

A supplement to the first part of Medical commentaries / by Dr. Hunter.

Contributors

Hunter, William, 1718-1783.

Pott, Percivall, 1714-1788.

Hunter, William, 1718-1783. Medical commentaries. Part I.

Publication/Creation

London : Printed by A. Hamilton, and sold by A. Millar ..., 1764.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/qunb2epb>

License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

S U P P L E M E N T

To the FIRST PART of

MEDICAL COMMENTARIES.

By Dr. HUNTER.



LONDON:

Printed by A. HAMILTON,

And Sold by A. MILLAR, in the Strand.

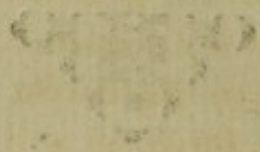
MDCCLXIV.

U P P L E M E N T

To the First Part of

MEDICAL COMMENTARIES

By Dr. HUNTER.



L O N D O N :

Printed by A. Hamilton,

And sold by A. Miller, in the Strand.

M D C C L I V .

T H E

I N T R O D U C T I O N.

PERHAPS it may be as sound philosophy to say, that all the actions of men are directed to some good end, as it is to subscribe to an opinion which has prevailed among naturalists, that, in the works of nature, nothing is absolutely without its use. Literary disputes are disagreeable to the greatest part of mankind; and the disputants are, for the most part, condemned by the world. Yet it is reasonable to think, that even these disputes answer some good purpose. By engaging the passions of men more warmly, they rouse a spirit of emulation, and give a spur to enquiry.

It is remarkable, that there is scarce a considerable character in anatomy, that is not connected with some warm controversy. Anatomists have ever been engaged in contention. And indeed, if a man has not such a degree of enthusiasm, and love of the art, as will make him impatient of unreasonable opposition, and of encroachments upon his discoveries and his reputation, he will hardly become considerable in anatomy, or in any other branch of natural knowledge.

These reflections afford some comfort to me, who unfortunately have been already engaged in two public disputes. I have imitated some of the greatest characters, in what is commonly reckoned their worst part: but I have also endeavoured to be useful; to improve and diffuse the knowledge of anatomy: And surely it will be allowed here, that, if I have not been serviceable to the public in this way, it has not been for want of diligence, or love of the service.

It has likewise been observed of anatomists, that they are all liable to the error of being *severe* on each other in their disputes. Perhaps from being in the habit of examining objects with care and precision, they may be more disgusted with rash assertions, and false reasoning. From the habit of guarding against being deceived by appearances, and of finding out truth, they may be more than ordinarily provoked by any attempt to impose upon them; and, for any thing that we know, the passive submission of dead bodies, their common objects, may render them less able to bear contradiction.

But, to be more serious, we must allow that the language and manner of literary war should be adapted to the circumstances. Injuries, disregard of truth, and mean artifices, in one party, will, and ought to be, treated with some degree of indignation, by the other. In order, therefore, to judge properly of the manner, we must enter into the cause, and sift it to the bottom, that we may see and feel the situation of the writer; and then, perhaps, what seemed, upon a superficial view, too keen, will appear to be very gentle.

In the ninth chapter of the *Medical Commentaries*, I defended myself against a reproach thrown upon me by professor Monro, senior, of Edinburgh, by giving a clear and concise account of a dispute, which I was unfortunately involved in with Mr. Pott. The account was indeed unfavourable to Mr. Pott; but the circumstances were fairly stated, so far as I could be informed; and I had taken some pains to procure information. I concluded that account by supposing that it was possible that I had misunderstood his conduct towards me; and declared, that if ever I should see reason to think that to have been my case, he should find me ready to do him justice. Here the affair rested till last October, when he published a second edition of his general Treatise on Ruptures. In that he added a chapter on the *Hernia congenita*; and took the opportunity of giving the public his account of our dispute. I read it, and found that we differed very widely in stating the facts upon which the whole dispute between us depends. I remembered the promise I had made, and reasoned thus in my own mind: "Had I been convinced of being in the wrong, I should certainly have excused myself in the best manner I could; but I should as certainly have done justice to Mr. Pott's character, by owning my error, and asking pardon of him, and of the public. Whoever reads his account, and supposes that there are no mistakes in it, must think that it is my duty to do so immediately. Yet, now that I have got all the light which he has given me; when I read over both accounts, and compare them together, I am still conscious that mine is exactly true in every particular; and that in his there are such mistakes and inaccuracies, as could not have been expected from a man of his understanding and abilities, whether one considers him as a surgeon, or as an author. Yet these mistakes happen to be in the great points upon which the dispute turns, and totally change the nature of the case: therefore, justice to the public, as well as to myself, obliges me to clear up the matter."

The dispute between us owed not its rise to jealousy, private pique, or malevolence, on either side; we lived in common, though not intimate friendship; and, so far as I knew, neither of us had the least cause of complaint against the other, till the occasion of this dispute. What I said in my lecture, or in print, was not in the hurry of passion; but with reflection and meaning: And as to the manner of telling his story, I must be so candid as to confess, that if the circumstances had been exactly as he has represented them, I should have thought myself deserving even of a more severe rebuke from him. He has treated me, for the most part, with the language of a gentleman, for which I thank him. I have, indeed, received some *incision* at his hand, but little *butchery*; and I have been so much used to meet with the latter, that I am the more sensible of his lenity.

My purpose in the following pages is to prove the truth of the accusation, which, in my own defence, I brought against Mr. Pott, in the ninth chapter of the Medical Commentaries. To speak my opinion freely upon the whole dispute, I must first declare, that, after having duly considered the defence which he has made in the second edition of his Treatise on Ruptures, published last October, I am so far from repenting of what I said, that I cannot wish to retract one syllable of the accusation. And now I shall enter upon the particulars.

S E C T. I.

Of a supposed plagiarism from Baron Haller.

TH E first point in order of time, is, whether Mr. P. borrowed a remarkable paragraph from Baron Haller, and gave it to the world as his own, in the first edition of his general Treatise on Ruptures. He avers (p. 149 of his defence) that he never had seen, read, or heard of, that work of Baron Haller, either in Latin or English, till twelve months at least after his publication. By way of a short introduction to this declaration, he says, “ To save the reader’s time, and “ to cut short this part of the dispute”---Is there any argument in this way of cutting a dispute short? The fact is of too much importance to be cut so short; and I shall, in the sequel, prove, however respectable his veracity may be, that his memory frequently mis-leads him, where one would think it impossible to be mis-led, and betrays him into most disagreeable situations. But surely no man is heard as evidence in his own cause. Evidence must be drawn from the testimony of credible witnesses, (not of parties) or, for want of such testimony, from circumstances.

Let us consider the evidence which he brings. He avers; but does not name one witness. He published a new, a curious, and an useful doctrine of the most common cause of *Herniæ*; and added, “ This has always been “ my opinion;” which, by the bye, is an officiousness that gives strong suspicion. It looks like a consciousness, that people would immediately say, “ This is the opinion which Haller has published within these few “ months.” Yes, says he, but *it has always been mine*. This, however, is digression. I was saying, he published a new doctrine, which would have done honour to any man of the profession, and said “ it had always “ been his opinion;” yet now, when that fact is disputed, he cannot, it seems, *for he does not*, bring any one friend, pupil, or acquaintance, to testify, that it was his opinion before the time of Baron Haller’s publication. Is it not amazing, that he should not have taught that curious doctrine to his apprentices and pupils? that he should not have mentioned it to me, when we were considering *Herniæ* in a dead body dissected for that purpose? that he should never have mentioned it to such gentlemen as Mess. Hawkins, Sainthill, Nourse, and Webb; to whom, he tells us,

(p. 145) he communicated his other new idea? If he had, they would not have forgotten so curious an opinion; nor would they have refused him the justice of giving their testimony to truth. “It had always been his opinion;” but, it seems, he never mentioned it to any mortal. Can we account for such *cautious, apprehensive reservedness*, to use his own words, in a gentleman, who is now so very communicative; who writes a book every year for the instruction of the profession, and advertises the contents of all his works, almost every day, in every public paper?

