

**A statement of facts, relative to the supposed abstinence of Ann Moore, of Tutbury, Staffordshire: and a narrative of the circumstances which led to the recent detection of the imposture: to which is subjoined an appendix, containing medical and other papers, illustrative of the statement / compiled and published at the request of the committee, formed for the investigation of the case.**

### **Contributors**

Richmond, Legh, 1772-1827

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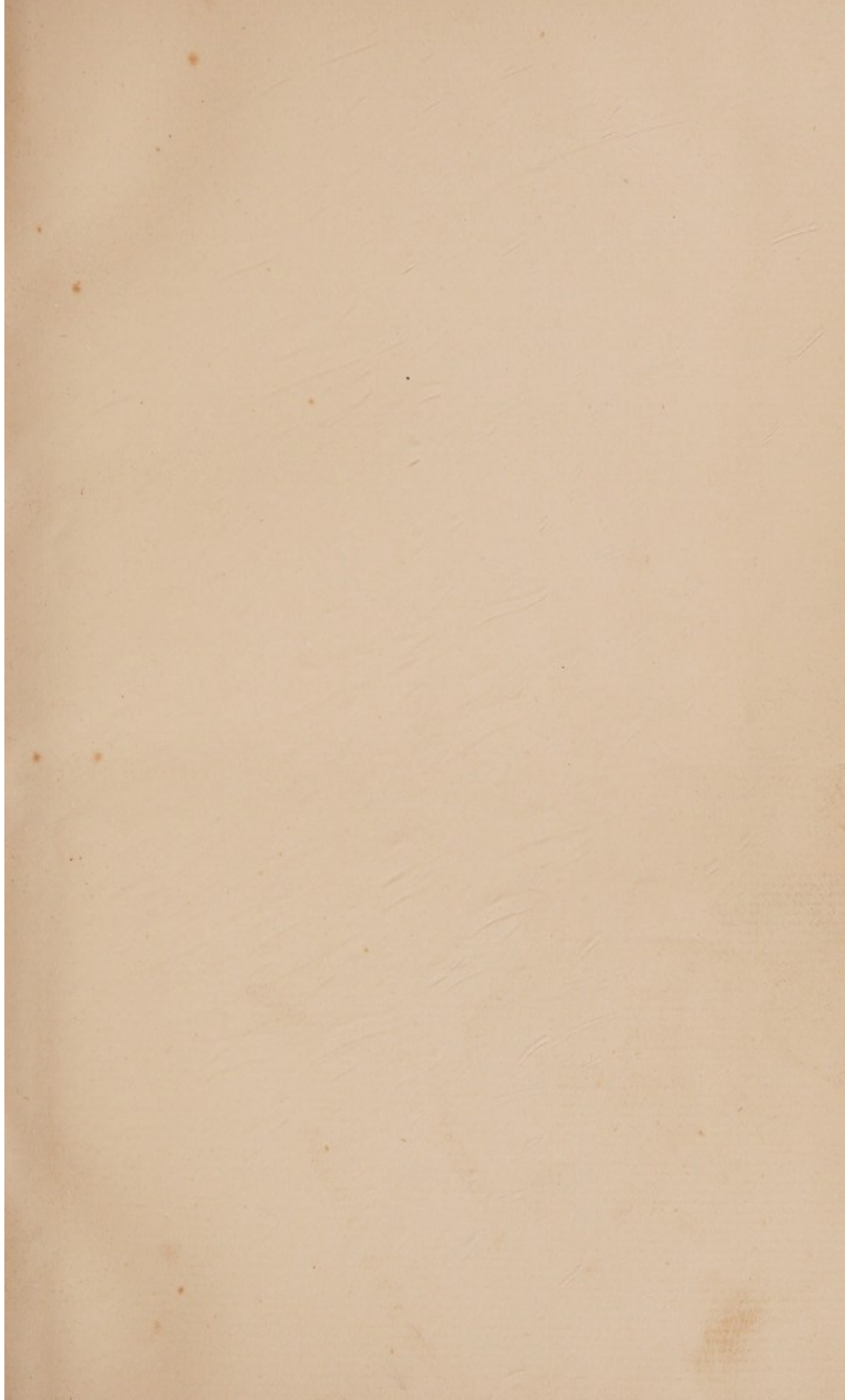


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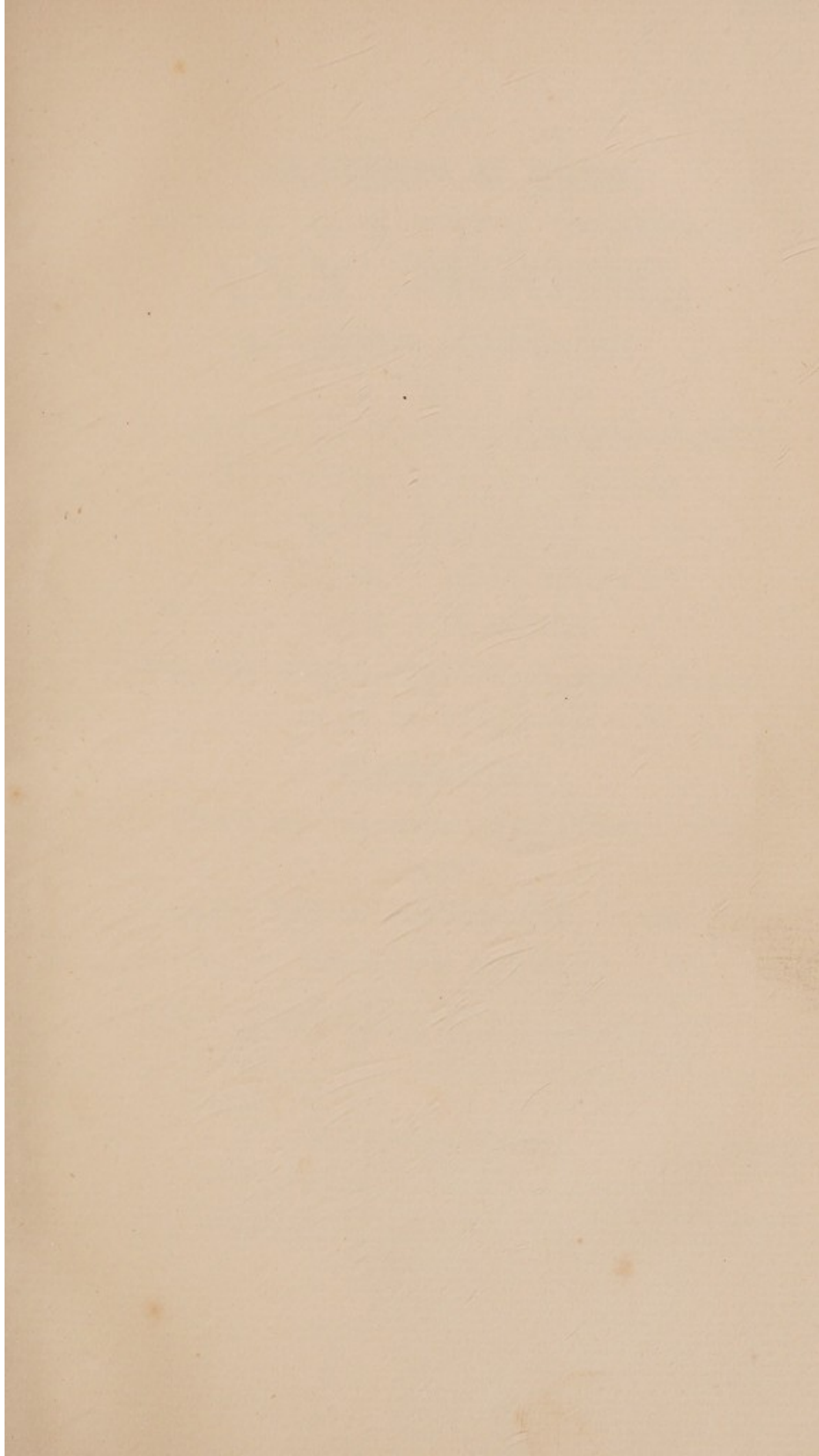
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## Statement of Facts,

RELATIVE TO THE SUPPOSED ABSTINENCE OF

ANN MOORE,

Of Tutbury, Staffordshire :

AND

A NARRATIVE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES

WHICH LED TO THE RECENT DETECTION

Of the Imposture :

TO WHICH IS SUBJOINED AN

APPENDIX,

*Containing Medical and other Papers, illustrative of the Statement :*

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED AT THE REQUEST OF THE

Committee,

FORMED FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE,

BY THE

REV. LEGH RICHMOND, A. M.

*Rector of Turvey, Bedfordshire.*

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Quid agat, quemadmodum vivat, inquiritur.CICERO.

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Burton-on-Trent :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY J. CROFT, HIGH-STREET ;

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London.

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1813.



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*In specie fictæ simulationis pietas inesse non potest ;  
cum qua simul et sanctitatem et religionem tolli  
necesse est.*

CICERO DE NAT. DEOR.

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## PREFACE.

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**A**T a meeting of the Committee formed for the investigation of the truth or falsehood of the professed abstinence of Ann Moore, on Tuesday May 18, 1813, Sir Oswald Mosley, Bart. in the chair, it was resolved, unanimously,

“THAT the thanks of the Committee be given to the Rev. Legh Richmond, (to whose original proposition in November last, and subsequent perseverance in the plan till the present time, the discovery of the imposture has been owing) for the pains he has bestowed upon a subject which has excited so much public interest.” And, “that he be requested to prepare for the press, a Statement of Facts relative to the supposed Abstinence of Ann Moore, and a Narrative of the Circumstances, which led to the recent detection of the Imposture.”

The compiler of the following pages appeals to the foregoing resolution as his apology for engaging in the present undertaking. He was induced to comply with the request of the Committee, as well from motives of sincere respect and regard for his highly respected associates in the business of the recent investigation; as from a conviction of the expediency of laying before the public an authentic detail of the late enquiry.



A series of pressing engagements for some weeks subsequent to the passing of the above resolution, unavoidably prevented him from fulfilling the wishes of the Committee, so immediately as the nature of the subject seemed to require.

He trusts that, in different points of view, good may arise from the vindication of the cause of truth, through the detection of falsehood here recorded. It has been his aim, in the part which he took throughout the whole progress of the late proceedings, whether contemplated in connection with social order, philosophy, or religion, to promote the welfare of his fellow creatures through the medium of active and useful investigation.

In the hope that this object may be yet further attained, he now submits the ensuing Statement to the candid consideration of the Committee and the Public.

*Turvey, June 26, 1813.*



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## STATEMENT OF FACTS,

&c. &c.

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**T**HE subject of the professed abstinence of ANN MOORE, an inhabitant of Tutbury, a small town in the county of Stafford, has for some years past attracted a considerable share of public attention. The circumstantial evidence by which the fact appeared to be authenticated—the number of persons highly respected as to rank, talent, and scientific attainments, who investigated and then avowed their belief of the case—and the absence of any testimony, that seemed materially to invalidate the truth of her assertions for more than four years, had contributed in no small degree to attach importance to the story. Nevertheless, much division of sentiment subsisted amongst medical and other persons in regard to the truth and probability of the fact.

Some objected on abstract principles, by arguing on the impossibility of the case being true. Others, thinking that the physiological question never has been decided as yet, and attaching credit to various other recorded instances of total abstinence from food, have maintained the possibility of the fact, and ad-

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vanced ingenious hypotheses in order to account for it. Some, who admitted the physical possibility of such a mode of subsistence, have suspected imposture in the present instance, owing to observations made upon her behaviour and conduct. Whilst others, by the very same kind of intercourse, have been induced to form the opposite conclusion. The apparent evidence in favour of the validity of her declarations, had, in numerous instances, produced impressions proportionally strong, as the enquirers had repeated opportunities of investigating the testimony. Hence, many, who after a hasty and superficial investigation had once declared their disbelief of the case, subsequently changed their opinion, and became favourable to her, after they had examined more minutely into the circumstances of the history.

On the other hand, some who once thought well of her case, and whose opinions are well known and remembered as they then stood, have since doubted, or from different causes formed decisive conclusions to her disadvantage.

Both the wise and the good have been ranged on each side of the question.

Multitudes of visitors from all parts of the kingdom have flocked to Tutbury, and numbers left it firmly persuaded of the probability of the woman's history being valid and correct.

The constantly repeated assertion of Ann Moore was, that since the spring of 1807 she had not swallowed any kind of solid food, with the exception, once in the month of June following, of the inside of a few black currants; and that since the autumn of 1808 she had not swallowed any liquid *whatsoever*. She also maintained that she could not swallow, (if she



did attempt it) without danger of immediate suffocation ; that she felt neither appetite nor thirst, and had no evacuations.

The question therefore at issue between this woman and the public was that of *total* and *unequivocal* abstinence from the act of swallowing either solids or liquids, of any sort or description.

A committee was recently established in order to investigate the truth or falsehood of the case. Their enquiries have terminated in the detection of the imposture. It is now deemed expedient to lay before the public a statement of facts connected with the discovery. In order to do this in a satisfactory manner, it may be proper to enumerate some of the principal circumstances which had for a length of time induced so many persons to yield their assent to the credibility of the woman's declarations.

The first of these circumstances was the result of the Watch instituted upon her in the autumn of 1808. She had for some years been in a bad state of health, declined in her appetite, and was much reduced in bodily strength. At length she asserted, and it was confirmed by the testimony of two young women of good character, who lived in the same house with her, that she had long ceased to eat solid food, and that she took nothing liquid, except a very small quantity of plain water. This profession of abstinence excited much enmity against her. She was at that time labouring under the pressure of extreme poverty. Her positive declarations on the subject of fasting seemed only to increase the neglect and dislike with which on different accounts she was treated. Her former character had been very indifferent. Separated at an early period from her husband, she had lived in various places of service, in the



last of which she became the mother of two illegitimate children, the youngest of whom, a girl, has lived with her from her infancy. Many circumstances had excited a high degree of local prejudice against her.

