. John Pryde, at the Red-Cross nigh *Essex-gate* in the Strand, troubled with a violent Head-ach every Day more or less for 7 Years; upon Mr. *Greatrak's* stroking her Head, she fell a Belching, which continued for two Hours and upwards, he now and then applying his Hand to her Breast, &c. whereupon she was freed from all Pains, though her Tongue was at times as cold as Lead, during this Process; and now declares her self more free from any manner of Pain than she has been these 9 Years.

Before us

Sarah Tuffly.

Tho. Kenian, Gent.

Alb. Otto Faber, Med.

J. Faireclough, M. D.

W. Smith, Chir.

Dr. Faireclough's and Dr. Faber's Testimony.

TH E S E are to certifie, That the Son of Mr. *George Claire*, Grocer, in *Grace Church-street*, London, being about 6 Years old, having been troubled with an Imposthume in his Bowels, and with continual Pain, was much wasted for above two Years; and all Means proving ineffectual, he was brought to Mr. *Greatrak's*, who in three times stroking, brought the Humour to such ripeness in the Thigh, near the Groin, that upon a little Incision, there came forth above a Pint of cor-

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rupted

rupted Matter, to the great Ease and Benefit of the Child. *April 19. 1666.*

In the Presence of

J. Faireclough, M. D.

Albertus Otto Faber, M. D.

& Medicus Regius Exercitus *Suecici.*

Mr. Squibb's Letter to Mr. Boreman.

S I R,

WHereas you are pleased to enquire after the Cure by God's means done upon me, by the Stroking of my Head by Mr. *Greatrak's*; These are throughly to inform you, That being violently troubled with an excessive Pain of the Head, that I had hardly slept six Hours in six Days and Nights, and taken but very little of Sustenance in that time; and that being but touch'd by him, I immediately found ease, and (thanks be to God) do continue very well; and do further satisfy you, that the Rigour of the Pain had put me into a high Fever, which immediately ceased with my Head-ach: And do likewise further inform you, that a Servant being touch'd for the same Pain, that had continued upon him for Twelve Years last past, he touch'd him in the Forehead, and the Pain went backward; and that but by his stroking upon the outside of his Cloaths, the Pain came down to, and out of his Foot: The Party continues still well. These Cures were wrought about three Weeks before *Easter*. And thus much I assure you to be true, from him that is

*Covent-Garden, Apr. 20,
1666. at my Lady
Verney's, the Place of
my Residence.*

Your Friend

and Servant,

Edm. Squibb.

And

And further, for your satisfaction I must tell you, that the very Day of the Date hereof, by accident, I met with Mr. *Greatrak's* at Mr. *Starkey's*, a Stationer near the *Middle-Temple gate*, where, to my very great Admiration, he cured two Persons of the *Pty sick*: The Manner of it makes me give it that Term, (though, I must confess, as a Gentleman and a Christian, all that he does are to be miraculously admired, in my weak Opinion.) These Persons unstripping both their Bosoms, he applies himself to his Way of Curing, and told me in the Presence of Sir *Anthony Morgan*, Mr. *Starkey*, and many other standers by, that he would bring the *Pty sick* out of their Stomachs into their Tongues, and that their Tongues should be as cold as Ice: Which I, and the rest of the Company, found to be true; for laying my Finger upon their Tongues, I found it to be true what he had said; and away they went (after his touching of their Tongues) well, and praising God. Their Infirmities were so great, that in a manner, they went double in the Breast.

April 20. 1666.

Edm. Squibb.

This Attestation was owned and confirmed 26
Apr. 1666. in Presence of

J. Faireclough, M. D.

Arthur Squibb Oxonien. M. A.

Mr. Wolrich a Chirurgeon his Letter to Mr. Greatrak's.
Ratcliff, April 16. 1666.