His having brought no testimony must then appear as a strong presumptive proof against him. Let us next see, what degree of probability he has been able to draw from the circumstances of the case. Now let us remember the case; it is allowed by himself to be thus: He published a curious doctrine in surgery; *viz.* that the descent of the *Testes* from the loins into the *Scrotum* is the most common cause of *Hernia*, as his own, after B. Haller’s book, which contained that doctrine, had been even translated into English; yet he insists still, that the doctrine was his own; that it had always been his opinion; and that he had not seen or heard of the Baron’s book (which was frequently advertised in our news-papers) till about a year afterwards. That I may do all justice to the arguments brought in proof of this *extraordinary and improbable* fact, I shall relate the whole in his own words, and intersperse some remarks, that the reader may the better feel the force of these arguments.

“But, (p. 149) setting aside whatever pretension I may have to be believed upon my bare assertion, is it probable that if I had stolen my opinion from the Baron’s book, that I should have given so short, so imperfect, and, indeed, so erroneous an account of what he has so fully explained, or, at least, so clearly pointed out?” Whoever will take the trouble of comparing the passages quoted from the Baron and from Mr. Pott †, will see that, if Mr. P. did steal at all, he stole the whole substance; and that no man could venture upon a more literal translation, with any chance of concealing the plagiarism. The name, and other little circumstances, for good reasons, were left out; and B. Haller might perhaps say, *Hic quidem non unam aliquam aut alteram a nobis, sed totam ad se nostram de herniis congenitis observationem transfulit. Atque, ut reliqui fures, earum rerum, quas ceperunt, signa commutant: sic ille, ut sententiis nostris pro suis uteretur, nomina, tanquam*

† Medical Commentaries, part I. p. 73 & 74.

rerum notas, mutavit. But, to discuss this point in plain English, surely Mr. P.'s doctrine being *short* and *imperfect*, is no proof that it was not taken from Haller; for Haller's account of it is both *short* and *imperfect*. It was a new observation, and required careful and repeated examinations; therefore Haller, at first, talked as became a true philosopher, with diffidence; and, at last, had hardly a doubt left:---*causa videtur poni---ni fallor---suspicio nondum matura---non sufficiunt experimenta---Hæc omnino merentur considerari a viris gnaris & veri cupidis & per experimenta repeti---Hæcenus dubius---nullum fere dubium superest.* These expressions shew, that this sketch by the great physiologist, though *short* and *imperfect*, was not struck off at once, and at random, but was the result of observation and patient enquiry; and if he shall be blessed with health and long life (which I most earnestly pray for) he will probably favour us with a more full and perfect account of the matter. Here I cannot help observing how slowly, and with what difficulty, we acquire knowledge by study; yet how quickly and easily it comes by intuition. What Baron Haller took so much pains to find out, was---*always Mr. P.'s opinion.*

Mr. P. also says, that, if he had borrowed it from Haller, it was improbable he should have given *so erroneous an account of what he has so fully explained.* This is indeed a specious argument, as it is proposed; but, when examined, it is another very unfortunate one, as it proves what it is brought to disprove. The only error in Mr. Pott's account, that I am aware of, is this; that the *Testis* remains in the *Abdomen* till birth, and is then forced down by breathing, crying, &c. But this very error is in Haller's book; and therefore serves to prove the plagiarism. It was easier to take the whole, than to correct the error. As it was,---*it had always been Mr. P.'s opinion.* The only difference is this: B. Haller published the opinion cautiously, and with hesitation, as it arose in his mind from the examination of a few cases: But Mr. P. took it all without hesitation, and gave his own little bit of a sort of a reason for it; *viz.* It was right the *Testis* should be out of the way of danger till after birth.

We have seen the force of his first argument: It proves what was not intended. He goes on thus: "If I had taken my account of the descent of the *Testes* from thence, why did I not also learn from thence the reason why the Intestine and *Testis* are sometimes found in the same *sacculus?*" Because Baron Haller neither mentioned this case, nor gave any reason for it. What says Mr. P. to this plain answer? I presume he will

will call it *rude*, and *malevolent*, and *unprovoked*; but he must allow that it is a full answer to his second argument, and that hitherto, therefore, he stands justly suspected of plagiarism from B. Haller. He proceeds to urge his second argument thus: "One of these facts was as much the subject of my enquiry, at that time, as the other; and in the *Opuscula Pathologica* (the book alluded to) are both of them satisfactorily accounted for, and made to illustrate each other." The reader will perhaps be amazed when I assure him, that the one fact in dispute, called here *one of these facts*, is neither accounted for satisfactorily, nor unsatisfactorily; nor made to illustrate the other, or to illustrate itself, or to illustrate any thing else; it is not so much as once mentioned.

Let us go to the next argument: he says, "Why should I call the case related by Mr. Sharp a *lusus naturæ*? Why not avail myself thoroughly of the plagiarism, by giving a true solution of the appearance; shewing that it was not a *lusus naturæ*, nor produced by what Mr. Sharp and Dr. Hunter had thought was the cause of it, but by the intestine being pushed into the open *tunica vaginalis*?" Any man who read Aquapendente's Tract on the valves of the veins, might have availed himself thoroughly of it, and explained the circulation of the blood; yet the obvious inference, which had escaped Aquapendente, escaped every body, till Harvey's keen glance caught it. How ridiculous it is in Mr. P. to ask why he did not avail himself of B. Haller's observation, by giving a true solution of the appearance! The question proves only, that it seems to have required a little more thought and attention than he was pleased to give it: which, I presume, his acquaintance will not think very strange. "All this is in the same chapter of the same book;" not in the same, nor in any other chapter of the same book. The reader may stare, indeed; but the fact is so. "From this book Dr. Hunter and his brother derived all their knowledge of both these subjects." People naturally judge of others by their own experience of themselves. No; I beg Mr. P.'s pardon: he knows that a good deal of anatomical knowledge is to be got without books or dissections. Let any man, for instance, who knows but the common things, keep a good correspondence with students, or borrow notes taken at lectures, and he may, with very little trouble, become as great a discoverer as a modern *junior professor*, or *senior surgeon*. If the reader will take the trouble of comparing Mr. J. Hunter's account of *both these subjects*, with B. Haller's, he will see what reason Mr. P. could have to assert, with original simplicity, in his defence, that Dr. Hunter and his brother took all their knowledge of both

these facts from this book. “ And this book (if I had read it) must have informed me of both, as certainly as of one. Is Haller’s account of one more plain and intelligible than of the other? ” Haller’s account of the one is indeed very plain and intelligible; but he has given no account at all of the other, neither intelligible nor unintelligible. “ Or is it likely that I should read only what related to one, and not what related to the other, when they were not only in the same chapter and page, but equally parts of the subject I was then enquiring into? ” The reader, by this time, may think it very likely, that he read what related to the one, and as unlikely, that he should read what related to the other, because there is nothing said of the other, either in the same, or in any other chapter or page of the book.