It is true, that during the two years preceding the first Watch she began to make a religious profession, seemed to be sensible of the sinfulness of her past state, and to be sincerely anxious to obtain that forgiveness and peace of mind, which a right application of christian principles can alone afford to a guilty conscience. A few benevolent individuals did entertain a belief of her sincerity, and hoped that extreme poverty with other afflictions of body and mind had been made instrumental, through divine mercy, to an important change in her disposition and conduct. These few friends, all of them in respectable stations of life, credited her professions on the score of abstinence, because they trusted in the hopeful appearances of a moral and religious amendment. They were also not aware that she had any temptation at that time to practise an imposition on the subject of abstinence. For it was clear that so far from gaining either credit or advantage by the declaration amongst the great body of her neighbours, she lost both in proportion as she persevered in it.

Under these circumstances, in order to ascertain, if possible, by conclusive evidence, whether she did live without food, a little water excepted, the first Watch was instituted.

Mr. Taylor, a respectable surgeon of Lane End, in Staffordshire, undertook the superintendence of the transaction. He was a man of diligent research, and possessed with strong prejudices against the case. This gentleman's own account of the first Watch is given in the Appendix (A), as one amongst other docu-



ments necessary to exhibit to the reader the nature of that authority, on which a large share of public assent and belief on the conclusiveness of that Watch has rested.

It may suffice here to observe, that at its termination she was firmly believed to have subsisted sixteen days without solid food, and thirteen without liquid. The event entirely established her veracity throughout the town, and was soon made known in every direction.

Another ground of assent to this woman's case was the opinion of a considerable body of medical men expressed in her favour. Several physicians and surgeons of known talent and respectability have visited her, and after an attentive examination of the circumstances, given their sanction, not only to the possibility but the probability of her assertions being true. Some have recorded the case in the public Journals, and given rise to comments and observations of a learned and ingenious nature on the subject of human existence under circumstances of abstinence. Such a collection of materials from medical authority had great weight with many persons in the formation of their own judgments. Extracts from some of the published accounts of Ann Moore's case, and from other articles illustrative of the subject, which have been communicated to the public by respectable writers, are given in the Appendix (A. B.), in order to leave upon record a specimen of the state of opinions on the question at large.

In addition to the abovementioned statements on the subject of Ann Moore's abstinence may be added the various similar instances of long fasting at different times recorded and apparently supported by respectable testimony. These cases have had a



tendency to lessen the indisposition to belief on the ground of the impossibility of the supposition. Whatever may have been the accurate state of facts in regard to any or all of the many published accounts of abstinent persons, yet it is certain that the *supposed* authenticity of those narratives has contributed to support the credit of the present story, corroborated, as it seemed to be, by other species of evidence in her favour.

A few such cases are subjoined in the Appendix, and will, to the investigator of physical truth, afford an interesting subject of enquiry, while they at the same time promote the object which *this* part of the narrative has in view, viz. to exhibit the character and combination of materials which contributed to establish the belief of many thinking persons in the validity of the case of Ann Moore. (See Appendix B.)

Another circumstance which has with many of her visitors had a powerful effect in strengthening the apparent credibility of her declarations on the subject of fasting, is the peculiar and contracted form of the lower part of the body. The correspondence of this manifest symptom with the accounts published by medical gentlemen, was frequently deemed almost conclusive as to the subject of her extreme abstinence. From whatever cause this singular formation of the stomach may have arisen, it undoubtedly had an apparent connection with her abstinent state, and it was repeatedly allowed to be so by those skilled in the anatomy of the human system. As such, it ought to be reckoned among the causes of belief in her case. The letters in the Appendix (A) will elucidate this fact.

A circumstance which much contributed to establish the credit of Ann Moore's case in the minds of not a few of her visitors, was the steady, serious, and



superiour manner and conversation which she frequently exhibited to those with whom she discoursed. The object of the present publication is to illustrate *moral* as well as *physical* knowledge through the medium of the recent disclosure. It is therefore necessary to detail such particulars as relate to the mental, as well as the corporeal characteristics of the case.

Serious and interesting, however, as her behaviour appeared to some, it has been clearly ascertained that she conducted herself differently towards different visitors, and that she was not uniformly consistent in her manner. This will easily account for varying and contradictory conclusions which have been formed concerning her.

It is well known, that in numerous visits which have been made to her by persons of piety, good sense, education, and talent, she maintained an appearance of religious and moral feeling, founded on christian principles and scriptural morality. She spoke with ability, clearness, and propriety on such subjects, and often left an impression of a highly favourable nature on the minds of those who conversed with her. Hence it arose, that the hopeful judgment, which it is the province of christian charity to form and encourage as to the character of others under apparently consistent circumstances, operated in her favour to no small extent. It disposed many respectable and amiable individuals to conclude that she was upright in what she asserted, both as to her mental and bodily state. The one seemed to be a test of the other.

Yet truth requires it to be remarked, that the estimation in which she was held amongst several of the more piously disposed of her neighbours was not un-mixed with observations on her temper, conversation, and occasional conduct, which lessened her in the scale



of approbation. They had various other reasons for believing her abstinence to be real, and they by no means conceived her to be an impostor. They were willing to make allowances for the effects which popularity, much intercourse with visitors of every description, and the accession of pecuniary advantages might be supposed to occasion in a person of her former condition in life. They hoped and believed that in the main she was sincere, though deficient in some important features of true religious excellence. But for the most part, strangers, who only saw her occasionally, and to whom she addressed many judicious and interesting remarks, were the persons who formed conclusions the most favourable to her religious character.

Without doubt opinions of a contrary nature were formed by some of her incidental visitors. The variations in *her* behaviour, as well as *their* diversity of taste and disposition, will easily account for the fact. To some her piety appeared ostentatious; her moral admonitions, impertinent; and her religious pretensions, hypocritical. However the faithfulness of narrative truth requires it to be stated that, in the minds of a considerable number of visitors, her conversational ability, and seeming regard for moral and religious propriety excited a sentiment of regard and respect.

Happy would it have been for herself, and ornamental to the cause of sacred truth, if actual integrity of principle had been found substantially to exist, where so much of the outward assumption had cherished the hope of its reality.

Amongst the inhabitants of Tutbury it was an argument of constantly encreasing weight in support of the woman's case, that during the period since the Watch of 1808, no suspicious circumstance had transpired, no discovery been made, no accusation brought



forward which seemed to invalidate the inference drawn from the original Watch. Many of the neighbours observed the daily proceedings of her household with no small share of jealousy, and would, on many accounts, have been ready to seize on any appearance of a suspicious nature. Many viewed her pecuniary receipts with envy, while comparatively few could be benefited by them. The desire to detect her existed in many minds. But the non-occurrence of any thing which tended to impeach her veracity on the article of abstinence for such a length of time had a very powerful influence on the conclusion which they drew.

It was known in the town that generally she had very young children inmates of her dwelling and sleeping in the room with her. These children have been at various times threatened, tempted, bribed, and persuaded to declare whether they knew anything of her taking food. No such confession could ever be procured, and it was deemed highly improbable that she would suffer a secret of such importance to herself to be entrusted to those whose weakness and timidity must have constantly exposed her to the danger of detection. On the other hand they thought it improbable that the secret, if such it were, could be unknown to the inmates of her chamber.

Other remarks upon the conduct and behaviour of two young women of unimpeached character for honesty and veracity, who at different periods of her professed abstinence lived with and have some years since left her, strengthened the opinion of the neighbours that no collusion whatever subsisted in support of any imposition. Strangers, who suspected the woman herself, naturally comprehended her inmates in the suspicion. But those who knew these persons, as well before the period of her supposed abstinence, as during its continuance, and since their separation from her, have uniformly thought well of *their* integrity.



The *combination* of evidence of various kinds, all concurring in favour of the story, had great effect on the minds of many sensible and intelligent persons in the town and vicinity. It appeared to them to be almost as great a subject of wonder, that an imposition should be carried on, under all the known and apparent circumstances of the case without some kind of discovery, as that she should actually be a real abstinent from food. Thus the conviction which the inhabitants in general had of the truth of the case, led them of course to make such representations to strangers as greatly contributed to extend the publicity and belief of her assertions.

Injury was done to the cause of sober enquiry, in some instances, by the injudicious, hasty, and sometimes illiberal mode of argument which those, who disbelieved the case, thought fit to adopt. Unkind and unsubstantiated surmises and accusations against the persons who carried on the former Watch; suggestions to the disadvantage of the whole body of the inhabitants of the place as wilful supporters of an imposture; contemptuous sneers at religion itself and all its professors; false inferences drawn from utter misrepresentations of known facts and circumstances; inconclusive observations resulting from very superficial examination; these and other unwarrantable means have been substituted for simple, practical, and efficient investigation. Conclusions drawn from such premises could never weigh with persons who know how to hold the even balance between truth and error, valid and suspicious argument. Such a species of reasoning served rather to strengthen than diminish the faith of those, who thought themselves more accurately acquainted with the real state of facts, than the objectors evidently were.

At the same time, candour and impartiality demand the acknowledgment that the foregoing censure



is far from being universally applicable to those who have opposed her case. Sound and dispassionate reasoning, accompanied by learned and acute illustrations, have been advanced in order to shew the improbability of total abstinence in the case of Ann Moore.

Such appear to have been the principal grounds on which the sensible and more enlightened part of the public, who believed in this woman's story, formed their conclusions.

It must also be stated, that some persons of a weak and enthusiastic turn of mind credited the case, not so much from any accurate investigation of the circumstantial evidence, as from a propensity to believe in the marvellous. Such even connected the idea of a miraculous dispensation with the supposed fact of her total abstinence. Nothing however can be more erroneous than the supposition, not unfrequently entertained, that all those who credited her case, viewed it as a miracle.

The foregoing statement and the articles inserted in the Appendix clearly prove, that persons of scientific character have attempted to account for the fact of her continued abstinence on medical and philosophical principles. Such reasonings, whether essentially correct or not, fully satisfied many of her believers, that there was no necessity to resort to the hypothesis of a miracle, in order to resolve the supposed difficulty of the case.

Nec Deus intersit, nisi dignus vindice nodus.

In many conversations which Ann Moore herself held with different persons, she ascribed her powers and the support of her bodily system, to *absorption* by the



lungs and skin. She used to state that some physicians who had visited her, assured her of the probability of its being the case.

Perhaps no real or pretended instance of departure from the ordinary course of natural subsistence, ever attracted a larger share of public attention, or maintained its credit for a longer period than that under present consideration.

Hence arose the necessity of a stricter scrutiny into the validity of the story; and hence appears the propriety of narrating the particulars of the recent investigation for public satisfaction. Science always gains by the establishment of facts. And the cause of truth, both physical and moral, receives positive acquirements from a detail of the analytical process of enquiry.

In the month of August 1810, the Rev. Legh Richmond, Rector of Turvey, in the County of Bedford, visited Ann Moore, for the first time, in company with some friends from a distant part of the country. Her appearance and behaviour excited considerable interest. She gave a regular account of her whole history, enlarged on the particulars of the Watch which she had undergone, and related many entertaining anecdotes respecting her various visitors. She conversed on religious subjects with great clearness of intellect and much apparent seriousness of disposition. She acknowledged the former evil state of her life, and entered into all the circumstances that led to a change and reformation. The language with which she accompanied her declarations betrayed ability and attainments above what is usually observable in persons of that situation in life, wherein she had been accustomed to move. Her religious sentiments were delivered in strict agreement with those of the



Scriptures and the Church of England, to which she belonged and professed her attachment. Nothing of a presumptuous, fanciful, or fanatical description was mingled with her conversation. When she spoke of the peculiar state of her bodily system, she argued rationally on physical grounds. When she alluded to it in a moral way, she expressed a hope of her circumstances being providentially intended for some good end either to herself or others: but said this in a manner perfectly accordant to the principles of Christianity and good sense.

She referred to the printed accounts of the Watch, supported by the testimony of different medical gentlemen, who had published the case. She also requested the company to satisfy themselves as to the contracted state of the stomach, as described by those writers. On the whole, her visitors that day left her under a favorable impression that, whatever might be the physiological mode of accounting for her subsistence, the circumstantial evidence was powerful in her behalf. The company agreed in opinion, either that she was a sincere woman and her abstinent condition most extraordinary; or that she was possessed of unusual talents for imposition, and had been remarkably aided by a concurrence of events in her favour.

Above two years elapsed before Mr. R. had an opportunity of again visiting Tutbury. His mind had in the meantime been fully convinced of the importance of a further investigation of the matter. Observations which he had made upon the opinion of numerous individuals with whom he conversed upon the subject, proved to him that the cause of truth and falsehood, both philosophical and moral, were implicated in the transaction. He accordingly visited her for the second time on the ninth of last November in company with the Rev. S. Shipley, Vicar of Ashbourne,



and Mr. Collin, a gentleman from London. He informed her that the express object of his visit was to make a more accurate enquiry into all the particulars of her history and the evidences of its veracity, in order to lay before the public a clearer and more authentic statement of facts, than had yet appeared. He added that one thing was highly desirable towards the completeness of the investigation and the establishment of truth. This was, that she should accede to the proposition of a *second* Watch, to be conducted on as conclusive a principle as possible. He alluded to the various opinions which existed on the subject of her abstinence, and enforced the propriety of her submitting to such a trial, as the best evidence of her sincerity, and the most complete method of vindicating the assertions which she made. She received the proposal with complacency, admitted its propriety, and said, that if he would undertake the conduct of the Watch, she would give her consent. She added, that she had frequently declined propositions of this nature, because they had been made to her under circumstances, which led her to expect severe and unkind treatment, if she complied. But she said, that if Mr. R. would stipulate that she should be treated with humanity and respect, she would not object to a *second* trial of this kind. It was then agreed that in order to render the testimony of the most respectable and satisfactory nature, clergymen and gentlemen of the medical profession should be invited to compose the Watch. Three weeks were thought by the company present to be a proper period for its continuance, to which proposition she consented, and the early part of the ensuing year was fixed for the commencement.