Mr. Greatrak's,

AND by me respected for your trouble with my Wife, for which I return you many thanks, and heartily wish I might any Way be capable, whilst I have Life, to manifest my acknowledgment, which to endeavour, I now having had my Eyes and Ears my Witnesses, if my genius fail me not, shall both by Tongue and Pen, which haply

you may see, be in Confutation of the Parties your abusers. Sir, I give God praise, my Wife, now in a very fine Condition, presents her respects to you; and as I would not willingly be worse than my Word to the Doctor, whose Name, I think, is *Faireclough*, I desire you to let him know this underwritten: That my Wife having had a great Pain in her Stomach and Head some Years, in which time she hath not wanted the Endeavours of able Doctors and Chirurgeons, for all which, her Pain increased so high, that this last six Months she was not able to go about her Chamber, but all People expected her departing this Life daily. I being gone to her Doctor, who is of Note, (it was about three Weeks ago,) you by good Fortune came to a Neighbour's House of mine, (Captain *Wildy*;) she being informed, having a great desire, was rather carried, than to say went that little Way; but by the Blessing of God, through your Endeavours, that Night she came to meet me as far as *Bell-Wharf*, very cheerfully. This last Week she was twice with you at *Lincolns-Inn-fields*, and, to the Glory of God, and her Comfort, I hope, is freed from her Pains. Sir, no Doctor could or ever did tell any thing, but that her Distemper was Vapours, that ascended from her Stomach; but now, I hope, she will need no more such Answers; which is the Prayers of me, who subscribe my self,

S I R,

Yours obliged,

Richard Wolrich, Chirurgeon.

Mr. Comb's Letter to Sir Nathaniel Hobart.

Honoured Sir,

WHereas you desire to be informed by me of a Cure begun and perfected by *Valentine Greatrak's*, Esq; in Obedience to your Command, you have the Verity of it as followeth, *viz.* About four Years since, I received a Mishap on my right Leg, in

in the small thereof, by the striking of the Skin, which, by near two Years, being under several Chirurgeons Hands, was made a very desperate Sore, I enduring all that time the very Extremity of Misery and Pain, and so remained utterly desponding of any Hope of Cure, until such time as the aforesaid Mr. *Greatrak's*, on *Thursday* the 16th instant, touched and stroked the same, it being then very fiery and ulcerous; the Pain removed it self, and fell part thereof into the great Toe of my left Foot, and other part into the little Toe of my right Foot, and now, praised be the Almighty, the Cure thereof is perfected, to the Admiration of all my Neighbours, and the unexpressible Comfort of, most worthy Sir,

April 24. 1666.

From my Lodging
in *Jerusalem-Ally* in
the Parish of St.
Bennet's Grace-
Church.

Your Worship's most

humble Servant,

Anthony Combs.

Present when the Cure was done on *Anthony Combs*,
Nathaniel Hobart, Knight, Master of the *Chancery*.
Richard Hals.
W. Smith, Baronet.
J. Faireclough, M. D.

Mr. Hawkin's Letter.

S I R,

I Understand you have a desire to be satisfied by some that have had Experience of the great Benefit and Help they have received by the Touch of Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's*, which, to satisfy you of, I take boldness to give you this Account. I was taken with a great Pain in my Hip, about seven Years of Age, which so continued till this present *April*, the 14th Day, 1666. which is above 18 Years; in which time there have been many Ways sought

sought for help ; I was once a Patient to Doctor *Barker* of *Newbury*, in the County of *Berks*, very eminent : I was also a Patient to Doctor *Pavie* of the *Devizes*, in the County of *Wilts*, an eminent Physician also ; and by the Advice of both these Doctors I went to the *Bath*, and received some ease ; but the Spring following, the Pain came again, upon which they judged it the *Sciatica*, and therefore made Issues in my Leg, but all to little effect, for my Pain still continued ; but when I was touch'd by Mr. *Greatrak's*, my Pain went immediately out of my Hip into my Knee, which put me to great Pain, thence his touch removed it into my Ankle, and thence into my great Toe, which caused it to look very black, and with one more touch he caused it to pass under my Nail, and so it went quite away ; since which, I have been well, and have walked five Miles in the City in one Day without Pain, and have also slept upon that Hip where the *Sciatica* was, without any trouble, which in many Years before I had not done. In witness whereof I make bold to subscribe my Name,

John Hawkins, of *Tharham*,
in the County of *Bucks*.

This Cure was performed in the Presence of

John Patrick, Minister of *Battersea*.
Tho. Bromley, Gentleman.

Mr. Floyd's Certificate.