“ Indeed, the spirit of criticism, or, more properly, the desire of finding fault, has in this instance got the better of that artful caution, with which Dr. Hunter most frequently either expresses or conceals his sentiments, has carried him beyond the proper mark, and made him prove too much.” If it is a crime, we must not accuse Mr. Pott of artful caution; and we can easily believe, he thinks Dr. Hunter has proved too much. But by-standers observe best whether the mark be hit or not. “ Since, if I had read the *Opuscula Pathologica* of Haller, previous to the publication of my general treatise in 1756, I must have obtained from thence that very information, which the Doctor says I got from his brother in 1757, at the same time when he is said to have explained to me the Doctor’s hypothesis; for in that book, as I have already observed, are contained both the Doctor’s hypothesis, (as he calls it) and Mr. Hunter’s discovery.” The reader must be sick of all this over and over; and therefore I will tell him, for the last time, that my hypothesis is not contained in that book, nor ever was in any book, till Mr. Pott made a pamphlet of it, and took it to himself. My hypothesis was, that in some cases of *Herniæ* the intestine must lie on the outside of the *tunica vaginalis propria testis*, and in others within it. These last were reckoned unaccountable by Mr. Pott, who considered them as *accidents*, or *lusus naturæ*; and Haller has made no comparison, contrast, or opposition, between the two species. It is true, indeed, that by reasoning and applying what the Baron says of the anatomy of the parts in fœtuses, it is easy to give a solution of Mr. Pott’s *lusus naturæ*; and accordingly it struck me when I read Haller, but in the way of *inference*; and this I owned in the account which I gave of the matter, as freely as Mr. Pott tells what he read in Lagaranne, and
what

what use he made of it. Mr. Pott must not pretend, that because the doctrine is contained in Haller *by inference*, therefore I did not make the discovery; for if he makes that plea, I shall easily prove, by the same argument, that he had himself made the discovery, when he called it an *accident*, or *lusus naturæ*; that is, when he did not understand it. He called it a *lusus naturæ* in his general treatise in 1756; yet, in that very book, and in the passage which appears so evidently to be taken from B. Haller, he says, “ This passage of the *Testis* from the belly into the
 “ *Scrotum*, I take to be the principal cause of the ruptures of infants;
 “ for the ring, or aperture, being by this means dilated, a portion of
 “ caul, or gut, has an opportunity of slipping through, before the aper-
 “ ture has had time to contract itself again.” The intelligent reader will see that the discovery is contained in this; because, if the caul, or gut, takes the opportunity of following the *Testis*, before the passage contracts itself, it cannot be otherwise than in contact with the *Testis*, which it follows. Yet he owns now, that he could not then account for the contiguity of those parts in a rupture, and therefore called such a rupture a *lusus naturæ*.

But to return to the subject of plagiarism from B. Haller. Mr. P. goes on thus: “ I am very willing to allow that Dr. Hunter might
 “ reasonably presume,” and the reader surely cannot now doubt, “ that
 “ I had seen the *Opuscula*; but is such a presumption to be immedi-
 “ ately admitted as a proof;” yet you see when it is well examined, it equals demonstration in the conviction which it gives; “ or can it be
 “ thought sufficient to authorize or vindicate so rude and so unprovoked
 “ an attack as he has made on me?” Now, after all, this *rude* and *unprovoked* attack, as he would wish the reader to believe it to have been, was made upon him in the following manner. I was accused by professor Monro, senior, of having a dispute with Mr. P. I *knew* that Mr. P. had taken an observation from me, and assumed the honour of it to himself; therefore my attack was not *unprovoked*: whatever the attack was, it was made on that account. In the introduction to my accusation of him, I had occasion to quote a remarkable passage, which I was then convinced (and now have proved) was taken from B. Haller: yet all that I said of it was this, that *I felt some uneasiness for my friend*. Surely that was *gentle*, not *rude*. I appeal to his friends. But if he insists that it was *rude*, I will cut this point very short, by recantation: I beg his pardon for having said so; and now declare, with great civility, that I feel no uneasiness at all for my old friend. If the reader does, I

must applaud his generosity; and can say, with great sincerity, I was once in his situation; and think it very probable he will come to mine, when he knows his friend a little better.

S E C T. II.

The true State of Mr. P.'s Visit to Mr. J. HUNTER.

TO follow the order of time, the next enquiry should be into the account which Mr. Pott has given of the occasion and circumstances of his discovering and ascertaining the nature of the particular species of *Hernia*, which made the subject of his pamphlet. Here he stands accused of plagiarism from my brother and from myself. One of the most important circumstances of the transaction is a visit which he paid to my brother. I shall begin with that visit, because it is important; because it will serve as a key to other things; and because Mr. P. and I represent it in such different lights: it shall be the test between us, of proper behaviour, of candour, and veracity.

Mr. P. pretends (p. 145) that he called at my house in Covent-Garden with an intention of telling me what he had done; that he learnt nothing from my brother, &c. "He shewed me *one single preparation*," says he; "he did not shew me any other preparation----nor do I remember that the congenial *Hernia* was once mentioned by either of us during my short visit, notwithstanding the Doctor has said that his brother "shewed me his preparations with great readiness, and explained to me his (the Doctor's) hypothesis of the contiguity of the intestine and testicle." Our conversation turned entirely on the passage of the *Testes* from the belly into the *Scrotum*; and, as far as I could perceive, (for he spake with the most cautious, apprehensive reservedness) our sentiments were alike.

"My papers were at this time finished, and corrected for the press; ---nor did I alter a single syllable in them, in consequence of this visit to Mr. Hunter. But had that gentleman been half so explicit as his brother represents him to have been; had he been so ingenuous as to have told me, that either he or the Doctor had regarded themselves as the discoverers; had he signified that either of them had any intention to say, or to publish any thing about it---I would either have suppressed my book, or have mentioned their names in it.----And as

“ to the honour of the discovery, it would not have given me any concern at all.

“ This is a short and true account of the fact; this is the thing for which I have been traduced in print.---Page 149. The manner in which I attained my knowledge I have already most faithfully related. ---Page 156. But excepting that single circumstance of not having related the short conversation which passed between his brother and me, and from which I did not derive the least degree of information, ---Page 162. When I published my tract on the congenial Rupture, I had no intention to anticipate either of them, or to prevent either of them from enjoying any reputation or honour, which might arise to them from their labours on this, or any other subject: if he (Dr. H.) had said, that he or his brother was then enquiring into that part of the animal œconomy, I should most probably never have prosecuted my enquiries,---as I should have known that the subject was in so able hands: I want no reputation of that sort.”

Now the reader shall judge between us, from positive and unquestionable evidence, which the point in question happens to admit of.

My brother gives me the following account of Mr. Pott's visit:

“ One morning, some time in the autumnal course of lectures 1756, Mr. Pott called upon me in Covent-Garden, and spoke to me of the preparations which I had made relating to the *Testes* and *Herniæ* of children, and expressed a desire of seeing them. I went with him into the preparation-room, and we examined them together; and some gentlemen, who lived with me at that time, were in the room with us, or at least were coming and going, for we were some time together; and after we had examined and talked of these matters, Mr. Pott came into the parlour with me, and sat with me some time longer. I cannot take upon me to say which, or what number, of those preparations were then examined; but, to the best of my knowledge, I shewed them all; and I had several at that time. I told him what I had done, and told him the use you (Dr. Hunter) had made of these observations, in explaining the different situations of the intestine in *Herniæ*, viz. Whether it lies in contact with the *Testis*, or on the outside of the *Tunica vaginalis*. I particularly remember that he was then of opinion, that respiration was the cause of the descent of the *Testis*, as he had explained it in his book of Ruptures, which was published some months before; and that I took the liberty

“ of declaring against that opinion, and told him I had commonly
 “ found them out of the *Abdomen* before the time of birth. Mr. Pott
 “ did not tell me, or give me any hint which I understood, that he had
 “ an intention to publish upon the subject.

“ 8th of Oct. 1763.

John Hunter.”