During the whole of this conversation she manifested considerable mental ability, particularly in the relation of some controversial intercourse which she



had at different times held with ministers and persons of various religious sects and persuasions. There appeared to Mr. R. a greater degree of self importance in her manner, than he observed two years before, which was ascribed to the effects of so extensive and singular a kind of popularity as she had obtained amongst her numerous visitors from all parts of the kingdom. But she still maintained such an apparently consistent view of christian and moral subjects, as to leave once more a favorable impression as to the general veracity of the case. Mr. R. had on that day an opportunity of making particular enquiries into the history of the first watch, and of some objections and suspicions which he had heard to the disadvantage of its conductors. All seemed to be satisfactory, yet he was more than ever confirmed in his judgment that a farther enquiry and trial of the case would, if pursued and executed, prove an essential service to the cause of truth.

Various engagements prevented him for some months from putting the proposed scheme into execution. He had in the interim the satisfaction of finding that it met with very extensive approbation and encouragement.

Many expected that she would dread the approach of this trial, and endeavour to throw impediments in the way. Many others anticipated the triumph of her veracity under the experiment. Whatever were her secret feelings, she professed great satisfaction in the prospect, and even complained of the delay in its being carried into execution. In the month of February a clerical friend wrote to Mr. R. stating that he had just received a letter from a magistrate of that neighbourhood, from which he extracted the following paragraph:—

“I saw Ann Moore for some time on Saturday last. She is certainly much mortified and somewhat out of humour, because



Mr. Richmond has not yet written to propose the exact time, for her being watched, about which she is harassed with a multitude of questions by almost every person who now comes to see her. This I can easily credit, because a very general expectation and curiosity have been excited, far and wide, by her acquiescence in Mr. Richmond's proposal. I do think for her own peace of mind, and on every other account, that steps should be speedily taken for the accomplishment of this Second Watch, and applications should be made to the clergy and medical gentlemen for their assistance, for she appears to me to confine her wishes to those two classes exclusively; and I think she is perfectly wise in so doing. She is not so well as she usually has been for some time, and this circumstance calls for dispatch in your and Mr. Richmond's engagements."

Such was the real or pretended solicitude which she then manifested on the subject.

While steps were taking to accomplish the design, the publication of a pamphlet, by Dr. Henderson expressive of his opinion, that she was an impostor, evinced the propriety of the measures which had for some months past been in a train of preparation.

A meeting of gentlemen took place at Tutbury, on March 31st, 1813. Mr. Richmond stated to them the whole of what had passed on the subject, and requested their aid in forming a Committee to conduct the requisite proceedings.

This was readily assented to, and the Committee was immediately formed, consisting of the following gentlemen:—

SIR OSWALD MOSLEY, Bart., of Rolleston Hall, Staffordshire.  
DOCTOR SIMPSON, Etwall, Derbyshire.  
DOCTOR FOX, Derby.  
ASHTON NICHOLAS MOSLEY, Esq. Park Hill, Derbyshire.  
JOHN GISBORNE, Esq., Orgreave, Staffordshire.  
THE REV. J. P. MOSLEY, Rector of Rolleston, Staffordshire.



THE REV. HUGH BAILYE, Vicar of Hanbury, Staffordshire.

THE REV. S. SHIPLEY, Vicar of Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

THE REV. LEGH RICHMOND, Rector of Turvey, Bedfordshire.

THE REV. G. W. HUTCHINSON, Vicar of Tutbury.

MR. JOHN ALLEN, Sen. Surgeon.

MR. JOHN ALLEN, Jun. Surgeon.

MR. CHARLES BOTT.

MR. F. GREASLEY.

MR. W. SMITH.

MR. G. COOPER.

MR. JOHN OWEN.

MR. JOSEPH B. H. BENNETT, Secrétary.

} Tutbury.

to whom was afterwards added,

THE REV. FREDERICK ANSON, Rector of Sudbury, Derbyshire.

It was that day resolved to add magistrates to the list of gentlemen, who were to be invited to undertake the Watch. It was suggested by some of the medical members of the Committee, that it would be much more satisfactory, if the Watch were to be continued four entire weeks, instead of three, as first agreed upon.

When this was intimated to her, she objected to it as a departure from the original stipulation, adding, that she believed it to be a suggestion of some gentlemen, who were inimical to her, only to harrass and distress her by a longer separation from her family. She appeared to be much irritated by this idea, and for some time could not be persuaded to consent to the proposition. However, in a little time she sent for one of the members of the Committee, and with a totally altered and acquiescent manner, said to him, "I never should have refused your proposal, if I had not thought it proceeded from those who wish me ill, and whom nothing ever would persuade of my integrity. But you are welcome to watch me for four weeks, and when you have done that, for six months longer, if you are willing."

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This concession, from whatever motive it proceeded, met the wishes of the Committee. Advertisements and circular letters were ordered to be immediately printed to announce the formation of the Committee, and their object, and to invite magistrates, clergymen, and medical gentlemen, to co-operate with them by undertaking the office of watchers. Numerous answers were speedily received by the secretary, containing offers of assistance. Public attention was in no small degree excited.—The proposed Watch became the subject of general conversation. All parties seemed to concur in the propriety of the intended experiment, although there was some difference of opinion as to the best mode of executing it.

A second meeting of the Committee took place on Tuesday, April 20, being the day preceding that appointed for the commencement of the Watch.

At this meeting, it was particularly recommended that her bedstead should be placed on a Merlin's weighing machine, by which the difference of her weight might be ascertained, in every instance of variation, with the greatest exactness. When this was made known to her, she resisted the proposal as another instance of the disposition of her adversaries to bring her into difficulties and condemn her as an impostor, whether she was such or not.

"If," said she, "I should *lose* weight during the Watch, it will be ascribed to the waste of my body for want of food. And if I should *gain* weight, it will be said that I have contrived to obtain food in spite of the vigilance of the watchers. Either way I shall be condemned by those who put any confidence in the weighing, and therefore I will not consent to be weighed."



While the Committee were consulting on the circumstances of this refusal on the part of the woman, she sent a message to signify, that as the weighing was deemed a point of so much consequence by those whom she esteemed as her friends, as well as by those whom she conceived to be hostile towards her, she would make no farther opposition to the proposal of the machine, but leave it to the discretion of the Committee. A weighing machine was immediately ordered. It was then also resolved to commence the Watch on the next day.

A copy of the rules and regulations adopted for the conduct of the Watch is given in the Appendix (c). It will thence appear that the Committee were determined to unite the principles of humanity, justice, and vigilance, in the plan of their proceedings.

The Watch was appointed to commence at 10 o'clock, on Wednesday morning, April 21. It was thought right to nominate four gentlemen on the first Watch, in addition to the resident members of the Committee, in order that the testimony at the beginning of the transaction might be of a description the most satisfactory to the public. The gentlemen who undertook the primary Examination and Watch, were Sir Oswald Mosley, Bart., Dr. Garlike of Derby, Dr. Darwin of Lichfield, and the Rev. Legh Richmond. But owing to the new bedstead and some other articles not being finished in time, the Watch did not begin till two in the afternoon. Dr. Darwin, agreeably to appointment, arrived at Tutbury in time to have engaged in the Watch, had it commenced at 10, but owing to professional engagements, was not able to remain during the afternoon. The Watch therefore began under the superintendence of the other three gentlemen precisely at two o'clock.



The House is a cottage consisting of two rooms, one above stairs and one below. The lower was occupied by a Porter under the orders of the Committee, who remained there day and night, to keep guard over the door, and to go on occasional messages between the watchers and the Committee. The room upstairs was examined with the most scrupulous accuracy by the members of the Committee and the three first watchers. No part of the walls, floor, or ceiling was left unexplored. Every unnecessary article of furniture was taken out of the house, and what remained was rigidly scrutinized. A new bedstead was provided, a new bed filled with chaff in their presence, and every part of the bedding, her linen, cloaths, &c. searched with minuteness. The removal of her person from one bed to the other was very closely watched in every circumstance by all the gentlemen present; after which, at her own request, her person was examined, and every practicable satisfaction afforded, that no kind of food either solid or liquid, was or could be secreted in the room, bed, or furniture, or collusion have taken place in any part of the transaction. When the business of the search and removal was concluded, no doubt was left upon the mind of the parties present, that she was entirely deprived of the means of access to any kind of food whatever. A rope barrier was placed across the chamber, within which the watchers alone occupied their station, and prevented all approach to the woman from the stairs and the other part of the room.

During this examination and removal, Ann Moore appeared very cheerful and submitted to the whole proceeding with great alacrity. While the new bedstead was putting up, she was placed in a different part of the room, from that she usually occupied, exactly between the two opposite windows, which were both, at her own express desire, kept open during the



whole period. There was hereby occasioned a considerable current of air, which the gentlemen present thought would be very likely to give her cold, owing to the direction wherein she was placed during the requisite preparations. On their repeatedly proposing to her that one of the windows should be closed, she always desired that they might both be kept open, as she liked air, and had no fears of any prejudicial consequences.

Some degree of importance attaches to this incident, as very soon after the commencement of the Watch, symptoms of catarrh, cough, fever, hoarseness, rheumatism, &c. made their appearance. The generality of the Committee ascribed the cold, which she had caught, to the draught of air in which she continued so long a time (nearly two hours.)—The woman herself afterwards said, that it was owing to the dampness of the chaff with which the new bed was filled. Whereas the gentleman who had provided the chaff had taken great care to see it well dried, and the watchers who presided at the time of filling, handled it, and were satisfied of it's being in a state sufficiently dry for the purpose. Whether any latent dampness might or not still subsist in the chaff notwithstanding the care of the Committee to prevent it, certain it is, that the change of the woman's local position, subject to the direct influence of the current of air between the windows, was a cause amply adequate to the production of a severe cold: more especially as she for such a length of time had constantly occupied a sheltered corner of the room at some distance from the direct line of the current of air when the windows were open.

The examination, removal of the woman, and final adjustment of the chamber and it's furniture, lasted near three hours,—when the members of the



Committee withdrew, and left the three watchers in possession of their stations for the remaining hour of their watch. Nothing particular occurred during this hour.\* She appeared fatigued by the exertion she had undergone, but was very conversable, and seemed to be in high spirits as to the final issue of the trial.

At 6 o' clock the secretary introduced the two succeeding watchers, who, having signed the stipulation, agreeably to the 6th and 7th regulations Appendix (c), came to undertake the second Watch.

Previously to leaving her room, the following attestation was signed by the three gentlemen of the first Watch:—

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21st, 1813.

Six o' Clock in the Afternoon.

**WE**, Sir Oswald Mosley, of Rolleston, Baronet, William Bennett Garlike, of Derby, Doctor of Physic, and Legh Richmond, Clerk, Rector of Turvey, in the County of Bedford, being the first persons appointed on the Watch of Ann Moore, did, at 20 minutes past two this afternoon, proceed (in the presence of the Rev. George Watson Hutchinson, Messrs. Charles Bott, William Smith, George Cooper,

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\* It is proper here to observe that the account of the various circumstances of the Watch which is given in this part of the publication is taken principally from the notes and observations which were made by different members of the Committee, or communicated to them *previous* to the discontinuance of the Watch, and the subsequent detection of the imposture. Letters and communications with which the secretary was favoured by several of the watchers after the business was concluded, in reply to his circular letter requesting information from them are reserved for the Appendix, where the points most worthy of notice, as detailed by each, will be found in order, extracted from their papers.

This intimation is given in order to account for the non-insertion in this part of the work of some useful notices which the gentlemen of the Watch have kindly contributed *since*. It has been deemed right to lay them before the reader in the same order of time, in which the Committee received them.



and Joseph Bennett Hankin Bennett, all of Tutbury, and Members of the Committee,) most minutely, to search and examine the room which she occupies, and the contents thereof; and have fully ascertained, that no food is secreted or concealed therein, nor are there any private means by which aliment could be conveyed.—We have also witnessed her removal from the former bed to another purpose-made, which, together with the bolster, were filled in our presence with chaff:—We also witnessed a thorough examination of the pillows and bed furniture.

The whole of the preparation of the bed for receiving her took place in our presence, and not a single circumstance appeared to which we could attach the slightest suspicion.

Immediately after which examination we commenced our watch, and we do hereby certify and attest, that we have most diligently and attentively watched the said Ann Moore to this time, (Six o' Clock) and we are fully satisfied, and do declare, and will maintain, that she has not received any food whatever, liquid or solid, during our watch; and that the said watch has been conducted in strict conformity with the regulations prescribed.

AS WITNESS OUR HANDS:—

Signed, OSWALD MOSLEY.

W. B. GARLIKE.

LEGH RICHMOND.

The succeeding watches were kept in a strict and uninterrupted manner till the morning of Friday April 30, by the following gentlemen:—

SIR OSWALD MOSLEY, Bart. Justice of the Peace, Rolleston Hall,  
Staffordshire.

W. B. GARLIKE, M. D. Derby.

FRANCIS FOX, M. D. Derby.