W*illiam*, the Son of *Gabriel Floyd* the Elder, inhabiting in the Parish of *Long-stoke*, in the County of *Southampton*, having a Disease in his Nose, called the *King's-Evil*, which he hath had about two Years ; since which time it began, continually issued forth bloody Corruption, his Face and Lips often swelling and falling, by which Distemper

temper he lost one of his Eyes, and the other very near lost: The said *William Floyd* coming to *London* to *Mr. Valentine Greatrak's*, was touched by him, *March 31st*, 1666. the next Morning the said Boy coming again to *Mr. Greatrak's*, the Eye that was so near decayed, was much restored, and his Nose likewise; and having since been touched thrice more by the said *Mr. Greatrak's*, is now so well recovered in his Sight, that he can see the smallest Pin upon the Ground, the Swelling in his Face and Lip very much abated, and the issuing in his Nose absolutely stopt; his Father before, having fruitlessly made use of all Means to be had for this his Son, who, by the Blessing of God, and the Touch of the said *Mr. Greatrak's*, is restored, to his own ease, and his Friends great Satisfaction, as appeared to many more, particularly to me, who am his Father, who hereto subscribe,

Gabriel Floyd.

We, the undernamed, have subscribed our Names to the Truth of the abovesaid Relation, being present when the said *W. Floyd* was cured.

John Pinckney.

George Weldon.

John Dugdale.

Mrs. Frances Read's Certificate.

S I R,
WHereas you desire an Account of some of those great Cures performed by *Mr. Greatrak's*, in order thereunto, I do here certifie, That I have been present when he performed divers very great Cures; and particularly, I my self having laboured under a sad and violent Pain of the Head-ach, for three Years together, and never could have any Ease during all that Time, any longer than whilst I was holding it with my Hand,
 and

and during that time, used all probable Means, without any Benefit, came to this Gentleman, Mr. *Greatrak's*, who, (God be praised) in twice stroking, cured me perfectly, three Weeks since, so fully, as I have not felt the least Pain since. He stroked my Head, and the Pain flew through my Body into my Knees, so violently, that it made me cry out with the Extremity of the Pain, and so removed from place to place until I felt it no more. Now, if any Persons desire further Satisfaction concerning this Cure performed on me, by God's Blessing, let them repair to Mrs. *Read's* House, the next Door to the *Duke's-Head*, at the hither end of the *Pall-Mall*, and I shall be very ready to give all satisfaction herein. Witness my Hand,

April 6. 1666.

Frances Read.

The foregoing Certificate of Mrs. *Read*, was Signed in the Presence of us, who were both of us Spectators when those foresaid Pains flew so violently about the abovenamed *Frances Read*, and when she was cured. Witness,

George Weldon.

W. Smith, Baronet.

Mr. Stepping's Certificate.

N *Athaniel Stepping*, a Gardiner in *Hogsdon*, had a great and painful Swelling in his Knee, of two Years continuance; after the Application of Mr. *Greatrak's* Hand, (in an Hours time) he found that the Pain was dispersed into several Parts of his Body, particularly his Arms and Hips, and most of his Joints: He was wont to be bound in his Body, but the same Night wherein he was touched, and the next Day, and for a whole Week afterwards, he became loose, and went to stool 2 or 3 times in a Day; which was very extraordinary in him, who heretofore was constantly costive.

The

The next Morning the Swelling asswaged very considerably, and the Pain vanished, having first immediately been removed out of his Knee into the Calf of his Leg; at 4 Days end, the Pain of his Head abated, and in a Weeks time was perfectly gone. Witness his Hand,
Attested by himself,

May 10. 1666.

Nathaniel Stepping.

In Presence of

J. Faireclough, M. D.

Henry Pierce, Rect. de Shaw, in Comitatu Berks.

Ezechiele Foxcroft, A. M.

Mr. Nicholson's Certificate.

I Anthony Nicholson of Cambridge, Book-seller, have been afflicted sore with Pains all over my Body, for three and twenty Years last past; have had Advice and best Directions of all the Doctors there; have been at the Bath in Somersetshire; and been at above one Hundred Pound expence to procure Ease, or a Cure of these Pains; and have found all the Means I could be advised or directed to, ineffectual for either, till by the Advice of Dr. Benjamin Whichcot and Dean Rust, I applied my self to Mr. Greatrak's for help, upon Saturday was seven-night, being the latter end of March, who then stroked me; upon which I was very much worse, and enforced to keep my Bed for 5 or 6 Days: but then being stroked twice since, by the Blessing of God upon Mr. Greatrak's Endeavours, I am perfectly eas'd of all Pains, and very healthy and strong, insomuch as I intend (God willing) to return home towards Cambridge to morrow Morning, though I was so Weak, as I was necessitated to be brought up in Mens Arms, on Saturday last, about eleven of the Clock, to Mr. Greatrak's. Attested by me this tenth Day of April, 1666. I had also an hard Swelling in my left Arm, whereby I

L

was

was disabled from using it; which being taken out by the said Mr. *Greatrak's*, I am perfectly freed of all Pain, and the Use thereof wholly restored.