My brother's verbal account at the time, was enough for my satisfaction; because I was as sure of the truth of what he said, as I could have been by the evidence of my own senses. But some time after the Critical Reviewers had taken notice of Mr. P.'s pamphlet, I was told, by a gentleman of the profession, that Mr. P. had been attacked in company about his discoveries, and that he positively denied having ever seen our preparations. Upon this information, I applied to Mr. Luscombe, surgeon, of Exeter, who was in my brother's house at the time of Mr. Pott's visit; and I desired my brother to write to Mr. Patch, surgeon, then of Exeter, but now of London, who was likewise present. In answer to my application, Mr. Luscombe wrote to me as follows:

“ SIR,

“ In the autumnal course of your lectures, which I had the pleasure
 “ to attend, boarding then with your brother, I perfectly remember that
 “ Mr. Pott called on him about the latter end of the course, (which
 “ began Oct. 4th, 1756) and that your brother then demonstrated to
 “ him the situation of the *Testis* in the *Fœtus*; the manner of its passing
 “ down into the *Scrotum*; the species of rupture when in contact with
 “ the *Testis*; and shewed its situation, and explained the manner of
 “ its passage, with your opinion about that rupture; *viz.* that it was
 “ produced from infancy, being what is called the Congenial Rupture,
 “ which was fully explained in the same course. Returning you my sin-
 “ cere thanks, &c. &c.

“ Exeter, May 5th, 1759.

Sam. Luscombe, jun.

In Mr. Patch's letter to my brother, which is a long one, upon a variety of subjects, is the following paragraph: “ In answer to your en-
 “ quiry, if I can recollect being present at the time Mr. Pott saw your
 “ preparations, I perfectly remember that Mr. Luscombe, one morning,
 “ I believe in November last, came into my room, and told me that Mr.
 “ Pott was in the preparation-room with you; on which I went in,
 “ and

“ and saw you two looking on those preparations of the *Fœtus*, where
 “ the *Testes* are seen descending into the *Scrotum*, and the *sacs* or pro-
 “ cesses of the *Peritonæum*, that are afterwards to become the *Tunicæ*
 “ *Vaginales*. You then told him, you had taken drawings of those
 “ parts, and that the Doctor, in his lectures of the former winter, had
 “ explained, from these preparations, the manner in which a congenial
 “ rupture is formed ; which I likewise had heard from some of the pu-
 “ pils who attended him at that time.” In another part of the same
 letter, speaking of the account given in the Critical Review of Mr. Pott’s
 pamphlet, he says, “ I can vouch for the truth of all that is there said,
 “ except the quotation from Mr. Cheselden, and that I do not remem-
 “ ber that the drawings of the parts were shewn at lectures, though
 “ Mr. Lufcombe and I had the pleasure of seeing them among your cu-
 “ rious collection of drawings.” This letter is dated, “ Exeter, June,”
viz. June 1758, and signed, “ James Patch.”

Here is such evidence as requires no comment ; it settles the point in
 question, and renders all argumentation or declamation equally useless ;
 it is the concurring testimony of two gentlemen of the profession, who
 understand the subject, who are independant and disinterested ; it proves
 that I had shewn these preparations, and taught that doctrine of *Herni-*
niæ in my public lectures, even before Mr. Pott’s first book was pub-
 lished, at which time he owns that he knew nothing of the *Hernia con-*
genita, and therefore called it a *lufus naturæ* ; it proves that he was in-
 formed of all this ; it proves that he came as a friend to see these pre-
 parations, and saw them, and heard my brother’s opinions and mine
 upon the subject ; it proves that he knew from my brother’s own mouth,
 that he had made drawings of the parts to illustrate the doctrine ; and
 Mr. Pott allows, that he never spoke, either to my brother or to me,
 of his intentions of publishing any thing upon the subject ; yet, in a
 few months after that visit, he published the facts and doctrine, as his
 own, without mentioning our names in any way whatever : he allows
 too, that the gentle, but determined rebuke which I gave him, for this
 singular behaviour, was extorted from me, when a supposed dispute with
 him was objected to me in reproach : and now after all, and under the
 weight of these circumstances, he publishes a justification of himself,
 built upon a *flat* and *positive denial* of these *unquestionable facts* ; and
 holds it out to the face of the whole world, with an air of triumph.
 By what name shall we call this species of disorder ?

Οὐκ ἔστ' ἀνοίας οὐδ' ἐν (ὡς ἔμοι δοκεῖ)
Τολμηρότερον.

If physic has no power, and friends no influence; at least, in such a melancholy situation, means might be taken to prevent all access to such dangerous and destructive weapons as pen and ink.

S E C T. III.

The Circumstances alone sufficient Evidence.

THOUGH, in consequence of what has been laid before the reader in the last section, we may consider the dispute between Mr. P. and me to be at an end, I shall beg leave to shew, that the *circumstances* of the case, without that *positive proof*, would be sufficient to convict him before any impartial tribunal. And in suits of this kind, where positive proof can seldom be had; where no fence can be raised to secure property; where property itself is so dear to the first possessor; where it is so right for the public to encourage invention and improvements, and to discourage, or even to punish plagiarism, it is the duty of all ingenuous men to give judgment from the *circumstances*; to suppose that truth is always attended with an ingenuous, consistent, and open behaviour; and that double-dealing, inconsistency, or contradiction, and misrepresentations of particular parts, are *infallible* marks of an unsound whole. Truth always tallies with, and supports truth; and what is not true, may generally be detected by the nature of the prop-work (which must be framed of incongruous stuff) that supports it.

Mr. P. I think, I may say, allows that I explained, in my public lectures, what he called a *lusus naturæ*, before he understood it; for he does not so much as pretend that he knew it before me: he only asserts, that he knew it without me, or found it out himself; and tells us, (p. 143) this was (without specifying the time or date) when he examined a *Fætus*, in company with an inquisitive young gentleman, at that time his dresser at the hospital, who had injected it, and brought it to his house for examination. This is the fact, which he is pleased to fix upon; and I shall, *for the present*, allow, that it was Lagaranne who put him on the enquiry, with his inquisitive dresser. I must, however, beg leave to ask him, why he did not tell us this inquisitive gentleman's name?

name? or was Mr. Pott afraid it would be found out that he was my pupil? for his dressers and apprentices did me the honour of attending my lectures in those days. Or was he fearful lest I should desire the gentleman to say, upon his honour, whether he had not learned the fact from me, or from my pupils, previously to his meeting, upon an enquiry about it, with Mr. P.? and whether, at that meeting, he had not a better title to be called *communicative*, than *inquisitive*? for I have good reason to believe that Mr. Pott himself was the *inquisitive gentleman*. If I had known his name, I might have asked him likewise, if ever Mr. P. had seen his MS. notes of Dr. Hunter's lectures; and some other questions of that kind. This is a very suspicious setting out. I would ask any man of sense, if he can believe that Mr. Pott, when he was publishing a Treatise on Ruptures, did not ask his dressers and apprentices, whether Dr. Hunter had any thing new upon the subject; or desire to see their notes, that he might judge for himself. He allows, that he attended Dr. Hunter's lecture at the theatre, not without hopes of getting some hints upon the subject; and he does not deny, that he desired him to explain his ideas upon a dead body, dissected in private for that purpose. Can any man of sense believe, that his apprentices or dressers did not immediately tell him of a curious discovery, that was made public at a lecture, concerning the subject of his book, and explaining a fact which he had been forced to call a *lusus naturæ*? We see that he talked with those gentlemen upon such subjects. Can he have any reasonable pretext for not being informed of this discovery? Must not information have reached him, by twenty different channels? could they all fail? can a man, with any *decency*, plead such ignorance? He has not even the plea of distance; the pitiful plea of the Professor, who pretended to have *found out*, at Edinburgh, what at that time was *publicly taught* in the anatomical schools of London, Oxford, Cambridge, and Glasgow.