- TREVOR JONES**, M. D. Lichfield.
- WILLIAM SIMPSON**, M. D. Hilton Cottage, Derbyshire.
- JOHN LANE**, Esq. Justice of the Peace, King's Bromley, Staffordshire.
- W. P. INGE**, Esq. Justice of the Peace, Thorpe, Staffordshire.
- THOMAS LISTER**, Esq. Justice of the Peace, Armytage Park, Staffordshire.
- REV. LEGH RICHMOND**, Rector of Turvey, Bedfordshire.
- REV. G. W. HUTCHINSON**, Vicar of Tutbury, Staffordshire.
- REV. E. SANDERS**, Curate of Church-Broughton, Derbyshire.
- REV. J. P. MOSLEY**, Rector of Rolleston, Staffordshire.
- REV. R. P. BUDDICOM**, Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge.
- REV. J. DEWE**, Rector of Breadsall, Derbyshire.
- REV. T. BEST**, Curate of Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.
- REV. T. FISHER**, Curate of Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire.
- REV. F. ANSON**, Rector of Sudbury, and Marston-upon-Dove, Derbyshire.
- REV. M. WITT**, Curate of Marston-upon-Dove, Derbyshire.
- REV. H. BENNETT**, Curate of Marchington, Staffordshire.
- REV. H. WILLIAMS**, Curate of All Saints, Derby.
- REV. E. COOPER**, Rector of Hamstall-Ridware, Staffordshire.
- REV. J. JONES**, Curate of Walton-on-Trent, Derbyshire.
- REV. J. MIDDLETON**, Vicar of Melbourne, Derbyshire.
- REV. H. DES VŒUX**, Curate of Burton, and Vicar of Stapenhill, Staffordshire.
- REV. S. SHIPLEY**, Vicar of Ashbourne, Derbyshire.
- REV. THOMAS WARD**, Curate of Duffield, Derbyshire.
- REV. T. GROVE**, Rector of Maresyn Ridware, Staffordshire.
- MR. J. WEBSTER**, Surgeon, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire.
- MR. J. WRIGHT**, Surgeon, Derby.
- MR. S. DAVENPORT**, Surgeon, Derby.
- MR. J. SPENDER, Jun.** Surgeon, Burton, Staffordshire.
- MR. G. BRIDGES**, Surgeon, Narborough, Leicestershire.
- MR. J. GILBERT**, Surgeon, Derby.
- MR. S. COTTERELL**, Surgeon, Hinckley, Leicestershire.
- MR. F. GOODALL**, Surgeon, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.
- MR. W. BIRCH**, Surgeon, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire.
- MR. T. KIRKLAND**, Surgeon, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire.



MR. J. RICE, Surgeon, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.  
 MR. J. HAWTHORN, Surgeon, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.  
 MR. G. HUTCHINSON, Surgeon, Ticknall, Derbyshire.  
 MR. B. GRANGER, Surgeon, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire.  
 MR. J. ALLEN, Sen. Surgeon, Tutbury, Staffordshire.  
 MR. J. ADAMS, Surgeon, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire.  
 MR. J. ALLEN, Jun. Surgeon, Tutbury, Staffordshire.  
 MR. B. TABBERER, Surgeon, Repton, Derbyshire.  
 MR. G. ALSOP, Surgeon, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.  
 MR. E. F. CLEAVIN, Surgeon, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire.  
 MR. J. WEBSTER, Surgeon, Derby.  
 MR. S. SPENCER, Surgeon, Duffield, Derbyshire.  
 MR. W. LEEDAM, Surgeon, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire.  
 MR. J. P. BURMAN, Surgeon, Henley-in-Arden, Staffordshire.  
 MR. T. EATON, Surgeon, Derby.  
 MR. F. SHAW, Surgeon, Wirksworth, Derbyshire.

The accuracy of the preliminary examination during the first Watch, the close attention to her personal movements, and the impossibility of approach to her bed-side during the Watch, (except by the watchers and occasionally the members of the Committee) render it as nearly certain as possible, that no food was, or could be received by her during that period.

The effects of catarrh, which became manifest within a few hours after the commencement of the Watch, rapidly encreased during the succeeding watches. She complained excessively of pain in the back and loins, which was relieved at intervals by the application of hot flannels. The eyes and nose were much affected by the usual symptoms of cold; the discharges of rheum and mucus were considerable. Many pocket handkerchiefs, after they had been strictly scrutinized by the watchers, were given her from time to time. These were frequently returned to be washed, but were always previously examined by Medical gentlemen, to ascertain whether any suspicious appearances might attach to them after they had been used by her. In every instance this examination was satisfactory in her favour. No



starch was permitted to be employed in washing these handkerchiefs, as it was supposed that, without this precaution, some sustenance might be conveyed to her in that form.

She became very hoarse by the fourth and fifth day of the Watch. The fever was high. The pulse which at the beginning of the Watch was about 90 increased to 120, and finally to 130, 140, and 160. She had severe cough, accompanied by expectoration of viscid mucus, which on the 29th was even suspected to be of a purulent nature. The breath was often offensive, and the smell which usually accompanies fever, was peculiarly distinguishable. The tongue and fauces became very dry and parched. The inside of the mouth was filled with a mucous excretion; to relieve the distressing effects of which, the medical gentlemen permitted the application of the corner of a handkerchief, dipped in cold water, and wrung out again as dry as possible, so as not to leave a drop that could be separated from it. With this she cooled and wiped her mouth at intervals.

She expressed a wish on Monday morning that some hartshorn and lavender should be rubbed on her throat and temples, to relieve the soreness and pain which she felt. The Committee permitted this to be done in the most careful and unexceptionable manner by the medical watcher only, who did not permit the bottle to pass into her hands. She seemed to experience relief from the application.

Specimens of the attestations connected with these indulgences, which were afforded her in a manner perfectly consistent with the strictness of the Watch, are given in the Appendix (c).

During the application of the above mixture (which was of a deep red colour) to her throat and



neck, many stains were accidentally communicated to her linen garments. This circumstance is here mentioned from its remarkable connection with the discovery of the imposture, which took place on the Saturday following.

Her intellects were very clear and acute during the Watch, and never more so than at the latter part of it. Whatever was the precise character of the disease under which she laboured at that period, it seemed to produce no effect tending to derange the mental faculties. She varied in spirits, and in degrees of debility. Sometimes she conversed cheerfully, and at others was low and fretful. These transitions were often quick and sudden, yet not more so than she was accustomed to manifest at other times before the Watch. They were not characteristic of that peculiar trial.

Her aspect became more and more sickly, her flesh gradually wasted, and she had most of the usual symptoms of severe catarrhal fever. She constantly ascribed the cold she had caught to the supposed dampness of the chaff with which her bed was filled. Others for the most part thought it to be owing to the current of air alluded to in the account of the first Watch.

The supposition of cold and consequent fever, &c. seemed to be adequate in the opinion of the great majority of those who expressed their sentiments during her illness, to account for the symptoms which appeared. A few of the medical gentlemen then stated their opinion that she suffered from forced abstinence, but the majority believed that her predominant disease was of an accidental nature. It was thought, whatever might be the real state of her frame, as it related to the reality or falsehood of her assumed powers of fasting without injury to herself,



that the present illness interrupted the accuracy of observations on the question of abstinence, and arose from a different cause.

The weighing machine was brought on Monday morning, April 26. Her bedstead was placed upon it. An accurate inventory was taken of every article thereon, in order that the reports of the weight (taken every twelve hours) might be correct. The machine was constructed on so nice a principle, as to detect a variation of the fourteenth part of a drachm in any quantity of matter, whose weight might not exceed 8 or 9 Cwt.

The machine having been much wetted by rain in its conveyance from Derby, and the room being kept very warm by fire, it was thought that during the first twenty-four hours at least, much allowance should be made for evaporation. The following is the report of the weight of the woman, bedstead, bedding, &c. taken by the members of the Committee who daily superintended all the particulars of the Watch.

DAYS.	TIME.	POUNDS.	OUNCES.	DRACHMS.
Monday.	5 in the evening	387	3	0
Tuesday	6..... morning	386	1	8
	9.....	385	0	14
	9..... evening	384	2	0
Wednesday	9..... morning	383	8	6
	9..... evening	382	2	8
Thursday	9..... morning	381	8	0
	9..... evening	380	6	8
Friday	9..... morning	379	12	0
Total diminution of weight from Monday evening to Friday morning.		7	7	0

The foregoing were the principal observations made by or communicated to the Committee from Wednesday April 21, to Thursday April 29. At the end of the first week considerable expectations



were entertained by many that she would be able to go through the Watch, notwithstanding the effects of the cold, which she seemed to have caught. And she frequently expressed the same confidence herself.

In regard to her *behaviour* during the period from Wednesday, April 21, to Thursday, the 29th, it was observed that she was very variable. Her naturally irritable disposition, which several of the gentlemen, although they had been accustomed to visit her on former occasions, never had any previous opportunity of witnessing, was frequently displayed. At other times she was all good humour and vivacity. At one time she would converse very intelligently upon common subjects, and very sensibly upon moral and religious topics. At another she would fall into a continued strain of joking and laughter. She was more sedate and agreeable in her general deportment, with a few exceptions, during the latter than the former part of the first week of the Watch. The length and volubility of her conversations, even when labouring under many distressing symptoms of disease, often surprised her watchers.

She frequently complained of poverty and of her very reduced and declining state of finances. Some, apprehending her to have saved considerable sums of money, doubted the reality of her representations on this score. It has, however, since appeared, that the little money she then possessed, was not adequate even to the payment of the debts she owed for her family expences.

Her behaviour, according to varying circumstances, was pleasing and satisfactory to some of the watchers, and displeasing to others. Perhaps few individuals ever exhibited, in so short a space of time, a greater diversity of manner. Different opinions



were accordingly expressed concerning her. Some considered her behaviour, on the whole, as very inartificial, and bearing no marks of a deliberate deceiver. Others thought that some of her expressions were rather of a suspicious character. Several of the watchers and members of the Committee spoke very favourably of her general conduct from day to day, making, what was deemed due allowances for occasional fretfulness on account of illness. Few remarks of a decidedly disadvantageous nature, and many of a contrary character, were communicated to the Committee during the continuance of the Watch. On the other hand, subsequent to the discovery of the imposture, many observations, both physical and moral, have been contributed, which strongly corroborated the idea of imposition, had it even remained an unproved point.

The same circumstance contemplated at one time through the medium of uncertainty, and, at another, of certainty, assumes such a different aspect, as may easily, in the present instance, account for the various complexions of sentiment, which prevailed in the minds of many individuals, when compared together before and after the detection, which took place.

On Thursday morning, April 29, signs of increased fever and debility appeared. The cough was very distressing, and the expectoration attended with great pain and exertion. Her whole aspect was very unfavorable. She could seldom sit up as on former days. Nevertheless she talked much, particularly about noon. She desired the clergyman who was then on the Watch to read various chapters of the bible to her, and entered into conversation on the doctrines and practical precepts contained in them. She dwelt with minuteness and intelligence on some diffi-



cult passages in the eighth chapter of the Epistle to the Romans. She also related several particulars of her past history. Although very weak and ill, she seemed in full possession of her mental faculties.

The Committee were so convinced of the gradual approach of danger from her general appearance, that they wrote to Doctors Garlike and Fox, of Derby, requesting their attendance as speedily as possible, to which they returned answers promising to come to Tutbury early the next morning. The night watches were kept from ten till two by the Rev. S. Shipley, Vicar of Ashbourne, and Mr. Wright, Surgeon of Derby; and from two till six on Friday morning, by Mr. Wright and Mr. Allen, Jun. Surgeon, of Tutbury. During this period of eight hours, Mr. Wright, in consideration of the danger which he believed her to be in, several times indulged her with a handkerchief dipped in vinegar and water, *without wringing it dry*, as had been always done before. She wiped her mouth and fauces with it, and seemed to be revived through the application. This was the first instance of any deviation from the rigid regulations of the Watch in regard to the communication of liquids, and arose from the apparent necessity of the case, Mr. Wright apprehending that the saving of her life might depend upon this indulgence. The particulars of this transaction will be found in the minutes drawn up by Mr. Wright, and inserted in the Appendix (D).

At 6 o' clock in the morning the Rev. Mr. Dewe, Rector of Breadsall, near Derby, and the Rev. Mr. Richmond were the appointed watchers. On entering the room Mr. Wright stated that he had thought it necessary to give her the handkerchief plentifully moistened, and recommended the same expedient being continued, whenever she expressed a desire to



cool and wash her mouth. He said she was dangerously ill, and observed that it appeared scarcely possible to continue the Watch, adding that the preserving of her life might depend upon the allowing her the use of the liquid as he had done; in which opinion Mr. Allen Jun. concurred.

As soon as Mr. Dewe and Mr. Richmond were left alone with her, she said she thought she should die, her illness was so excessive. She seemed unable to sit up. Her aspect was much altered: she was greatly emaciated: her face and arms had a livid, purplish hue. She often groaned with pain. Her pulse was very quick, but too feeble to be counted. She complained of extreme inward heat, but her hands and arms felt quite cold.

Mr. R., under these apparently dangerous and distressing circumstances, began to engage her in the most serious conversation. He examined her as to her prospects of death and eternity. She replied with great solemnity and affecting propriety to all his questions. She seemed to be resigned to her circumstances, and to wait with calmness and composure the approach of death. She made earnest protestations of her integrity, and used a variety of expressions as to her past and present views of christian support and consolation under trying circumstances: she did this in a manner exceedingly interesting to her visitors. She said that she had caught cold owing to the dampness of the chaff, but added she was sure it was an oversight, and perfectly unintentional on the part of the Committee. She assured the gentlemen that she should die in charity with all her enemies and opposers. She expressed anxiety on her children's account, whom she hoped her friends would provide for, when she was gone; but seemed quite easy as to the view of death as it concerned herself.



A conduct so solemn and so apparently corroborative of her integrity, was calculated to satisfy the clergymen present that she was sincere. They are not in possession of any facts which militated against this hope: those therefore who are the most intimately conversant with death-bed scenes, and whose affections have been the most frequently called into conscientious exercise by witnessing the behaviour of dying persons, will be at no loss to estimate the nature of that charitable presumption and hope which was entertained by those, who were spectators of this woman's behaviour during the transaction of that morning. Death, which at all times is a subject for solemn and affecting contemplation, becomes doubly so, when taken in connection with the establishment of veracity and truth in cases of doubt and uncertainty. Even nature shudders at the idea of duplicity at such a trying moment: and religion, mourning over the details of human depravity, records them with a trembling hand.

During this time she was occasionally supplied with the moistened handkerchief, with which she washed her mouth. She said that she did not swallow a single drop of the liquid, as the cooling and cleansing of the mouth was her *only* object. Attentive observations on the part of the watchers did not then detect any falsehood in her assertion.