Anthony Nicholson.

In the Presence of

Andr. Marvell.

Ja. Faireclough.

Tho. Alured.

Tho. Pooley.

W. Popple.

Dorothy Pocock's Certificate.

D*orothy*, the Wife of *John Pocock*, of *Chively*, in the County of *Berks*, aged 45, had a Tumour began in her Breast about *August 1665*. which, in the beginning of *April 1666*. was grown as big as a large Pullet's Egg, and conceived by sundry Physicians and Chirurgeons to be a Cancer, and no other Way of Curing it than by cutting out; was stroked twice by Mr. *Greatrak's*, and after the second time, the Tumour was grown softer, so that he opened it, and out thereof flowed a great Quantity of concocted Matter; and after that, by gentle stroking, Mr. *Greatrak's* brought forth the Bag wherein the Matter had lyen, out of the small Orifice; and she professes her self to be very well of her Breast, and also to be freed of a great Pain which she had had in her Arm and Shoulder for the Space of 8 Months last past.

April 10. 1666.

Dorothy Pocock.

In Presence of

Andr. Marvel.

J. Faireclough.

Tho. Alured.

Tho. Pooley.

Mr.

Mr. Langhame's Certificate.

TH E S E are to certifie, That whereas I had been daily troubled with the Head-ach, more or less, for full three Years together, hardly a Day omitted, especially when after Riding, I was most insufferably tormented; I have by God's great Blessing (ever since Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's* touched me in his Highness Prince *Rupert's* Chamber) been very well, and free from any thing of the Head-ach; and since my being stroked, I have rid from *Dover* to *London* in ten Hours. Given under my Hand and Seal, this 27th Day of *March*, 1666.

I suppose from the Time I received this Benefit to this Day above-written, is full three Weeks.

Thomas Langhame.

Mrs. Smith's Certificate.

MA R Y, the Wife of *Arthur Smith*, a Mercer, at the *Lyon* within *Ludgate*, aged 23. troubled with a great and continued Pain in her Forehead for the Space of ten Years, notwithstanding the Use of the best Physicians, and most excellent Remedies, to her Parents great Cost; about the latter end of *March* 1666 applied herself to Mr. *Greatrak's*, who laid his Hand upon her Forehead, whereby the Pain removed into the hinder Part of her Head and Neck, thence to the Crown of her Head, and from thence into her Cheek, where it continued swelled, until she was again stroked in that Part the Day following; whereupon the Swelling and Pain vanished, and never troubled her any more. Attested this first of *May*, 1666.

Mary Smith.

Anne Meyern,

Mother of the Party.

In Presence of

J. Faireclough, M. D.

Mrs. Meyern, of Ludgate-hill, her Certificate.

TH E S E may certifie, That my Daughter, Mrs. *Anne Waring*, having had a sore Breast, which had several Holes in it, for the space of 14 Weeks; by Mr. *Greatrak's* Assistance, she was perfectly recovered in a Months space. In witness hereof, I have set to my Hand,

Anne Meyern.

London, the 4th of May, 1666.

Captain Owen,

S I R, I understand that you are acquainted with Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's*, with whom it was my fortune to be with at *Worcester*, where I received very great Benefit from him for my Distemper of the Gout, having lain about three Months before very Lame, and in great Misery, in *Herefordshire*; but since I came to *London*, have been much troubled with it again: My humble Request is, that you will afford me your Assistance to get once more to him, which I shall be exceeding thankful to you, if you will be pleased to give your self the Trouble to send a Messenger to me, whom I shall thankfully pay; I being verily perswaded that I shall receive further Benefit from him, having beheld such miraculous Cures that he did at *Worcester*; as the Gout, and the Falling-sickness, Wens, and restoring the Blind and the Lame, with many other Cures, which, if I had not seen, I should not have credited; and likewise many more in those Parts can testifie the same Benefit I have received. Sir, I have not else to trouble you with, not doubting but you will endeavour to grant my Request, in the Performance of which you will infinitely oblige

Your loving Friend and

Servant, to command,

Richard Whittall of Tower-Wharf.