So far the matter is very clear: now let us trace him down through his own improbable story. "As the thing gave him much pleasure, (p. 144) he procured a number of subjects, examined carefully, noted appearances, drew conclusions, made preparations, and shewed both the papers and the preparations to many of his friends; and, among the rest, to Mr. Serjeant Hawkins, Mr. Sainthill, the late Mr. Nourse, and the late Mr. Webb. When he had examined a great variety of subjects, he enlarged his notes, digested them into better order, and shewed them again to the same gentlemen." But all this time he kept his friend Dr. Hunter in the dark. He consulted his other friends

twice, but him not once. Surely there must have been some good reason for this conduct; because, when he was about writing his book on Ruptures, he took some pains to get a meeting with Dr. Hunter, and was desirous of hearing him explain his ideas on a dead body, procured on purpose. Perhaps he may say, that from the very little satisfaction received at this meeting, he was afterwards less solicitous about having his opinion of any doctrine or observation in anatomy. But, as he tells us, he always was pleased to *entertain a high opinion of Dr. Hunter's anatomical abilities*, it seems strange he should never consult him once, when he consulted his other friends twice. Is not this conduct a demonstration of awkwardness, perplexity, and distress of mind? Accordingly, being sensible of the suspicious appearance, he labours to remove any impression of that kind from the minds of his readers, thus; "Having always," says he, "entertained a high opinion of Dr. Hunter's *anatomical abilities*, I called at his house, designing to have told him what I had done, and to have had some conversation with him on the subject: The Doctor was not at home, but his brother, Mr. Hunter, was, and with him I had some talk." Here again is the pitiful pretence of a Professor. Both of them would make the world believe, that they had meant to see me; but the Professor called at my house in Jermyn-street, when he knew I was at my lecture-rooms in Covent-Garden; and Mr. Pott called at those rooms in the morning, because he knew I was there only in the evening. He does not pretend that he had made an appointment with me at that time, or desired a meeting with me afterwards, or ever called at my house in Jermyn-street. All this demonstrates that he had no particular desire of seeing me, whatever he may wish to make his reader imagine. What passed between him and my brother, has been related in the preceding section; and he does not pretend that he talked of his papers, or dropped any hint of his intention to publish: Yet he says, in the next page, that his papers were then corrected for the press, and he did not afterwards alter a single syllable in them. Surely, he expressed his own conduct and feelings, when he said of my brother, that *he spake with the most cautious, apprehensive reservedness*. That he did alter some *syllables*, however, in consequence of that visit to my brother, is clear; because, in the pamphlet, he gave up, or corrected, his error of respiration being the cause of the descent of the *Testis* from the *Abdomen* into the *Scrotum*. The reader must now be perfectly sensible, that this part of Mr. P's conduct with regard to me, upon one supposition, is very consistent indeed; but, upon any

any other supposition, is altogether inconsistent, dark, and absurd; and therefore it must be a strong evidence, with all impartial men, of design, evasion, and under-hand dealing.

Some months after this visit to my brother (which he has so egregiously misrepresented, as was shewn in the second section, and which therefore does not argue, but demonstrate unfair dealing), without seeing or seeking me, he published his pamphlet, and neither named my brother nor me; and this at a time when he knew that all the people of this place, who were conversant with anatomical enquiries, knew that his tract contained nothing material, but what I had made public in my anatomical lectures, before he pretends to have known any thing of the matter; and what I was continuing to make public in succeeding courses of lectures. In this production of Mr. P. the doctrine being transplanted from its native soil, and nursed up in the dark, was imperfect; the descriptions incorrect in some places; no figures of the parts were given for illustration; but three cases from St. Bartholomew's hospital were added, to make up a pamphlet of forty pages; a *time-serving* composition, which was hurried into the world, to snatch the only possible moment for raising reputation; and, if we mistake not, it has raised a reputation which will not easily be shaken off, or soon forgotten.

Almost as soon as Mr. P.'s tract was published, (which he sent me, indeed; for how could he avoid doing so?) I complained of him, by name, in the most open manner, in my lecture; and the Critical Reviewers charged him with plagiarism, when they gave an account of his tract. Yet Mr. P. bore all this without replying, or taking any method of public justification. Had he been conscious of having acted an ingenuous part, it is natural to suppose that he would have justified himself, while dates and other circumstances were recent, and proofs easily procured; for the defence which he has given, at last, is of such a nature as required no great time to be prepared. It contains no testimonies. It is barely the account which he is pleased to give of the matter: his own assertions, without any proof. If his story was true, why did not he, with indignation, answer an accusation made in so public a manner? He knew of it; and says (p. 162) he *restrained* some of the students from speaking of it to me. Why should he *restrain* them from following their inclination, if he knew that his conduct had been proper? Would he persuade the world, that he was afraid it might have hurt my reputation? It is probable, he was afraid it might hurt his own. If I had *spoken to himself*, he says, he would have cleared up the

matter ; but as I had spoken only to about an *hundred gentlemen*, in a lecture, we may presume he thought there could be no reason for taking any notice of it ; and that it could not be supposed to affect his reputation. But why did he take no notice of what was said in the Critical Review ? He tells us, (p. 158) *an anonymous writer has no just claim to an answer* ; and he believes the Reviewers themselves will think so. What, does he really believe that the Reviewers are either so humble, or so abandoned, as to think that no answer is necessary, when they openly charge a man with plagiarism ? Reviewers have character and influence, though they have no name ; and the more influence, indeed, as they profess being impartial : And thence we see authors of this, and of every nation, daily defending their characters, when they think they have been unfairly represented to the public by Reviewers. Why then should Mr. P. trim so nicely, and so patiently, the balance of *just claim*, when his character was so openly attacked ? but, at last, after more than *five years patience*, he found there was a just claim, and published his defence.

After these remarks, it might, perhaps, be thought an affront to the reader's understanding, or candour, to offer farther proofs of something extremely like disingenuity in Mr. P.'s conduct. Yet I will suppose, either that I may have been partial to my own reasoning, or that I may have failed in conveying my ideas clearly. Therefore, I will beg leave to offer one proof more ; which, indeed, is of the most convincing nature : it is this, that the whole story of Lagaranne, which has been so circumstantially related, and upon which Mr. P. rests his defence, by accident has been found to be *an imposition upon the public*.

Some time ago, (about eighteen months, if I can trust my memory) in a conversation upon some points of anatomy and surgery, and particularly upon the *Hernia congenita*, which I happened to have with Mr. Moffatt, surgeon to the Middlesex-hospital, and reader of anatomy, he asked me, if I had read De Lagaranne upon *Hernia* ? Upon my saying I had not, he told me, there was something in that writer, which was very near to a full account of the *Hernia congenita*, and he offered to lend me the book ; adding, that he had shewn it to *Mr. Pott, who was a good deal surprized and pleased with it*. I thanked Mr. Moffatt, and told him I had the book, (as well as a thousand more, at least, which, to my shame, I had not read) and that I would certainly look into what the author had advanced.

When I observed what use Mr. Pott had made of Lagaranne, in his defence, the misrepresentation diverted me exceedingly. I was very desirous that the public might know the secret; and therefore I wrote a letter to Mr. Moffatt, putting him in mind of what he had told me, and complaining of the ill use which Mr. Pott had made of his information. I told him, that he could not be angry with me for telling the truth; nor could he, with honour, refuse to be an evidence in support of it. Then I put some questions to him upon the subject; and he was pleased to send me the following answer.

“ SIR,

“ If I am called upon, however disagreeable it may be, Truth
 “ obliges me to declare, that I shewed to Mr. Pott the passage in La-
 “ garanne relative to the processes of the *Peritonæum*, in which the Con-
 “ genital *Herniæ* are formed. He did not, at that time, seem to be ac-
 “ quainted with the book. I lent it to him, and in a few days he
 “ returned it, and told me, that he had long had that book; and in-
 “ timated, that he had taken notice of the same passage, before I spoke
 “ to him; and rather wondered that he had not recollected it. *This*
 “ *was after the publication of his tract*; and, I believe, about the time
 “ when that number of the Critical Review was published, which gave
 “ an account of his tract. I am, &c.

“ Queen-street, Nov. 14, 1763.