Between seven and eight o'clock, Mr. Richmond was sent for by the Committee; his place, as watcher, being supplied by the Rev. Mr. Hutchinson. He found Mr. Wright with the Committee, who stated, that during his last watch, in the communication of vinegar and water by means of the handkerchief, he thought he saw an attempt to swallow, and was of opinion that she must have swallowed some ounces in the course of the night. Mr. Allen, Jun. who was his partner on the last watch, said, he did not see any



such attempt to swallow. Mr. Wright did not wish to sign a written attestation to this opinion on the act of swallowing, but recommended a particular attention to this point, if the Watch continued. It was enquired of some medical gentlemen then present, whether the application of a cloth so much moistened might not be expected to produce a muscular stimulus or affection on the upper part of the throat, which in her supposed state, might resemble the attempt to swallow without a real act of the kind taking place? This question was answered in the affirmative. Hence, under the very affecting circumstances of the conversation which had just been held with the woman, and as it was left an undetermined point in the minds of others, whether, what Mr. Wright had seen, was a real act of deglutition or not, they were disposed to believe that she had not swallowed any portion of the fluid.

Soon afterwards Mr. Wright left Tutbury, and Dr. Garlike arrived. On repeating to that gentleman the question, whether there might not be an apparent without an actual attempt at the act of swallowing; he also gave his opinion, that he thought it very possible.

Dr. G. then went to see Ann Moore. His observations on the visit will be found in the Appendix (D). On his return to the Committee, he pronounced her in a dying state, and thought it probable she would not survive the day. He strongly recommended that the Watch should be given up. He mentioned an attempt made by his desire to give her a spoonful of warm water, which she returned from her mouth in a kind of convulsed agony, and stated his conviction, that she did *not* swallow any portion of it.

Dr. Fox then arrived from Derby. When he had seen her, he fully concurred in the opinion of her



extreme danger, observing that she had very few hours to live. His remarks will also be found among the communications in the Appendix (D).

It was then reported to the Committee that Ann Moore, believing herself to be dying, was very anxious to make an affidavit before a magistrate as to her innocence of all imposition upon the public on the subject of her long abstinence. She had often stated her intention to do this at the conclusion of the Watch. She now earnestly requested that this favour might be granted her, under the appearances of her present danger. It so happened that Thomas Lister Esq., of Armytage Park, near Lichfield, a magistrate, had just arrived, by appointment, in order to undertake the Watch at 10 o' clock. On hearing the circumstances, relative both to the state of her body and mind, and perceiving the woman's anxiety that the oath should be administered to her, he expressed his readiness to comply with her wish, and desired that the Committee should be assembled in her room as witnesses.

The following account is selected from Mr. Lister's own minutes of the transaction which he committed to paper on that same day, on his return home from Tutbury.

"On Friday, April 30, 1813, I went with the Rev. Thomas Grove, Rector of Marsyn Ridware, to watch Ann Moore, of Tutbury, from the hour of 10, A. M. to the hour of 2, P. M. On our arrival we were informed that she was very ill, and from the medical men then present we received their opinion that she was not likely to live many hours.

"Upon entering the room we found her lying in a state of great apparent debility, with a feeble articu-



lation. After we had been in the room a little time she asked for a handkerchief moistened at one end with a little cold water. Having received it, she with great composure and steadiness of hand rubbed and cleansed the inside of her mouth for about a minute.

“In a short time after she said to me with much anxiety “I am very ill—Oh! you do not know what I feel—For Christ’s sake, stop the Watch—I cannot go through it—I am willing to be watched again another month when I get well.” I answered “As I came here only as an occasional visitor, I have no power to give any direction.—I will however write down your words and shew them to the Committee, who will give such directions as they may think proper—If it is your desire that the watching should cease, there is no doubt of their not enforcing its continuance.”—She said, it was her earnest wish to have it discontinued. “I wrote down her words and sent them immediately to the Committee. Soon after the Rev. Mr. Hutchinson came in and went to her.—She eagerly took hold of his hand, and, beckoning me to her, said with great earnestness and solemnity, “In the face of Almighty God and on my dying bed, I declare that I have used no deception, and that for *six* years I have taken nothing, but once the inside of a few black currants, and occasionally a little water and tea:—and for the last *four* years and *half* nothing, except within these four days a handkerchief moistened with water has occasionally been put into my mouth, but none of which water I am conscious of having swallowed.”—

“I hinted to her more than once, that she had better continue the Watch, as the giving it up would expose her to suspicion, but she seemed resolutely averse to it, and as the medical men had declared their opinion that her death was fast approaching, I did



not press it. Upon my once requesting her in terms as kind and encouraging as I could, to say if she had ever in the last four years made use of any tea or other liquid, she rose up in much agitation and said "you make me tremble—would you have me tell lies?" and she shed tears and appeared greatly affected.

"She having declared a great desire to make an affidavit as to her innocence before she died, I consented to administer an oath to her, as a magistrate. An affidavit in terms the most solemn was drawn up expressive of her entire innocence of all fraud and deception.—This was carefully read over to her, she signed it, and took the oath administered by me with a fervour, earnestness, and piety, that made a sensible impression on all present. The Rev. Mr. Grove and seven of the Committee were present, who signed their names as witnesses of the act.

"Soon after I said, "Mrs. Moore, after the solemn act that has passed, I trust you are in charity with all mankind.—Mr. ———, with whom I believe you have had some misunderstanding, wishes to see you—shall he come up?" She instantly replied, "bring him up; and when he came she put out both her hands and said to him, "I hope you bear me no malice and if I have offended you, that you will forgive me." Soon after she called to me and said, "Take notice, I insist that Mr. Allen and his son of Tutbury, and Mr. Wright, Surgeon, of Derby, are the persons who shall open my body when I am dead, and no one else." I wrote her words down, and read them to her, she said they were right. Mr. T. Grove and myself then signed the paper and gave it to Mr. Allen.

"From the time she made the affidavit of her innocence she appeared much relieved in her mind, and seemed to acquire a slight accession of strength.



Upon Mr. Richmond asking her if she did not feel more easy and satisfied in her mind? she said, "yes, now I shall die content."—It was also evident that after the affidavit, and from the time she knew the Watch was to be at an end, she appeared to revive.—Her daughter was admitted to her and during the time afterwards that we staid, there was no wish expressed by the daughter to administer, or by the mother to receive any nourishment, more than the end of a handkerchief dipped in water. Not long before we left Tutbury the medical men said her pulse was at 140, extremely feeble, and indicative of a speedy dissolution. But the last time we saw her she seemed better, was sitting up in bed washing her hands in a bason of cold water with apparent ease to herself, and I might add, in the steady and collected manner of a person in health. Her voice was also much stronger than when we first commenced the Watch. She had a cough and cold upon her and seemed to cough with difficulty.

"In a case so extraordinary, and differing so much from the usual course of nature, and on which medical men of the highest respectability have been divided in their sentiments, it would be presumption in me to offer an opinion upon the physical part of the case.—With respect to any evidence of Ann Moore's guilt or innocence that might be collected from moral or other sources, and from the observation of her conduct in the most awful of all situations when she considered herself as on the point of death, I must not omit to observe, that her manner in that trying moment was highly favourable to the presumption of her integrity.—It was in the greatest degree, pious, firm, resigned, and affecting."

THOMAS LISTER.

"I have perused the above statement and believe it to be perfectly correct."

THOMAS GROVES.



As soon as the wish, so earnestly demanded by herself of making the affidavit, had been complied with by the magistrate, the following resolution was passed by the Committee at 12 o' clock :—

RESOLVED,

That it appears to the Committee, that Ann Moore is labouring under an indisposition, occasioned, as they believe, by a cold and consequent fever; and as she has expressed a desire, that the Watch may be discontinued for the present, or until she be sufficiently recovered to undergo the fatigue with which it is attended, the Committee in consequence thereof resolve, that the said Watch shall for the present cease.

*Jos. B. H. Bennett.*

*Tutbury, April 30th, 1813.*

At this time the apprehension of her speedy dissolution prevailed in the minds of the greater part of the members of the Committee.

Her daughter was then admitted to see her. On entering the room and looking upon her mother, she said "she is dying." The mother replied, "yes, I am dying, it is all over—I am going indeed." Much agitation subsisted between them for a short time. But it soon after ceased.

Several members of the Committee continued successively to observe their proceedings. Some suspicious circumstances began soon to be remarked: in particular her gradual recovery of strength and spirits, after the Watch was discontinued, excited surprise. The communication of liquid by the moistened handkerchiefs, evidently afforded refreshment. As the day advanced, contrary to the expectations of



the medical attendants and others, she evidently grew stronger. Her conversation became even occasionally cheerful, and not consistent with the solemnity of the recent transaction in which she had been engaged.

Mr. Charles Bott, a very active member of the Committee, who now entertained strong suspicions of her insincerity, was in the room that afternoon, when her daughter said, "O! mother, you are greatly wasted." She replied, "yes, but I am not much the worse for it;" and put out her arm, as if to show that she had not lost her strength, and seemed quite cheerful; but, being informed by her daughter, that there were some gentlemen coming into the house to see her, she laid down her head and suddenly appeared scarcely able to speak to them, and that only in a low whisper. On one of them offering to shake her by the hand, she put it out with seeming difficulty and much trembling, although she had just before been washing her hands in good spirits and apparent strength. This and other similar conduct strengthened Mr. B's opinion, that she was using imposition.

In the course of the day Mr. B. went with Dr. Simpson to see her, and while they were giving her a handkerchief moistened with vinegar and water, both the gentlemen observed her accurately, and felt no doubt that she swallowed a portion of the liquid so communicated. Still however, clearer proofs were wanting to satisfy the public mind, and Mr. B. was resolved to neglect no means which might, if possible, bring the imposition to a full discovery. Believing that she had probably taken much liquid in to her stomach by means of the handkerchief which had been so frequently given to her, he did not doubt but natural consequences would ensue, from which might be deduced sufficient proofs of the falsehood of her past assertions as to the state of her bodily system.



Nothing occurred during the remainder of that day, which afforded him the opportunity he sought; and he was not without apprehensions, that during the night she might take such steps as would prevent all further discovery. The porter was however still kept in the house to observe all that passed.

Early the next (Saturday) morning, Mr. B. visited the house. He was struck with some appearances of confusion in the behaviour both of the mother and daughter, and suspected they had been endeavouring to conceal something from his sight. By active perseverance he at length obtained those evidences of her guilt and falsehood which he was in search of, and laid them before the Committee. It is obvious, from the nature of this detection, that a minute detail of particulars would be unnecessary, and even offensive to propriety.

The circumstance which most materially led to the exposure of her falsehood originated in the red stains with which the bosom-part of an under garment, which she wore during the Watch, was spotted some days before, when lavender and hartshorn were applied to her throat in order to relieve the soreness. As it was deemed necessary to obtain this article of her clothing, she produced a similar one, which she asserted to be the one in question, and offered to make oath of the truth of her assertion. Some members of the Committee present were now certain that she spoke falsely. The garment which she produced had indeed some red stains upon it, which bore evident marks of having been recently made in order to imitate those with which the other, worn during the Watch, had been marked. But it was clear that a substitution had taken place. She prevaricated and contradicted herself. Witnesses were called in, and it was proved that the garment, which she pretended



to be the one she had worn, while the Watch lasted, had actually been brought to her quite clean in that very morning.

There being no doubt at this time that deceit had been practised, it became highly incumbent upon the parties present to unravel the mystery. The premises were therefore searched, various linen articles were found artfully concealed in different places, and amongst them the very garment, stained with red lavender, which was recognized by all present, as that for which she had substituted another, in order to avoid detection. The woman confronted by the evidence of incontestable facts, seemed for a short time thoroughly confused.

The discoveries thus made were decisive to the point not only of her having swallowed *liquids* during the last two days, but that she likewise must have done so previously to the commencement of the Watch on Wednesday, April 21.

She still, however, persisted in her innocence as to all imposition, and pretended that a sudden change had taken place in her internal system, and added many artful observations in order to carry on the deception. But it was a vain attempt: her conduct was now evidently marked by duplicity and absurdity. She was proved an impostor, though she continued most inconsistently to deny it.

The general Committee was summoned to meet on Tuesday, May 4. In the mean time the daughter was examined and strict enquiry instituted as to all the facts connected with the imposture. She confessed that after she (the daughter) and the rest of the family had finished their meals of tea, she always set the tea-pot on a shelf within her mother's reach,



and that she used sometimes to put sugar and milk into it. She said she had *never* for years past seen her mother take any, except on two occasions: yet she had no doubt whatever but she sometimes did so when she was absent from her. She asserted that her mother could subsist, as she believed, on very small quantities of such liquid, and those taken at distant intervals; but denied any knowledge of her ever swallowing solid food, although it was sometimes left within her reach.

On Tuesday the Committee assembled in order to examine various witnesses and collect the necessary proofs of the imposition which it was now discovered Ann Moore had so long practised, on the subject of *total* abstinence from all kinds of food.—John Lane and Thomas Lister, Esquires, attended by request, to assist in the examination, and, if any cause should render it necessary, to act in their capacity of magistrates.

Mr. Lister suggested that much trouble of investigation would be saved, if the woman could be brought to make an open confession of her offence; and he accordingly went to her with the design of ascertaining how far she seemed likely to comply with such a proposition. He spoke to her in a serious and affectionate manner on the subject; the result of which was a voluntary acknowledgement drawn up, signed, witnessed, and by him presented to the Committee. It was immediately resolved, as the most speedy and effectual means of giving publicity to the result of the enquiry, to print and circulate by handbills and newspaper advertisements the following

### CONFESSION OF ANN MOORE.

The Committee who have conducted the investigation of the Case of Ann Moore, after an unremitting and assiduous course of



examination, have discovered the imposture which she has so long practised on the public, and think it their duty to publish this her own declaration and confession thereof.

"I, Ann Moore, of Tutbury, humbly asking pardon of all persons whom I have attempted to deceive and impose upon, and above all with the most unfeigned sorrow and contrition imploring the Divine Mercy and Forgiveness of that God whom I have so greatly offended, do most solemnly declare, that I have occasionally taken sustenance for the last six years."

Witness my Hand this Fourth Day of May, 1813.

ANN <sup>HER</sup> ✕ MOORE.  
MARK.