Mr.

Mr. *Whittall* came to my House the last Week full of Pain, his Hand and Wrist much swell'd, and bound up with Cloths; Mr. *Greatrak's* did there stroke him, and he came this Day to my House again to have his Foot and Leg touched; where I, with several others, did see his Hand that was so swelled, to be free from Swelling or Pain.

May 17, 1666.

J. Owen.

Mr. Noye's Certificate, London, May 10. 1666.

W Hereas *Peter Noye's*, of *Trunkwell*, in the Parish of *Shing-field*, in the County of *Berks*, Gent. having a Distemper risen in his Neck, about twelve Months since, in a white hard knob; being fearful what the Effects of it might be, went to *Oxford* to advise with Dr. *Willis*, who laid dispersing Plasters, thinking to dissolve it, and, by Physick, to carry it off; continuing some time in this Course, I found my self grow weaker and stomachless, and a Fever seized upon me: I sent to Dr. *Willis*, who desired me to come to *Oxford*, to advise there with the King's Chirurgeons, who said, it was not the *King's-Evil*, but a *Fistula*, and must be dilated, which was done in four Places at several times, but all proved ineffectual; their scarifying, eating Medicines, Plasters, and Physick, never could make it run any thing but a black Humour; afterwards a new Swelling rising under the Ear, made them apprehend it to be the *Kings-Evil*: Whereupon, I still growing weaker and weaker, and almost without hope of Life, by the Advice of Dr. *Willis*, with much difficulty, came to *London* to Mr. *Greatrak's*, but in so low a Condition, that I was, in my own apprehension, near Death: Now Mr. *Greatrak's* being my last Remedy, I made my Applications to him; my
Wife

Wife with Tears and perswasive Arguments procured him to come to me; and upon his first stroking, I found Strength, and that black Humour which my Sores did run, stopped, and they ran thick Corruption: Upon the Continuance of his Stroking, I (through the Goodness of God) found the Humour abated, and my Strength increase; and now the Evil killed, only a scrophulous Humour followeth, which, I hope, will be soon dried up.

Peter Noyes.

Win. Noyes.

Witness,

Richard Birch.

Jasper Walker.

Tho. White.

Stephen Sparkes.

Edward Phipps.

Mr. Harrison's Certificate.

TH E R E being a Report of Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's*, who did cure all Diseases by his Hand, although I could scarce believe that an innate and in-born Disease could be cured, yet I was perswaded to go to him, upon the Certificate of one Man, who did inform me that he did cure him; and by his Touch, make an essay to mine own Cure.

Being born with the *King's-Evil* (as they call it) upon me, now being 31 Years old, it being demonstrable from divers Parts of my Body, my Parents did alway endeavour a Cure from the Chirurgeons, they, by their Skill, did prove its obstinacy by their repeated Endeavours, and did break the Node which was contracted in my right Arm pit, and likewise another in the little Finger of my right Hand; but as I grew in Strength, the Disease grew more daring, and approached my Throat, my Face, and Eye-lids, (as was apparent from their Promanances and Swel-

Swellings,) and now was under my right Ear, no Means softning its obduracy: I made my address to him, who did freely stroke that Part, as likewise my Face; which touch did humble the Swelling under mine Ear, and brake it, after it had troubled me by its foreness for 2 or 3 Hours, and my Face, on that side, did change its hue formerly, being ebullient in many Places; from his stroke the Disease was beaten downwards into my small Guts, and did pain me so extremely for 14 Days; I endeavouring to cure it by other Means, was perswaded it was the Disease flew thither for refuge, which I found true; for going to him, and he rubbing of it with his cold Hand, (an improbable Means, as most do think,) he, by this Motion of his Hand, did produce such a Heat, as did burn up all the Pain: but at this, and the other times he stroked me, I had such a Sickness upon me, as Men have when they are about to vomit, and one time I vomited an acid frothy Matter, with some indigested Flegm. After this, viz. on *Easter-Monday*, I found some of this Humour steal into my right Leg, and was stroked there, and it vanished, having some remembrance of my former Sickness in my Stomach. When my self, or any one else, did tell him of the Ease they received, I heard no vaunt in his Language, but joyfully he said, either, *Praised be God*, or, *The Glory be to God*; and when he stroked me, he said, *God give a Blessing to it*. For his being an Impostor, as some have censoriously averred, who thought their Dagon of Profit must fall hereby, his Liberality will disprove. What I could give of Credit or Applause to any that have formerly done me good, I must double upon him, as an Instrument

strument to give all to God, as the Author of
all the Comforts of

John Harrison.