J. Moffatt.”

This evidence puts the fiction of *Lagaranne*, and of the *inquisitive gentleman*, in so clear a light, that it requires no comment. What Mr. Pott could say for himself, in this very awkward situation, we shall probably never know; for he has declared that he will write no more upon the subject: and the world may think the declaration was made at a very proper time; *viz.* When his subject was growing intractable and desperate. But my intention being only to convince the candid reader, I will not dwell upon circumstances so humiliating to an author, and to a man.

S E C T. IV.

REFUTATION of absurd ACCUSATIONS.

BESIDES the great points in dispute between Mr. P. and me, which it was *necessary* to settle, some questions have arisen, which would not deserve an answer upon any other occasion; and yet may, with propriety enough, claim some attention, now that the pen is in my hand.

Mr. P. seems to exult in thinking it probable, that I was the author of the account, which was given of his pamphlet, in the Critical Review; and then (p. 159) triumphs over this supposed behaviour, as cowardly and treacherous. In the same page also, he complains, that I attacked him openly at my lectures, and is surprised that I was not ashamed to do it, and ashamed to confess it: *An unmanly method, says he, and equally unbecoming a man of candour, or a man of spirit.* Now it seems difficult to conceive, that both those attacks were made by the same hand, they are so unlike: The one was in the dark, and might be treacherous; the other was open, and could only be impudent, if it was at all wrong. It is ridiculous enough to reckon it unbecoming a man of spirit; for, in my mind, an attack made openly, and by name, before a number of gentlemen, and afterwards acknowledged and repeated in print, is not one of the strongest and most decisive marks of the want of a decent share of spirit. I own I should rather suspect the man who, instead of defending himself when he is attacked, stands complaining of the *unmanly* manner, and wrangles about the justice of the *claim*; who disregards one challenge because it has no name, and another because it has.

But, to examine these two inconsistent charges a little more particularly, I must tell the reader, that the account in the Critical Review was not mine, in any other sense than that it was the language I used at the time, both in my lectures, and among my private acquaintance; and therefore the substance of it was, probably enough, delivered by myself to the anonymous person who calls himself *Pupil*, either in a lecture, or in private conversation. I made no secret of the complaint; so that it might easily have been sent to the Reviewers, by any friend of mine. And it is no wonder that two little mistakes should have crept

crept into the account, without any intention of misrepresenting facts. Accordingly, Mr. P. is there said to have quoted Mr. Cheselden as well as Mr. Sharp, which is an error; but it is an innocent error; for it is not of the least consequence in the dispute; and accordingly Mr. P. who could easily have disproved it, allows it to pass without notice. The other error is this: it is said in that account, that I had complained of Mr. P. *to himself*. This most certainly is a mistake: I never did, and never shall. If I had been the author of the account, that error should not have been introduced, for this reason, among others, that I should not have wished my friends to believe, that I had had any communication with him, after the publication of his pamphlet. From that time he was not to be of my acquaintance; my opinion was totally *changed*; the grounds I went upon were *certain*; and as I was certain that I was ill treated, complaining to him would have been as mean, as it would have been useless.

But, after all, if the account given by the Reviewers, or Pupil, (or, to please him, *by myself*) was *false*, it was unjustifiable, injurious, and infamous: but if it was *true*, as I aver, and have proved it to be, (except in the above-mentioned insignificant articles) pray to what purpose is all this wrangling, and accusation about the author of it? Had not I a right to tell first without my name, (if I had thought it proper) what I had before told openly in my public lecture, and afterwards told in a book, to which I put my name? why should not my friends write to the Reviewers? it appears by the Critical Review for June 1757, that Mr. Pott's friends did so.

The other complaint urged against me is, the telling my *tale* to the young people at my lecture-room. "I am really," says he, (p. 159) at a loss to say "which has been most surprizing to me, the Doctor's having made such a complaint, or his not having been ashamed to acknowlege it. Why make an appeal to a set of people, who could not possibly know any thing of the matter, or, at least, as it related to me? nor whether the complaint was well or ill grounded? Why should Doctor Hunter be so vain as to imagine, that his *ipse dixit* must be implicitly believed by all who heard him? &c." Has Mr. P. really got into such *habits* and *ways* of thinking, that he is surprized any body *tells the truth*, and is not ashamed to acknowlege it? I have proved every article of that appeal to be *true*: Why then should he be surprized, either that I made it, or that I was not ashamed to acknowlege it? Because, says he, it was made *to a set of people, who could not possibly know any thing of the matter, or, at least, as*
it

it related to him. It is very strange, indeed, if the gentlemen who attended my lectures *could not possibly know* what I had *demonstrated there*. Several of them had been present, and bore witness to every part of the transaction; and the rest of them *could not possibly* doubt facts, which were of so glaring a nature, and so well attested by their fellow-students.

Conscious, no doubt, of the absurdity of the first part of his proposition, Mr. P. endeavours to give it a little plausibility by adding, *or, at least, so far as it related to him.* This is another phantom; the mere shadow of an argument. All thinking men must see, that the students could very well know all the material part, even as it related to him. They could read his first book, and then they could not but know, that while I was explaining the *Hernia congenita*, he was calling it a *lusus naturæ*, or accident. Was this above their capacity? They could know from one another (for some were present) that he came, after this, as a friend, and saw the preparations which my brother had made, and which I had shewn to them in lectures, and heard our doctrines and opinions explained. Was this beyond their comprehension? And, as his pamphlet was published when the complaint was made to them, they could read it, and could see that the whole was mine; and yet that he had taken the whole to himself, without mentioning my name, directly or indirectly. Was this dark, or intricate, or beyond their reach? Was it necessary to know more than those facts, to judge of my complaint, or of his behaviour? or, was it necessary, before they could possibly know any thing of the matter, that they should wait patiently five long years, and be made acquainted with the instructive and delectable history of *one Gargantua*, and *the inquisitive gentleman of St. Bartholomew's*? a romance, which, it has been already proved, had not an existence, even in the author's fertile imagination, till some time after.

But, says he, (p. 160) “ it was disingenuous to endeavour to set me in
“ a contemptible light to his hearers, without having once mentioned
“ the thing to me, or hearing what I had to say in my own vindica-
“ tion.” Had his behaviour been only doubtful, I should have endeavoured, some way or other, to have found it out, before I had complained of him in public: but he had saved me that trouble, by removing all possibility of doubt. There was at once an end of our friendship, and of my respect for him. *Fides, ut anima, unde abiit, nunquam redit.* Hear what he had to say? I knew at that time, as well as the reader knows now, that he had nothing to say in his vindication, which could be to the purpose; and yet, it is my sincere opinion, that

he lost nothing among his acquaintance, by what he is pleased to call my endeavours to make him appear contemptible. However, I endeavoured to represent him fairly, and as he was: if the figure he made was respectable, the merit was all his own; and if it was not, the demerit was not mine.

It is pleasant enough to see the pains he takes, to make the world believe, that I had been babbling to boys, and mis-leading young minds, who could not judge for themselves. He affects not to know the kind of assembly that he speaks of. There are always a great number of gentlemen present at these lectures, who are enabled, both by education and age, to judge of more difficult questions than any which this dispute has occasioned.

I have now answered all the charges which Mr. P. has brought against me, except what are contained in two notes; and these shall next be considered.

In a note (p. 161) he says, “ In the Medical Commentary, speaking
“ of my erroneous account of the time of the descent of the *Testes*, and
“ of my supposed theft from Haller, the Doctor says, that the subject
“ appeared to him *too delicate for conversation*. But though it was too
“ delicate for conversation, even with a man whom he dignifies with
“ the respectable name of *friend*, yet it did not appear too delicate to be
“ made the subject of an anonymous piece of satire. What an idea of
“ *delicacy*, as well as of *friendship*, does this convey! *Hic nigræ succus*
“ *loliginis; hæc est ærugo mera.*”

That the reader may the better understand the idea that I meant to convey of *delicacy* with my *friend*, and clearly see our author's sophistry, I beg leave to inform him, that in the year 1756 I treated a *very delicate* subject (*viz.* my *friend* Mr. P.'s supposed plagiarism from Haller) *with silence*, because *he was then my friend*: but, after he published his pamphlet in the year 1757, in which he took from me (till then his *friend*) what he knew was mine, and what he knew I should be sorry to lose, without either asking my consent, or making any acknowledgment; then, I say, he had no right to expect *delicacy* or *friendship* from me. Yet, even then, I wrote no *anonymous satire*, but *complained openly* of his most *indelicate* and *unfriendly* behaviour to me. I imagine the reader will now understand the *nigræ succus loliginis*.