The above Declaration of ANN MOORE was made before me one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Stafford,

THOMAS LISTER.

Witness to the above Declaration and Signature of my mother ANN MOORE,

MARY MOORE.

Signed by order and in the name of the Committee,

JOS. B. H. BENNETT, Secretary.

As soon as the confession was made public, a strong popular sensation was naturally excited throughout the town, and its vicinity; and it was speedily communicated to the distant parts of the country. Concern, surprise, and indignation, were alternately felt. Each predominated according to the varying complexion of individual minds. Those who had been accustomed to disbelieve the fact of her total abstinence, now could scarcely refrain from indulging somewhat of momentary triumph over what they deemed the credulity of others who had believed. Of those, who had before felt confident in the truth of her statements, some remained entirely satisfied with



the argumentative grounds of their past conclusions in her favour: they were more surprised or hurt by the detection of the complicated art and hypocrisy of the woman, than convinced of the weakness of the apparent testimony by which the imposture had been supported. While others seemed now unwilling to acknowledge how much they had been formerly deluded, and in the midst of the general outcry against her sought a refuge from the accusation of supposed want of discernment and too easy acquiescence in her story.

However painful in a moral point of view such a disclosure must necessarily be, yet the great object which the Committee had anxiously and impartially kept in sight during the rise and progress of the whole investigation, was fully attained. Unbiassed by any previous opinions, which its different members might have formed on either side of a disputable question, their aim and design was to establish the truth by the developement of facts.

The country at large had long been more or less agitated by uncertainty whether the subject of this narrative was, as she professed to be, a total abstinent from food, or not. It was of importance to the interests of both science and morality, that an enquiry, founded upon actual experiments, should be instituted. This has now been done, and the result is before the public.

The general behaviour of this woman, since the confession was made, has been hitherto in no way satisfactory. She has not exhibited any marks of contrition. On the other hand she appears to possess a mind hardened in sin and moral insensibility.

Some of the gentlemen of the Committee have made very particular enquiries, since the detection of



the imposture, into the circumstances of the former Watch, and the means by which Ann Moore has from that period until the present time contrived to elude the observation of her neighbours upon the subject of total abstinence. So far as their investigation has enabled them to form any satisfactory conclusion, it appears that her powers of abstaining from food are very great: and that to this faculty must be in all probability ascribed the success of her artifices in concealing the truth from the world.

In respect to the former Watch, the surmises which have been thrown out as to confederacy on the part of any of the watchers seem to be wholly without foundation. A strict personal scrutiny has recently taken place, and the circumstance, character, and credibility of every individual has been fairly estimated, and there does not appear any just ground whatever for suspecting the conduct of the parties who composed the Watch. Her daughter, then a child of eleven years old, was never suffered to come into the house during the whole of the 16 days; nor did any other person approach her, whose honesty or integrity will admit of reasonable suspicion. Water was allowed her, if she chose, and a glass of it was always within her reach. It is not improbable that she did avail herself of this privilege subsequent to the *third* day of the Watch, notwithstanding her assertions to the contrary. Dr. Henderson thinks it likely that she *might* subsist 16 days, in *her* circumstances, with the help of water only, (*Examination*, &c, page 30,) and from comparing together all the observations yet made, it appears to be a highly probable conclusion. A man, who was a watcher on the fourteenth night, thinks that he heard her uncork a phial and swallow something; but the general testimony of the whole body of the watchers was so decided against the probability of her being able to obtain any clandestine as-



sistance, that his observation never was regarded. It would be absurd in the present state of the question, to attempt to give more validity to the result of the first Watch than the strictest impartiality will permit; but it would be unjust not to vindicate the characters of individuals from any charge of shameful and wilfull collusion, where no ground for it appears to exist.\*

In regard to the period since the first Watch, it appears from examination of many witnesses, including the confession of both mother and daughter, and the balancing of testimony of various kinds, that the daughter has been the sole accomplice: and that the other inmates of the household, including the young women who some years since lodged with her, her own son, and her niece, a child of seven years old, have all been completely ignorant that she ever swallowed any food whatever. This information is not communicated to the public without much previous scrutiny and investigation. At the same time it is a no less satisfactory part of the examination of fact, to clear the innocent than to detect the guilty.

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\* By desire of the Committee a communication relative to the detection of the imposture was made to the Rev. Mr. Taylor, of Midhurst, who being then a surgeon superintended the first Watch, and took great and laudable pains to establish the truth or falsehood of the woman's assertions. In his reply he evidences what conclusive reasons there *then* appeared to him in regard to the strictness, accuracy, and integrity of the first Watch, to judge favorably of her case. He writes;—

“Ever since the Watch, which I conducted at Tutbury over Ann Moore, till the late discovery of her imposture, I have lived in the most decided and conscientious conviction that she was no impostor. I considered that our investigation had even demonstrated the pretended fact, and should never have hesitated to declare myself as *sure* of it as of my own existence. My feelings are indeed greatly wounded, and I expect no little mortification through having been so notoriously imposed upon. God is my witness, that I was never conscious of so much as a weak point in all the process of our investigation. I never would have allowed, nor have connived at the allowance of a weak point. The whole evidence appeared to me, perfect in all its parts, and satisfactory even to demonstration.—Perhaps you remember, and others also can bear witness, that I was little enough disposed to believe what was pretended before hand.—Mr. ———, Surgeon was more vehement in his expressions and retained his resistance to the imposture longer than I did; but his satisfaction was afterwards, I believe, as entire as my own.”



There is no proof of her having taken any solid food for several years, and it appears probable that liquids have been her only support. The small quantities taken at once, and the long intervals she can fast between them, may easily account for a single confederate being sufficient for the purpose of not only deceiving all others, but even the rest of the members of her own family likewise.

Tea, sugar, and milk, have been constantly placed within her reach, and she appears to have taken opportunities, when left alone or in the night, to supply herself with such portions of these as she thought proper.—The numerous examinations and depositions upon which the foregoing conclusions are grounded cannot be comprised within the limits of the present publication. Neither does it appear to be necessary. The daughter acknowledged to one of the members of the Committee, that on the morning of the day, on the afternoon of which the late Watch commenced, her mother took half a cup full of tea or rather less. That she had not at that period eaten any *solid* food, was proved from the same source of discovery which on Saturday, May 1, so clearly proved that she *had* swallowed liquid aliment previous to the beginning of the Watch, as well as at the conclusion of it. It has also been satisfactorily ascertained by enquiry into the circumstances of the former Watch, that there was a total absence of every similar proof, as to *solid* food, at that time.

Although she must have received considerable sums of money during the last four or five years from the numerous visitors, whom the fame of her supposed abstinence attracted to Tutbury, yet she was far from being frugal in her family expences, particularly during the last three years. At one time she had saved about £200 which was put into the hands of two



respectable persons in the town. But of late she had gradually drawn it out again; and after the Watch concluded, she delivered up the last remainder to pay her different creditors. She has since occasionally received small sums from a certain class of visitors, who have been influenced by curiosity to see the person who had deceived so many heretofore. This kind of intercourse could not be beneficial to her in a moral light; it rather seemed to afford her fresh opportunities of attempting to deceive; and as such, it is reported, she employed them. But at present the number of even such visitors is much decreased. Some have conjectured that she had probably secreted sums of money, as a cautious provision against a future day of detection and disgrace; but, so far as the closest observation and enquiry into facts may warrant the conclusion, the reverse appears to be the truth.

It may justly be considered as one useful result from the detection of this imposture, that physiological science is a gainer by the establishment of the fact, that Ann Moore does not subsist without food. Much has been written upon the nature of abstinence, and on the possibility of the human system being supported by absorption through the lungs and skin, and by other unusual means of sustenance. The case of this woman has been frequently referred to, and the supposed validity of the testimony in favour of her total abstinence has induced some learned and sensible writers to frame hypotheses in order to account for it. The question is now set at rest, so far as the case of Ann Moore is concerned.

That she is supported by extremely small quantities of food, and those of a liquid kind, appears highly probable from the examinations which have taken place since the detection. Had she originally been contented to appear in her real character, as an



*extreme* abstinent, without attempting to impose upon the public, as a *total* one, many useful and interesting observations of a physical nature might have been drawn from her case.

It is with deference submitted to the consideration of the gentlemen of the medical profession, whether there are not some particulars connected with her present state, which are still worthy of their investigation.

If, as appears not improbably to be the case, she *can* maintain her ordinary degree of health, strength, and spirits, by the sole means of very small and infrequent portions of such liquid aliment, as tea, &c. it might be desirable to ascertain by decisive trial, to what extent she does possess this power.\* A public infirmary under the superintendence of several medical gentlemen would afford a convenient station for the experiment, which might be conducted with little trouble and expence, if she chose to assent to the proposal.

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\* The London Medical and Physical Journal for July, 1813, says:—

“An instance of the detection of an extraordinary imposition, which took place in April last, deserves to be noticed in the record of passing events. *Ann Moore*, a woman residing at Tutbury, in Staffordshire, assumed the property of living without food for the five or six past years. This she managed with such dexterity, that many worthy persons were so far imposed on as to place implicit confidence in her. In 1808 this woman submitted to an investigation of her case by a watch set over her for several days. The result of this was so favourable, that her assertion of absolute abstinence found general credence.”

The writer then speaking of the late Watch, says;—

“The result was a full confession of her guilt. It does appear, however, that this woman, partly perhaps from habit, and partly from some altered state of the functions of the stomach, did possess the power of abstaining from food, both solid and fluid, for many days together; and in her last effort to continue her imposition, it is ascertained that she remained 9 days and nights without any sort of nutriment. The annals of the medicinal art afford many instances of similar impositions; but few have had more publicity, been more generally believed, or more fully detected, than this of *Ann Moore*.”



Another object, not unworthy of farther examination, is the collapsed or contracted state of the abdomen; whether it be wholly natural, or in part artificial and voluntary? If natural, whether there appears to be a sufficient space for the exercise of the peristaltic functions and the consequent excretions? If artificial, by what kind of muscular action she is enabled to preserve the contracted position for so long a time as she frequently exhibits it to her visitors? almost all the cases of abstinence upon record have been accompanied by a similar formation of the abdomen, and it seems desirable to investigate its reality in the instance before us. She still appeals to this as a proof of her singular condition: and it certainly has for many years operated much in favour of her past assertions on the subject of abstinence.

It seems desirable to ascertain the real *quality* as well as quantity of liquid food essential to her support, taken in connection with the existence or non-existence of any process through the intestinal canal.

In regard to the pretended paralytic state of her limbs, some observations made during the Watch, and others since it concluded, clearly prove that she has used deception on this head, and that she does possess a faculty of moving them, contrary to her own repeated declarations.

Whether the illness, which at the close of the Watch appeared to threaten her life, was the effect of catarrh, or of forced abstinence, or of both conjointly; and if the latter, in what relative proportion each cause subsisted, has occasioned some difference of opinion. The very *early* appearance of catarrh and the regular progress of symptoms connected with it, after the commencement of the Watch, induced the greater part of the Committee to ascribe a principal



part of the illness to that cause. To this might be added, the full possession of mental faculties which she retained at the time of greatest danger, contrary to the usual effects produced by suffering from famine, which is said in most cases to bring on delirium previous to death. On the other hand, her sudden and unexpected recovery of strength through the communication of the vinegar and water, as related in the foregoing account, and some other concurring circumstances seemed to prove that abstinence must have been a material cause of the high state of fever under which she laboured. It appears not unlikely, that she *did* catch cold on the first day of removal from her bed, that fever was occasioned thereby, and that in such circumstances the total abstinence which she certainly did maintain for nine days, much encreased and perhaps altered the character of the disease. But these and all similar remarks are and ought to be left to the decision of those gentlemen whose *professional* knowledge enables them to enter into the consideration with every superiour advantage of information and experience.

But there is another point of view in which this subject becomes more universally important. It demands an attentive consideration from its connection with the cause of morality and religion.

It is exceedingly painful to reflect upon the instance of moral depravity, which has been brought to light through the present investigation. Such discoveries have a powerful tendency to promote humility, while they afford instruction of the most profitable kind. This woman had not only for a series of years protested in the most deliberate manner, although she knew the assertion to be false, that she had never swallowed the minutest portion of aliment, liquid or solid; but persevered in it, under the most awful of



circumstances. In the condition, *apparently*, of a dying woman, she earnestly desired and demanded permission to make oath of her innocence as to all deception whatever. For some hours previous to this, she held conversations, of a nature so seemingly sincere and declarative of her integrity, as might well have imposed upon the most incredulous. In the presence of the magistrate and other gentlemen, she actually *did* take the oath, and accompanied it with many additional remarks and such behaviour, as rendered the whole scene highly solemn and affecting. Some hours afterwards she once more confirmed the deed, by lamenting in conversation with the Rev. Mr. Anson, that he had not been also present, when the affidavit was made, and begged him to read it. Yet the whole transaction was a deliberate deception! deception, heightened by the impending circumstances of illness, danger, and death. The hardening power of sin long persisted in on the human heart, is here forcibly demonstrated.

Ann Moore not only attempted to impose upon the public herself, but she had educated her daughter in the art of deception, and made her child the confederate of her falsehood. It is no small aggravation of the iniquity, that during the Watch she declared a desire and intention that her daughter as well as herself, should make an affidavit of her integrity, at the time the Watch should conclude. Thus was she willing to make not only herself, but her child also, a moral sacrifice to her own thirst of gain, and she resolved to persevere in the practice of falsehood and deceit, alike regardless of the present dictates of conscience, and the future prospect of eternal ruin.

The hand of Providence seems in a peculiar manner to have guided the course of events which led to the detection of the imposture. In no respect is this more observable than in the fact that the Watch was



terminated previously to the actual discovery of her guilt. Her house was no longer under the absolute and unlimited controul of the Committee. The distressing circumstance of her apparently dying state, together with the confirmation of her supposed veracity occasioned by recent conversation and behaviour on a death bed, had interrupted the regularity of the proceedings. Her family and neighbours had then free access to her. She might during the night of Friday have destroyed every article, by the testimony of which, the deception she had practised was afterwards discovered. Nevertheless, under this very combination of events, which would have favored the continuance of her imposture, she was detected, and constrained to acknowledge herself a deliberate deceiver.