Present when Mr. *John Harrison* in *Southwark* writ
and subscribed his Name hereunto,

Albert Otto Faber, M. D.

Memorand. That I was an Eye-witness of Mr.
John Harrison's subscribing and owning of this
Certificate,

George Weldon.

Mary Glover's Certificate.

I *Mary Glover* of *Alisbury*, in the County of
Buckingham, do certifie whom it may concern,
That I was near quite Blind, and was Deaf
about 5 Years, and I have been with one Mrs.
Wells in *Hertfordshire*, and Mr. *Restrick* in *Gun-*
powder-Ally in *Fetter-Lane*, and several others,
for Cure, but could get none: but, under God,
I have received perfect Cure, by the stroke of
Mr. *Greatrak's* Hand, both in my Eyes and Hear-
ing: All which I testifie to be true, and have
hereto subscribed my Name, the 17th of *May*,
Anno Dom. 1666.

Mary Glover.

Witnesses hereunto, having it from her own
Mouth,

John Owen, of *Breadstreet*, *London.*

Matthew Porter, of *London.*

John Grone.

William Faithorn.

Margaret Westley's Certificate.

I *Margaret Westley*, of the Parish of *Christ-Church*,
London, do certifie whom it may concern,
That I have been almost Blind of one of my
Eyes near twelve Months, and have been with
divers

divers Persons to get Cure, but could get none :
But now, under God, I have received perfect
Cure by the Stroke of Mr. *Greatrak's* Hand.
Which I testifie to be true, and have here-
to subscribed my Name, *May 17th, Anno Dom.*
1666.

Margaret Westley.

Witnesses hereunto,

John Owen, of Bread-street, London.

Matth. Porter.

John Grone.

William Faithorne.

May 20. 1666.

Mrs. Surman's Certificate.

THIS Person, *Mary Surman*, the Wife of
William Surman, living in *St. John's Court*
in *Cow-Lane*, by *Smithfield*, a Physician, was trou-
bled with a very violent Pain for seven Years
last past, which so contracted her Limbs, that
she was quite double, and could not stand up-
right, or scarce sit; and having used all manner
of Means possible for Cure, but found none; at
length, through the Goodness of God, was di-
rected to Mr. *Valentine Greatrak's* on *Monday*
last, being the 14th Day of this instant *May*,
he then being at *Mortlack*, at Mr. *Owen's*: at
which time she had little or no Pain at all up-
on her; but by the Stroking of the Hand of
Mr. *Greatrak's*, a very little while after, was in
a most violent and miserable Pain and Torture,
by reason of the Stirrings of that Humour
which had so contracted her Limbs as afore-
said: Which Pain continued till a second time
she came under his Hands, which was on *Fri-*
day last, being the 18th Day of this instant; at
which time, being stroked by him, she fell into
a Sweating; which Sweat continued upon her
till this present Day, and so her Distemper by
M Transf.

Transpiration ceased, that she is perfectly well, and feels no Pain, or any Contraction upon her at the least.

Mary Surman.

Witnesses to the Truth of what
is related as above,

*Richard Bland, of Hoxton, in Shoreditch Parish,
Merchant.*

*Tho. Massam, of St. Bartholomew's Parish, Lon-
don, Scr.*

John Massam, of Bread-street, Stationer.

Both the *Massams*, Brothers to the said
Mary Surman.

Alex. Merreal, of Bread-street, Stationer.

*Dr. Astell's Letter to a Fellow of a College in
Oxford.*

S I R,

IN my last, I promised to give you an Account of what I had seen that Man of Wonders do, viz. *Mr. Valentine Greatrak's*. I did likewise Promise to give the same Account to my Honourable Friends, the Honourable *Robert Boyle*, and *Dr. Dickinson*; but being straitned in time, I desire you to show them this, and in my behalf, to beg their Excuse.