-----*Quod vitium procul a fore chartis,
Atque animo prius, ut si quid promittere de me,*

*Possum aliud, vere promitto. Liberiùs si
Dixero quid, si forte jocosius; hoc mihi juris
Cum venia dabis.*

The other note, which I beg leave to answer, is in Mr. P.'s 163^d page. It can be a secret to none of Mr. P.'s readers, that he there reproaches me with having *insulted* him, by sending the Medical Commentaries to him, as it contained some things which *could not be pleasing to him*. Very certain I am, that no *insult* was *intended*; nor, indeed, was any civility meant. It was thought but justice, to let the person concerned have a copy of his accusation, as soon as the public; that he might settle the defence he was to make, and be prepared to talk upon a subject, which was to come into public conversation. This, I am told, is always done. I never complained of my antagonists at Edinburgh, for sending me their publications; and never heard, or supposed, that they were offended at my sending mine to them. But, to avoid all unnecessary argumentation, if Mr. P. was really hurt by my ordering the book to be left at his house, as well as at an hundred more in London, I voluntarily give him the satisfaction which a gentleman thinks sufficient in such cases; *viz.* I assure him, upon my honour, that I did not mean it as an offence or insult, and not only beg his pardon, but promise that I will never again send him any book that I may publish.

Thus I have endeavoured to clear up a dispute, which appeared to me to be of consequence. Had the question been only about unimportant discoveries, and insignificant improvements, it could hardly have deserved a line for every page which has been bestowed upon it: But when the characters of men are *staked* in a dispute, it grows too serious and important to be neglected. This consideration made me send these sheets to the press sooner, and perhaps more incorrect, than I could have wished. Mr. P.'s defence of himself, and accusation of me, came upon me in the very beginning of my hurry; in the first week of my first course of lectures, which is not yet finished. If I had had more leisure, I might have put this Supplement into better order, and might have been tempted to touch upon some other inviting subjects. Mr. P. has supplied me with an unnecessary profusion of matter; insomuch that, instead of having *wantonly sought a dispute with him*, as he would have wished the world to believe, I could, for the sake of argument, give up every point that he has defended, and attack him as a plagiarist, upon new ground. I might begin with his anatomical descriptions, particularly

larly with what he says of the rings in the abdominal muscles. He makes a parade upon this subject, as if he was really an anatomical observer and improver, both in his Treatise on the Hydrocele, and in that upon Ruptures; and with as much easy assurance, as if I had not for many years demonstrated the same things, in a very particular manner in my courses of lectures; and as if there were not now living many hundreds of gentlemen, who know the truth of what I here advance. But as I have done some justice to the two principal characters in this dispute, and can have more useful employment for the very few hours that are at my own disposal, I will give Mr. Pott up to the enjoyment of his reputation, as an ingenious and modest improver of surgery, as a man who is faithful to his friend, and religiously observant of Truth, upon every occasion.

Quæ, si singula vos forte non movent, universa certe inter se connexa, atque conjuncta, movere debebunt.

Jermyn Street,
Dec. 31, 1763.

P O S T S C R I P T.

IT would give me a very sincere pleasure, if I could promise myself that I am now appearing in controversy for the last time: I heartily wish that it may be so. I have never attacked any man who treated me fairly, and do promise that I never will. This is a security on my side, that will not fail; and, we may hope, that the example of my two friends, will prevent the same kind of unfair proceedings from others.

Indeed, my *old master*, Professor Monro, senior, has still a demand upon me; but he will not permit me to discharge my duty to him, and forces me to take this method of endeavouring to prevail upon him. He has honoured me with an *expostulatory epistle*, and flattered me with the promise of publishing a comment upon all my works. Yet I cannot persuade him, in a more private manner, to answer two short, and plain, and fair questions. Therefore I must lay our correspondence before the public, in hopes that my *old master's* friends will use their influence with him, in my behalf.

He sent his *Expostulatory Epistle* to me, with the following letter:

“ To Doctor William Hunter, Physician, London.

“ SIR,

“ In return for your Commentary, I herewith send you a copy of
 “ some animadversions on the part of it immediately relative to me;
 “ and, as this is too small a compensation for such an elegant book, I
 “ shall soon do myself the pleasure to send you a larger volume, of the
 “ same kind, on all your publications, in the vulgar sense, and must, in
 “ the mean time, thank you for furnishing such copious materials to

“ Your old master,

“ Edinburgh, Dec. 4, 1762.

Alexander Monro.”

When I had considered his *Expostulatory Epistle*, I wrote to him as follows:

“ To

“ To Alexander Monro, senior, Professor of Anatomy, Edinburgh.

“ S I R,

“ I return you my thanks for the new edition of your Osteology, which you was pleased to send me. At the same time I received your *Expostulatory Epistle*, and a letter in manuscript.

“ You certainly have a right to demand information of the particular passages in Dr. Noortwyk's book, which I charge you with having misrepresented. They are as follow :

“ Medical Ess. vol. ii. p. 119. The words *most strongly* are substituted for *quam posset proxime* ; which translation alters the sense entirely.

“ *Ibid.* The word *and* (*moved the knife*) is substituted for the word *vel* ; which likewise alters the sense entirely.

“ *Ibid.* p. 124. The following sentence is coined : *And the soft spongy internal substance of the womb is insinuated into the furrows between these knobs.*

“ In my turn, I surely have a right to demand an answer to the two following questions. Who is meant by the *deceased benefactor and friend* ? who by the *first introducer into business*, mentioned in the 27th page of your Epistle ? I flatter myself, you will think it proper to give me a direct answer, as soon as your leisure will permit, that it may not be in the power of malevolence itself to accuse you of *stabbing in the dark*. I am, Sir,

“ Your very humble Servant,

“ London, Jermyn-street, Feb. 11, 1763.

William Hunter.”

I expected an answer ; and own I was surprized at not receiving any. At length I wrote to him again, as follows :

“ To Alexander Monro, senior, &c.

“ S I R,

“ It is now almost ten months since I troubled you with a letter, to which I have hitherto received no answer. I am inclined to do you justice ; yet I cannot well answer your printed *Expostulatory Epistle*, without knowing who are meant by the *deceased benefactor and friend*, and the *first introducer into business*, as they are represented by you in
“ the

“ the 27th page of your *Epistle*. Let me repeat to you, that you cer-
 “ tainly had a right to ask, what the passages were in Dr. Noortwyck,
 “ which I affirmed you had misrepresented; and accordingly I pointed
 “ them out to you. I have the same right to be informed of the *bene-*
 “ *factor* and *first introducer*, whom you have endeavoured to make the
 “ world believe I have used ill. Will you, Sir, who (p. 2.) value
 “ yourself upon your *candour*, and (p. 28) recommend plain speaking in
 “ disputes; who call yourself a *blunt, testy old fellow*; will you, I say,
 “ upbraid me, in the face of the whole world, with having behaved ill
 “ to my *deceased friend and benefactor*, and to my *first introducer into*
 “ *business*, and yet refuse to state the fact, in such a way as that I may
 “ clear myself, if innocent; or make the best reparation in my power,
 “ if I have had the misfortune to be so much in the wrong? I cannot
 “ think you will stoop so low; and therefore I will once more ask you
 “ the question, in this private manner, and wait a reasonable time for
 “ your answer. If you will not favour me with an answer at all, you
 “ must not be offended if I apply in another manner, and clear myself
 “ of your *ill-grounded aspersion*. If you was really so informed, you was
 “ egregiously abused, and you will now be glad to clear yourself; but
 “ if you avoid this fair opportunity of doing me justice, I must accuse
 “ you, not only of spreading, but of raising a *groundless calumny*. I
 “ am, Sir,

“ Your humble Servant,

“ London, Dec. 3, 1763.