Those who are accustomed to trace and admire the leading steps of God's Providential government in the conduct of human affairs, will not fail to connect together all the links of the chain of occurrences by which this detection was began and completed. At the same time other hypocrites and impostors will be taught by the present exposure of guilt, that "verily there is a God that judgeth in the earth."

But farther, this woman pretended to a high degree of veneration for the Scriptures, and the religion of the Gospel of Christ. She had, partly by reading books, and partly by intercourse with various persons of intelligence and piety, acquired a more than ordinary share of religious knowledge. She possessed a fluency of speech, and could assume an interesting deportment in conversations of a serious nature.

Hypocrisy is at all times odious; but religious hypocrisy preeminently so. Christianity in its true character and privileges, is a jewel of too high a value, not to provoke, from the basest motives, many a specious, though spurious imitation of its excellence.



It cannot be denied that the cause of pure and undefiled religion has suffered much in worldly estimation through the misconduct of unworthy pretenders. From hence infidelity takes occasion to triumph; prejudice gains strength; licentiousness grows bolder; and the enmity of the multitude against moral principles and practice finds a delusive apology for sin in the exposure of the hypocritical professor. True christians will hence learn the indispensable necessity of the most unbending uprightness and simplicity in all the concerns of life, that they may not bring an evil name on the cause which lies nearest to their heart and their welfare.

Those, who are at all acquainted with the secret recesses and operations of corruption in the human heart, will find in the recent detection of this impostor a source of convincing and improving meditation. While too many others perhaps may indulge in unfeeling and indecorous levity, when contemplating this discovery of sin, wretchedness, and shame; the real believer in the sacred truths, which the Scriptures reveal, will view it with far different considerations. Such an one too well knows the awful nature and tendency of sin, to dare even to trifle with it, so much as in thought.

Yet however implicated the notoriety of this woman's supposed abstinence may have been with her pretensions of a religious nature, real religion cannot eventually suffer by the disclosure of her true character. Had she been even more uniformly consistent in her outward conduct than was actually the case; yet truth cannot lose its integral virtue, because falsehood occasionally assumes its external garb.—The Bible is still the word of God, and loses none of its intrinsic worth, although it once made an ostentatious appendage to the furniture of Ann Moore. Nor has the hallowed name of a Redeemer ceased to be holy, because



her polluted lips have often taken it in vain. The infidel and the profligate are in no less danger of the ripening vengeance of God, because they can now point with the finger of scorn at the detected hypocrite. The invaluable blessings which genuine christianity ever did and ever must pour down upon the heads and hearts of its faithful professors, shall still prove their divine origin by the fruits they invariably produce; and the temporary exaltation of impostors and false pretenders shall in the end contribute to the lasting triumphs of truth.

Moreover, that very religion, which this wretched woman possessed not, will direct the hearts of those who are happily partakers of its influence, to *one* contemplation more. They will view her as an object for pity and prayer. While the world has overwhelmed her name with disgrace, and just indignation has been excited against her offences; while a providential discovery has arrested her iniquity in its prosperous career, and she is now reduced to ignominy and shame; the christian will pray for her repentance. His abhorrence of the sin, will not diminish his pity for the deplorable case of the sinner. Meditation upon his own liability to offend, as well as a review of the many sad proofs of human depravity which he daily sees around him, will forcibly lead his affections, amidst the occurrences of time, to contemplate an approaching eternity. *There*, through the medium of the scripture revelation, he will trace the records of divine mercy, and will feel it to be his privilege and delight to plead, in a Saviour's name, for the pardon of this presumptuous offender. And while thus occupied, his hope and his prayer shall be, that "where sin hath abounded, grace may much more abound."



## Appendix.

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### A

*Copy of a letter from Mr. Taylor, published in the London Medical and Physical Journal, VOL. XX, page 402.*

"GENTLEMEN,

THOUGH I have declined the practice of my profession, I shall ever consider it my duty to promote its interests, and to contribute the mite which Providence may put in my way for the good of society, and the advancement of science. I trust, I am solely actuated by this principle, in eliciting, through the medium of your liberal Miscellany, the opinions and theories of my medical brethren on the remarkable facts which I have been engaged to ascertain. There is now living in the village of Tutbury, in Staffordshire, a woman named Ann Moore, in whom nature appears to have established a mere circulating recumbent life, without the usual essential of nutritious juices. It appears from her asseverations, which I am compelled to admit on the preceding testimonies of actual demonstration, that this striking variety of constitution has been the work of many years. The consistency of her whole narration, as to the main fact, is itself a forcible evidence of her integrity. But I have taken pains to give it all the confirmation that a human circumstance could admit, or the most determined incredulity suggest. All the persons formerly about her, have been removed, and she has been taken to the house of a most decided objector to her veracity; and two persons in succession have watched day and night. Placards have been stuck up maintaining these facts: and the sceptical invited to witness or take part in the investigation. It has been announced in the Derby paper; and the Medical men of that place acquainted with it, both by letter and personal interview. But as to evidence, I need not affirm further, than that it has not left an individual in the place unsatisfied, and remains at this time a notorious fact that continues to invite the enquiry, and challenges disproof before all the world. She had been declining in health a long time, and thinks she has not been an hour free from pain in her left side for nine years previous to her first attack of Anorexy; which she imputes to her washing out the linen of a person affected with scrofulous ulcers; in consequence of which she lost all desire of food, and yielded her work on the 4th of November, 1806. From that time till March, the amount of sustenance taken did not exceed the ratio



of an ounce per diem, her strongest drink being tea, but without milk or cream; whatever she took, recalled to her imagination the strong smell of corruption, which at first disordered her; and the slimy matter which she frequently vomited up from the mere recurrence of the idea, seemed to have the appearance and scent that had offended. In March, 1807, she was afflicted with strong fits, which usually left the cramp in her stomach; to remedy which she drank boiling hot gruel, which, though it scalded her lips, had no disagreeable effect on her stomach; and any thing of inferior heat gave a sense of cold, and caused rigors. She first took to her bed for a continuance, on the 14th of April, 1807. On the 20th of May following, she attempted to swallow a bit of biscuit, which was immediately rejected with dreadful vomiting and blood. In the latter end of June, she took the last substance she ever swallowed, being a few black currants. Her last evacuation (e recto) was by diarrhœa, and took place on the 3d of August. Since which time, she has fallen off also in the quantity of fluids, omitting to take any (at times) two days together. Her common tea has been once varied for onion tea. Her strength she allows to have decreased, but her spirits and mental energy never have, though she is frequently taking cold from the slightest causes. Nor is her head ever free from pain.—In the course of the first three days of the investigation, she swallowed in the whole about an ounce and a half of water; but happening to step into the room whilst she was swallowing it, the extreme misery of deglutition, and the violent rising of wind resisting its passage to a degree that almost seemed to threaten suffocation, induced me to dissuade her from taking any more, while the experiment that was to vindicate her veracity continued. She has followed my advice, and finds every good effect attained from the occasional cleansing her mouth with a moistened rag: as the former object had been only to relieve her of a sickly faintish taste in the mouth. She renders an average of a pint of urine in two days, which is very offensive, and of a high color: and her skin is always moist. But the greatest phenomenon is her extreme emaciation, though she has less of the *facies hypocratica* than is common to consumptive patients, and is remarkably cheerful and urbane, possessing a far greater stock of ideas and intelligence, than is to be found commonly in her sphere of life.

Her circumference, measured round the loins, is twenty inches and a half, across the chest twenty-eight inches and a half, and across the hips thirty inches. There is scarcely the trace of any viscus to be felt in the abdomen: the bladder, uterus, and its appendages, are sunk beneath the arch of the pubes, and every thing else (that might be) is drawn up under the ribs, so that it cannot be perceived. From the lowest rib, the integuments, descending to the *ossa illii*, form an empty cord-like folding, and at the umbilicus, the *flaccid parietes abdominis* may be readily rubbed over the lumbar vertebræ



and no kind of substance felt to intervene. The grand trunk of the aorta may be traced by the finger from the place most immediately under the uniform process of the sternum, where the loose integument is drawn down upon it, nearly to its bifurcation. It may be drawn a little from its situation over the spine, and thus by holding the skin across it with the thumb and finger, I have been able to make it apparent to the bye-standers, as they thus saw both its shape and pulsation. The watches have been faithfully kept, and (whatever may have wrought the difference, if it exists) she says she thinks she is better and stronger than she has been these six months, and is certainly improved in health since her removal; her pulse has kept the standard of health, with daily exacerbations. She sleeps well, and enjoys a remarkably serene and happy mind. Her voice is strong, and holds out the full female exercise of that faculty. Her muscular power is such, that she can conveniently raise and support herself in bed.

Thus, Gentlemen, the watch sitting at the time that I write this (which must cease to-morrow, as I engaged to see the woman safely restored to her habitation before I returned home) it is now the sixteenth day that she has been under the strictest scrutiny; and the thirteenth day that she has abstained from all fluids. She is now better in health than when the examination was instituted; and and as far as from the corroborating testimony of this evidence, her veracity may be admitted, the fourteenth month that she has subsisted altogether without aliment. I have simply stated facts, which, in the hands of the lovers of physiology that read your Journal, may be in the way of rendering that assistance to philosophical research, which will amply remunerate my labour. I would forbear myself offering any theory, being confident of my incompetence, and that even the pursuit of such an object, would rather lessen the validity in the eyes of men of science, of what might have been better established by a fair and unbiassed narration. But in committing this to your care for publication, I shall anxiously wait for instruction from others, in the channel through which it has so often flowed to me.

I am, &c.

ROBERT TAYLOR,

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London."

*Lane End, Staffordshire, September 28, 1802.*

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Extract of Account of Ann Moore, from Vol. xx, of the London Medical Journal, No. 118—p. 527.

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*Further Account of the Case of Abstinence contained in our last, with the Physiological and Pathological Remarks of Dr. Bourne.*

ANN MOORE, a poor woman, aged 48, residing at Tutbury, in the County of Stafford, by common report hath lived about 18



of appetite for solids for three or more weeks; but then there is usually an increased desire for liquids; and at the termination of the disease, the general appetite returns. It is owing to a want of appetite entirely, I imagine, that the continuance of life here, under the privation of food, is to be accounted for. For hunger, if not satisfied, is itself a stimulus which would in time destroy the body; hence those unfortunate persons, who are completely deprived of the means of gratifying this appetite, quickly die. How then has life been sustained in the case before us? If we examine the subject philosophically, I think we may come to some rational conclusion. The elementary principles of the human body, or those into which it may be produced, by means of chemistry, are very few. The food whether solid or liquid, destined for its nutrition, and repair of the changes and waste it undergoes during life, is also resolvable into the same elementary principles. And these principles are moreover present in the atmosphere which we breathe, combined as it always is with watery vapour, &c. And it is only by the different combinations and modifications of these few elementary principles that the various articles of food; nay, the almost infinite variety in the products of nature, present themselves to our view; that one thing is sweet, one is sour, another is bitter; this is soft, and that is hard; one proves salutary and another poisonous, &c. And according to the relative affinities which these elements have with each other, one is more readily than another acted upon by the juices of the stomach, intestines, &c; or in familiar words, one is of more easy digestion than another. The universal receptacle for food, in mankind at least, is the stomach; but if the body be supplied through this medium with nutriment, containing only those principles which exist in the atmosphere which surrounds us; and if by the total want of appetite, this supply be precluded by the usual means; it is reasonable, or it is not unphilosophical at least, to suppose that life may be sustained if the same principles can gain admission by other channels. It appears that the vigour and strength of the body cannot be maintained in this manner, as is the case with the subject under consideration; yet life itself may thus be preserved for an indefinite period. The well-known instances of hybernating animals afford proofs of its continuance for months by respiration alone.

I shall conclude with a few observations on two or three of the particulars noted in this case. In the first place, the nutrition of the system is evidently introduced by the lungs; it is not our purpose to enquire here by what means it is afterwards assimilated; she lives *apparently* on air alone; as to use her own expression "she loves air," and has the chamber window constantly open. As she almost continually lies in bed, it is not probable that much is furnished by absorption from the general surface of the body. But it seems that a kind of digestive process is carried on in the intestinal canal; and



that a species of chyle is there formed. That there is some secretion there, which undergoes a decomposition of its elementary principles is apparent from the presence of air and moisture, which we discovered by pressing the abdomen with the hand; hence arise the frequent eructations of flatus, &c; but from the tenuity of the matter imbibed, there are no gross particles to form what is usually evacuated by stool. The hardness of pulse and dry state of the skin, seemed to indicate that there is not a sufficiency of moisture introduced into the system to answer the general intentions of nature; and probably owing to this defect life will be gradually exhausted. I apprehend that a thickening, perhaps an ossification of the arterial system has thus commenced, and will keep increasing having begun at the most remote points of the heart, which afford the greatest resistance to the action of that organ, thence ascending to the greater vessels and to the heart itself; and from the gradual obliteration of these, life will become extinct, in like manner to the burning out of a lamp. How long a time may be necessary for the completion of this process it is impossible to say; but from present appearances there is reason to believe she may continue much longer. It is probable the frequent use of the warm bath if she could bear it would tend to defer her dissolution.

*Atherstone, Warwickshire, October 27, 1808.*

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*Letter from Mr. Allen, Surgeon, of Tutbury, communicated in Vol. XXI, of the London Medical and Physical Journal, page 61.*

“SIR,

HAD Mr. Taylor told me of his intention to send an account of Ann Moore to you for immediate publication, I might have supplied him with some further information respecting her case. But as he did not, and as I saw her daily during the time of his investigation, and made my own observations, I take the liberty of sending you the following statement, requesting you to publish it, if you think it deserving of a place, in the Medical and Physical Journal.—When I was first informed of the situation of Ann Moore, I must confess my suspicion that the report arose from some fraudulent motive: one of those wonderful histories sometimes obtruded upon the public, which on examination are found to be void of truth. But I am now convinced, that the account of her extraordinary abstinence is perfectly true; because, she could not have carried on the deception without the assistance of many other people, and because many other persons, of whose understanding and veracity there is no reason to doubt, must have been the first dupes of of any imposition. But the suspicion of any intention to deceive was



for the consideration of those who may wish to favour the public with their sentiments, I here subjoin other instances of similar starvation, related by various respectable medical authors.