In acute Pains wheresoever seated, the Persons, upon his Stroking, have for the most part confessed a momentary Relief; and that which often caused my Admiration, I have seen a Pain move from the left Shoulder, to the right Foot, and then stroked out of the Toes: When fix'd there, they have cried out with extremity of Pain, till relieved by his Hand. I saw a young Woman well habited, who complained of a Pain in her Head that was Chronical; *Mr. Greatrak's* gently stroked her Head, and it came into her Eyes, afterwards into her Nose and Mouth, then into her Stomach:

Stomach: The Woman grew very Sick, so that she swooned away; the People about her imagined she would have died: Upon stroking her Stomach, it flew into her Throat, ready to strangle her, then into her Eyes, so that both Sight and Speech were taken from her. He continued stroking from place to place till she recovered her Senses, and declared before those present, she was freed from Pain. I have seen several of the same Nature, though not so extreme, freed by him during the Time they were with him. I have heard those who have been Deaf for many Years declare, after he had rubb'd their Heads, and put his Fingers in their Ears, that they have heard distinctly; nay, some I have gone to, and have spoke to them with no high Voice, and they have made ready Answers to Questions not vulgar. I saw a Child aged about 12. that had not stirr'd Hand nor Foot for 14 Weeks together; she had near 20 scrophulous Tumours in her Arms, Thighs, Legs, and Throat. Out of one large one in her Leg, near the Shin-bone, he made a small Orifice, and took out divers Kernels; those that were hard, by his handling tended to suppuration: After twice stroking, this Child walked up hill 60 Yards, or more: Those Sores that ran, dried up after his Spitting upon them. I can the more boldly attest this, by reason the Mother of the Child, through the Intercession of a Friend of mine to me, by my Interest, gain'd access to have her Child touched by him. Those who have had *Ischiaticas* or Hip-gouts, I have seen go away freed from all Pain. I saw a Man, aged above 30, who had the King's Evil, by reason whereof, he had not stood upright for three Years, his back-bone, through Weakness, distended 2 or 3 Inches, when, without his Crutch, he could not walk about a Room without resting his Hands upon his Knees: He had two Fistula's upon the left *musculus sacrolumbi*, great Inflammation

being upon the Parts adjoining, with grievous Pain. After Mr. *Greatrak's* had stroked him a while, the Pain was quite taken away, and he walked upright several times about the Room. A little above the *Carpus* of the right Wrist was two Tumours as big as Tennis-balls, no way tending to any suppuration; yet, saith Mr. *Greatrak's*, to a Person of Quality then present, if I don't open it, his Arm will rot off; with that, taking his Lance, he makes a small Orifice, and with a little compressing the Part, there flies out Hundreds of small Bodies, some as big as French-beans; I could liken them to nothing so fitly as to Cock-stones; for they much resembled them in all Points: They flew out like to a Shower of Hail, with a windy Stink. He had likewise a Tumour of the same Nature in the Muscle or Brawn of the Thumb: he opened that, there came out some of the same Kernels, and I could perfectly discern that the Part of the Brawn of the Thumb was converted into those Anomalous Bodies; but whence, or by what Juice, this strange Transmutation should be made, I leave to others more learned to enquire into.

I likewise saw a Man, who could not move his Hand, it being, to his thinking, dead, Mr. *Greatrak's* gently stroked him, and he moved his Hand as well as I could mine, and with great Acclamations gave thanks to God. I forbear to acquaint you with any more; for if I should relate all I have seen, several Sheets would not contain it: I have declared what I was an Eye-witness to; but whether the Persons that have received immediate Relief continue well, I cannot inform you at present; but perhaps hereafter I may tell you my Thoughts, why many (as it is reported) relapse. Having oft had the Opportunity of being in his Company, with some Persons of no ordinary Quality, I am the better able to give a Character of him. I find him to be a Person of a brave, genteel Humour, of a
free

free Carriage and Disposition; one as being not over Precise, to be termed a Zealot; so not of so large a Latitude, as to deserve that of a debauched Person, which some in the World have undeserv- edly given him: For I have dined several Times where he hath been, and I never observed other but great Moderation, both as to eating and drinking; nor did I ever hear him Swear, or see him Passio- nate, although Cause sufficient hath been given in my hearing, to move a Person not indued with a more than ordinary Patience. I hope, Dear Friend, you are so assured of my reality, that nothing could induce me to this, were I not so great an Assertor and Vindicator of Truth, let it tend never so much to my Disadvantage: I take leave, and subscribe,