William Hunter.”

Hitherto the Professor has not condescended to take notice of these letters; and therefore it is now time to address myself to him in print.

To Alexander Monro, senior, &c.

S I R,

Give me leave to send you a *plain letter*, in answer to your *Expostula-*
tory Epistle. Since the publication of that Epistle, I have, again and
 again, asked you two plain questions, which your friends will probably
 think, you should have answered sooner. Whether you will now, or not,
 is perfectly indifferent to me; but, for your own sake, it might be pro-
 per to say -----; or whatever you have found to go off most speciously
 upon

upon such occasions. You may consult with your relation, whom you have gone some lengths to serve, in his distress.

*Nunc, si quid potes aut tu, aut hic,
Facite, fingite, invenite, efficite.*

And, in the mean time, I will make some short remarks on the rest of your Epistle.

You say, (p. 1) "it was really cruel in me to force you to resume the pen, especially in controversy, which you always disliked so much that you never was the aggressor." This piece of declamation must have entertained your readers, who all know, that in this very dispute, you were the aggressor; and that you wrote a long paper in the Critical Review against me, at a time when I had neither directly nor indirectly brought you into the dispute; and when I had not printed any thing upon the subject. You must allow this fact; and your best friends must allow that it is unanswerable. You will probably best know, what they will say upon this occasion; but I well know what must be their real opinion.

Was you never the aggressor in another instance? Recollect yourself before you speak; and tell the world, who was the author of that coarse attack upon Garengeot, in the Medical Essays, which all gentlemen allow to be a disgrace to the collection.

You tell us (p. 2) that "my late attack in my *Medical Commentaries* on your candour and veracity, the part of your character which you always valued most, piques you so much that you must appeal to the public for redress; and that possibly, when the spirit is thus roused, something more than your vindication will appear." Whatever may afterwards appear, the public, in the mean time, would be glad to see your vindication. Your Epistle is not of that kind: it is vindictive enough, but it is no vindication.

In your 3d, 4th, and 5th pages, indeed, you seem to attempt a vindication; but the attempt ends in nothing. Give me leave to state the case to you. I said that you had forfeited all reputation as an historian, by asserting, first, that *you knew the facts relating to the dispute* (between your son and me) *and sent a fair state of them*; and then by assuring the public, *that Dr. Monro (junior) went to London in absolute ignorance of Dr. Hunter's having any particular opinion concerning Lymphatics, and was surprized when he heard Dr. Hunter teach the doctrine of Lymphatics being*

Absorbents.

Abforbents. Now, Sir, all the world knows, that it has been proved that this was a *direct misrepresentation* of a fact. Had not I then a right to say so, in my defence? and did not I leave you room, for the only defence which *candour and veracity* could make, *viz.* a confession that your antagonist was in the right, and that you were in the wrong? Would not the public have applauded you more, if you had frankly owned your fault, and pleaded the excuse of ignorance? Instead of this, you wrangle, and will not even confess that it was a fault. Your friends will tell you, that it would have been more proper to deprecate, than to shew a spirit of revenge, in so humiliating a situation.

From the 6th to the 16th page of your Epistle, you wrangle with me about your dispute with Dr. Noortwyk. I have told you the passages which you have *misrepresented*, and the fact is as clear as sun-shine; yet I know that you would wrangle for ever, rather than confess that you have been in the wrong. But there is still one way left you, for gaining a victory over me, in this part of our dispute. State the case to Dr. Noortwyk in a letter; you may have an answer from Holland, in two or three weeks: You allow that he is *learned and candid*; ask him if you have translated those passages like a man of *veracity and candour*, the part of your character upon which you value yourself most: Ask him if he has *altered his opinion*. He is *candid*, you know, and therefore will do you justice readily; and as you allow, that he is *learned*, you will not pretend, that he does not understand the meaning of his own words. Your best friends will allow this to be a fair proposal. Try what Dr. Noortwyk will do for a man of *candour and veracity* in great distress.

Unexpectedly, Sir, I am obliged to take my leave of you, very abruptly; but, if I live, this shall not be my final farewell. You shall have the pleasure of hearing from me frequently, till you have gratified my curiosity with respect to my *benefactor and first introducer*. Then, once for all, I will pay my respects to you, and leave you to enjoy the *sweets of your calm retreat*. I intended to have made some remarks upon the rest of your *Epistle*; but while I was writing this *Postscript*, and correcting the proof-sheets of what relates to Mr. Pott, I was so frequently interrupted, that my printer, and many of my friends, began to despair of my finishing what had been promised. At last, on the eleventh of February, I was so fortunate as to meet with a gravid *Uterus*, to which, from that time, all the hours have been dedicated which have been at my own disposal. I have been busy in injecting, dissecting, preserving, and shewing it, and in planning and superintending drawings and plaister casts

casts of it; neither of which can possibly be finished, for some time. You will not then be surprized, that in all this time, I have not once taken up my pen, to finish this *Postscript* on the intended plan. Indeed, it would not have been in my power to have finished it, for some time to come.

I have been so particular in my apology, in order to prevent your thinking me neglectful of you; and likewise that you, who have promised a comment upon all my works, and have thanked me for furnishing such copious materials, may have the pleasure of being informed, that I am preparing more materials for your amusement, and for your criticism. I have already made five very capital drawings from this subject. They, and some more, shall be engraved by the best masters, as soon as possible; and then the whole shall be published. My first and original intention, you know, was to have published ten plates only; but thinking the work imperfect, I waited patiently for more opportunities of adding supplemental figures. Sixteen plates were finished on this plan, several years ago: But still I was dissatisfied with the work, as being incomplete; and, in spite of the importunity of many friends, in spite even of your affectionate and good advice, I kept it from the public. When the additions which have been made, shall be published to the world, I shall have an opportunity of learning whether, for the future, I ought to be directed by your consummate wisdom and prudence, or go on as well as I can, in my own simple and blundering manner. I am, Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

Jermyn-street, March 15, 1764.

William Hunter.

...of it; neither of which can possibly be finished, for some time. I will not then be surpris'd, that in all this time, I have not once taken up my pen, to finish this Postscript on the intended plan. Indeed, it would not have been in my power to have finished it, for some time to come.

I have been so particular in my apology, in order to prevent your thinking me neglectful of you; and likewise that you, who have provided a comment upon all my works, and have thanked me for furnishing such copious materials, may have the pleasure of being inform'd, that I am preparing more materials for your amusement, and for your criticism. I have already made five very capital drawings from this subject. They, and some more, shall be engrav'd by the best masters, as soon as possible; and then the whole shall be published. My first and original intention, you know, was to publish ten plates only; but thinking the work imperfect, I waited patiently for more opportunities of adding supplemental figures.

ERRATA.

Page	line	
3	11	for <i>controverfy</i> read <i>controverfy</i> .
4	22	after <i>faëts</i> put a comma.
9	20	for <i>thoroughly</i> read <i>throughly</i> .
16	1	for $\epsilon\mu\omicron\iota$ read $\epsilon\mu\omicron\iota$.
23	36 & 38	for <i>acknowlege</i> read <i>acknowledge</i> .
24	37	after <i>say</i> put ! instead of ?
29	4	for <i>was</i> read <i>were</i> .
30	18	twice, for <i>was</i> read <i>were</i> .
31	10 & 19	for <i>was</i> read <i>were</i> .

Your very humble servant,

William Hunter.

London Great, March 15. 1764.