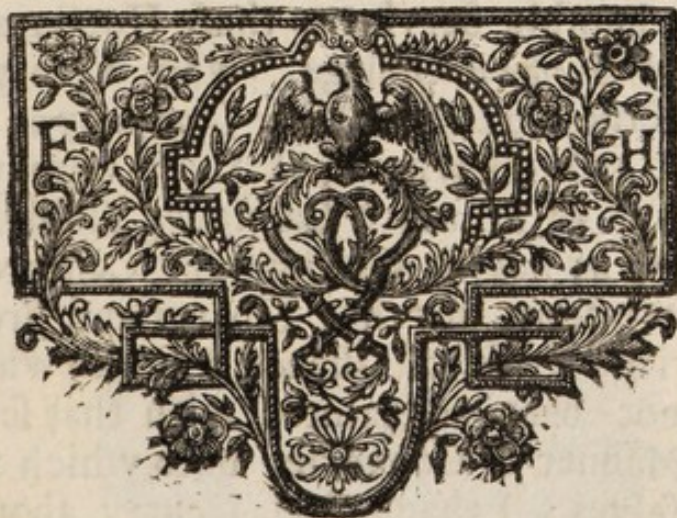
S I R,

March 10, 1666.

Your affectionate real

Friend, &c.


Jer. Astel.





A Postscript to Mr. Boyle's Letter.

S I R,

 OT knowing whether I may have the Happiness to see you again before I return for *Ireland*, I thought fit to let you know, That I have left the Original Testimonials in the Hands of Mr. *Starkey*, the Stationer, to be delivered unto you, that you may see, (and others that are any wise Scrupulous may be satisfied) that the Printed Certificates are *verbatim* the same with them. For your many and great Civilities, I heartily thank you, and do desire you to give my humble Service to those Honourable Gentlemen of *Gresham* College, who were pleased to afford me the Honour of their Company at *Lincolns-Inn-fields*, and elsewhere; I know both your self and they have so much Candour, Nobleness, and Ingenuity, as not to Condemn or Censure me, as others have done, for that Liberty and Freedom in my Carriage (void of Offence, I hope) which I use, having not been acquainted with that severe and morose Manner of Converse, unto which some tie up themselves: I thank God, I carry about me an open, clear, and harmless Breast, free from base Designs, Hypocrisie, or Fraud, so that I need not a
Cover,

Cover, Pretence, or Colour ; and, I hope, the Divine Goodness will, in great Mercy, over-look my Failings and Imperfections ; and, of his own Grace, regard the Simplicity and Integrity of my Heart, which rejoiceth in nothing more, than in doing of Good, and employing my self, as God shall enable me, in helping Persons in Misery ; towards whom, I find in my self tenderness of Mind, a hearty Compassion, and a ready Disposition to try the utmost of my Endeavours for their Ease and Relief ; in which Service, as I have my Recompence, so in the good Effects of it, my Satisfaction : Judging it better than my being in the World, to be instrumental for good, and to be serviceable to Mankind. I shall add no more, but my hearty Prayers for your Eternal Happiness, who am faithfully devoted,

Most Honoured and

Worthy Sir,

May 5.
1666.

Your most affectionate

and humble Servant,

Valentine Greatraks.

F I N I S.



I have no more, or other : and I hope the Dis-
 tinction will in great measure, overlook my
 Faults and Imperfections ; and of his own
 Grace, reward the Simplicity and Integrity of my
 Heart, which rejoiced in nothing more, than in
 doing of Good, and employing my Talents God
 shall enable me, in helping to establish His ; the
 waywardness, I find in my Affections of Mind,
 a restless Impulsion, and a ready Disposition to try
 the strength of my Endeavours for their Sale and
 Relief ; in which Service, as I have my Recon-
 pence, so in the good Effects of it, my Satisfaction
 being, if better than my being in the World, so
 is instrumental for good, and to be serviceable to
 mankind. I shall add no more, but my hearty
 Prayers for your Mutual Happiness, who are still
 truly devoted,

Das Bruchgold

1912-1913

STANDARD FORM 700

and I had a good time!

William C. C. C.

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