I beg leave to remark, that it is evident HIPPOCRATES had never met with any instance of people living long without food, for he expressly says, that if any person fasts seven days, he must die; and though he should, after that period be able to eat, he could not live; because, in seven days, he says, the jejunum collapses, and forms a cohesion; and that the stomach would not then bear any food. I am sorry to observe, that in the philosophy, as well as in the fact, HIPPOCRATES is mistaken, for there are several instances, well attested on record, of people living months, and even years, without eating, and returned at length to their former diet, and were in health.

PLINY says, a person may live seven days without any food whatever,—and that many people have continued more than eleven days without either food or drink.

*Hist. Nat. lib. II. c. 54.*

PETRUS DE ABANO says, there was in his time in Normandy, a woman thirty years of age, who had lived without food for eighteen years.

*Exposit. Ult. prob. x.*

ALEXANDER BENEDICTUS mentions a person at Venice who lived forty-six days without food.

*Pract. lib. XII. c. 11.*

JOUBERTUS relates, that a woman lived in good health three years without either food or drink, and that he saw another who had lived to her tenth year, without food or drink: and that when she arrived at a proper age, she was married, and lived like other people in respect to diet, and had children.

*Decad. I. paradox 2.*

CLAUSIUS, ET GARCIA AB HORTO mentions, that some of the more rigid Bannians in India, abstain from food frequently for twenty days together.

*Hist. Arom. lib. 1.*

ALBERTUS KRANTZIUS says, that an hermit in the mountains in the canton of Schwitz, lived twenty years without food.

*Hist. Eccles. lib. XII. c. 21.*

GUAGUINUS says, that Louis the Pious, Emperor and King of France, who died in 840, existed the last forty days of his life without food or drink.

*Hist. Francor. lib. v.*



CITOIS gives the history of a girl at Confoulens in Poitou, who lived three years without food.

*Abstin. Confolentan.*

ALBERTUS MAGNUS says, he saw a woman at Cologne, who often lived twenty, and sometimes thirty days without food; and that he saw a hypochondriacal man, who lived without food for seven weeks, drinking only a draught of water every other day.

*De Animalibus. lib. vii.*

HILDANUS relates the case of a girl who lived many years without food or drink. This subject he says, had the abdomen wasted and retracted towards the spine, but without any hardness. She did not void any urine or fæces by the bowels.

*Cent. V. Obs. Chirurg. 33*

SYLVIUS, says, there was a young woman in Spain, aged twenty-two years, who never ate any food, but lived entirely on water. And that there was a girl in Narbonne, and another in Germany, who lived three years in good health, without any kind of food or drink.

*Consil. Adver. Famem.*

It is said that DEMOCRITUS lived to the age of 109 years, and that in the latter part of his life, he subsisted almost entirely, for forty-days at one time, (according to some writers,) on smelling honey and hot bread.

Crocodiles, bears, toads, dormice, snails, alpine rats, and swallows, and various animals in caverns, dungeons, rocks, and mountains, where no food can be had, lived without eating or drinking for a great length of time, as every philosopher knows.—But here is a subject untouched by physiologists or physicians, ancient, or modern. It demands particular reflection, that all the remarkable instances of long existence without food, should be among the female sex, and generally in the young part of that sex.

This, as far as relates to extreme cases, is repugnant to the axiom of the divine HIPPOCRATES, who says, that old people bear fasting better than the young.

*Sect. I. Aphor. 13.*

It is also an exception operating against the universally received opinion, that the gastric juice, in young people, is most potent in exciting the stomach to hunger.

I have collected the few preceding cases to illustrate the subject, and for the purpose before mentioned. More of the same kind may be found in other medical writers."



*An Account of Ann Moore, published by J. L. Uttoxeter, concludes her History with the following Suggestions as to the Physical mode of her Subsistence. (page 21.)*

"I have now given all the particulars that are worthy of notice, from the beginning to the present period of her existence. Such an extraordinary instance has never been before established with proofs so undeniable. This is a living fact, which continues to excite the greatest curiosity.

To account for the means by which the animal functions are carried on in this woman, is a task which almost sets physiology at defiance. All the opinions that can be brought forward concerning it, are but conjectural: the following probably may be as rational as any that have been yet adduced. From the extremely emaciated state of her body, and the length of time she has been without any kind of aliment, it is impossible that she can have any internal source, from whence a supply of the necessary juices can be obtained. Air seems to be the means by which life is still maintained, as she cannot endure, without a fresh current of it continually admitted into her room, for which purpose the chamber window is always open even in the coldest weather.

It is well known, that the atmosphere is not a simple substance, but composed of different principles which may be analyzed.

Twenty-seven parts of oxygen, and seventy-three of azote constitute atmospheric air, which is the common receptacle of all that can be reduced to vapour at the various degrees of temperature and pressure, containing an assemblage of mineral, vegetable, and animal matter, from the earth. Water, in particular, which is composed of 85 parts of oxygen, and 15 of hydrogen, is absorbed in great quantities, and remains in a state of vapour, which is imperceptible to the eye. Indeed the air is never free from some portion of it, which may be known by taking a glass tumbler that is perfectly dry, into a warm room, and putting therein some cold water from the pump, you will immediately see the water which was contained in the air, condensed and fall upon the outside of the glass.

Chemists have ascertained that hydrogen is the basis of animal fat (or rather oil, while the body is living, as its caloric or heat preserves it in a state of fluidity). Therefore when we consider the quantity of hydrogen that abounds in the atmosphere, as well as the large portion contained in water, is it not probable that the woman (by



some process of the animal economy, produced by means of hydrogen) collects from the decomposition of both, a sufficient quantity of animal oil to preserve the body in existence?"

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*Extract from an Article in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal for July, 1809, entitled, "Some Account of the Fasting Woman at Tutbury, who has at present lived above two Years without Food. By Benjamin Granger, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, and of the Royal Medical Society, Edinburgh."*

"Universa historia medica a primis temporibus plena est hominum, sed potissimum feminarum, quæ mensibus integris, demum annis, absque cibo vixerunt."

Haller, Element. Physiol. tom vi, p. 171.

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"Notwithstanding she has kept her bed since April, 1807, she still possesses considerable vis vitæ. Her pulse is feeble and slow. Her mental faculties are entire. Her face, though there is a degree of sadness expressed in the countenance, deviates surprisingly little from that of a person's in health. Her voice is moderately strong. She will sit up in bed, during the visits of strangers, and join in conversation, without undergoing any apparent fatigue. Her limbs are exceedingly emaciated. The abdomen is remarkably sunk in, so that the integuments appear to cling to the back-bone. Pressure on the abdomen gives pain. She is occasionally troubled with flatulence, and is subject to constant pain of her head and right side; she has had no perfect sleep for several weeks.

I have thus endeavoured to represent the condition in which I found Ann Moore, at a time when she had fasted for a period of two years.

It is an important fact, in the history of this case, that whilst the term of abstinence has, month after month, been extending, no effects have been produced by it on the system. I have repeatedly visited the patient, to observe any change that might have taken place in her complaints, but have found her, from time to time, in



exactly the same state. Very lately she has lost the use of her lower limbs, and convulsions have come on from so slight an excitement as surprize.

An hypothesis has been started by some of my medical friends, that Ann Moore is an impostor. But what particulars of the case, according to this hypothesis, are impostures? Is the loss of appetite real or feigned? Was the tremendous pain after eating an imposture? The abolition of alvine excretion, and the suppression of urinary discharge, are they, according to this hypothesis, impostures? And yet I may with propriety remark, that there is such connection among the different particulars of the case, that the admission of one would go far to prove the existence of another.

It is apparent, by a little reflection on Ann Moore's case, that abstinence, *qua* abstinence, has no effect on her system. The existence of the patient, after having fasted two years, with a continuance not far removed from the appearance of health, will not be looked upon as an effect of abstinence. If abstinence had any power over the system, surely it would produce emaciation. But mark the progress of the disease! For many months together no *wasting* is observed; on the contrary, at distant periods of time, the patient, in point of flesh, strength, and spirits, suffers no alteration whatever. In the recorded cases of this inexplicable complaint, it appears very strikingly, that, although the powers of assimilation are suspended, emaciation does not *necessarily* follow the abstinence. When Janet M' Cleod had fasted four years, "her pulse, which with, some difficulty Dr. M. felt was distinct and regular, slow, and to the extremest degree small. Her countenance was clear, and pretty fresh, her features *not disfigured or sunk*; her skin felt natural both as to touch and warmth; and *her legs and arms, not at all emaciated*,"\* In the case related by Dr. Eccles of "a beautiful and handsome young woman, 16 years of age," who fasted 34 days, and soon after 54 days, we find, that "all the time of her first and second fastings, she declared she had no sense of hunger or thirst; and when they were over, *she had not lost much of her flesh*."†

According to theoretical views of the human system, the secretion of urine and expulsion of fæces, are considered as little less than vital functions. It is a general fact, however, in the disease of Ann Moore, that these functions for the most part cease. I must here apologize for the length or frequency of quotations, introduced

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\* "An account of a woman in the shire of Ross, living without food or drink. By Dr. Mackenzie, Physician at New Tarbet." Philosophical Transactions, abridg. VOL. LXVII. 1775.

† Edinburgh Medical Essays. VOL. VI. art. 43,



in this or any other part of the paper; the works to be sure, from which the quotations have been selected are in the hands of most of your readers, but the important examples of long continued abstinence recorded in them have lain concealed. I shall cite the cases of *Inedia prodigiosa* published in the works of Hildanus. When Hildanus made his observations on the case of Appollonia Schreira, she had then lived three years without meat or drink. After mentioning that she was about 14 years of age, he says, "Diligenter ego illam perlustravi, et singula observavi. Facie erat tristis et melancholica, totó corpore carnosa satis (ventrem excipio, qui ad spinam dorsi plane depressus vergebat). Hepar reliquaque viscera ventrem manu tractando, quasi in schirros concreta essent, percipiebantur; excrementa nulla ejiciebat."\* Evar Flegen began to fast in the year 1596, and Hildanus saw her in the year 1612, when she was about 37 years of age. During the whole 16 years she had neither meat nor drink. Hildanus was at much trouble to obtain a complete history of the woman's case, for the use of his friend Lentulus, who was at that time completing a work de inediis. Those particulars of the case which are now most in view, of course, are not omitted. Venter versus spinam (he says) plane retractus erat, cum ego ipsam viderem, sine ulla tamen duritie partium contentarum. Aures et nares mediocriter humidas habebat, et plerumque lacrymas effundebat: Urinam tamen nullam neque excrementa ulla per inferiora exercebat."†

With regard to the proximate cause of this disease, inedia prodigiosa, I have nothing to offer. Thus far, I think, we may advance, that it is a disease of the whole system, and that the process of assimilation is suspended. The stomach being no longer an organ of digestion, food acts upon it as a foreign body, and creates that excessive pain referred to the region of the stomach, on the same principle as a particle of water, or of any other foreign body, would excite violent irritation in the wind-pipe. Whatever the cessation of the functions of the chylopoetic viscera may depend on, I do not think that dissection will throw any material light on the subject; for it is not easy to conceive, how such a morbid state of the viscera can satisfactorily be explained by a *visible* change of structure. The abdominal viscera no doubt are in a collapsed state; the diaphragm being in action, the sunken condition of the abdomen cannot be otherwise accounted for. If an opinion be formed of the nature of the organic derangement of the chylopoetic viscera, it must be compatible with the recovery of their functions. The

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\* De prodigiosa puellæ Colloniensis inedia.

Cent. 2, obs. 40.

† De prodigiosa inedia puella Morsiensis historia singularis. Cent. VI, obs. 33.



pregnant woman, whose case of extraordinary abstinence is related by Hildanus, after having fasted six weeks, regained the functions of the stomach, and suffered, in the mean time, no interruption or disorder of the process of parturition.\* Apollonia Schreira completely recovered. "Vivit Schreira illa in hunc usque diem 20 Oct. 1633, quo hæc scribo; robusta est et aliorum hominum more nutrimenta sumit."† The pathological idea, too, must be compatible with the *sudden* restoration of the functions of the chylopoetic viscera. Thus Janet M'Leod, when she had not been able to swallow a particle of any thing, solid or liquid, from the year 1763, to the year 1765, all at once cried out for "a drink"; and she drank at the draught a pint of water." In the case of the *Nun*, which Dr. Currie has detailed on the authority of *Rammazzini*, the complaint, which caused an abstinence of 64 days, "went off suddenly, and the patient finally recovered."‡

It is the opinion of some, that Ann Moore is nourished by materials which the body absorbs from the atmosphere. Air, surely, is not aliment; and water, which is contained in the atmosphere, is rather a vehicle of aliment, than aliment itself. In health, when the functions of the system are in vigour, water will pass through the organs of assimilation, into the emunctories, without having undergone any important change. The oxygen which is consumed in the process of respiration cannot stand in the place of chyle, for the nourishment of the system. But it is questionable, whether a combination takes place between the oxygen of the atmospheric air, and the venous blood in the lungs, by respiration. Venous blood, it is said, differs only from arterial blood, in containing disengaged carbonaceous matter. The extreme branches of the pulmonary arteries expel this carbonaceous matter from the blood, and, in consequence, the venous blood of the whole body is transmitted from the pulmonary arteries into the pulmonary veins arterialized. The presence of oxygen is of no further use in the process, than to combine with the *expelled* carbon, and to carry it off, as excrementitious, from the bronchial cells, in the form of carbonic acid. In this way it is explained, how the venous blood parts with it's dark colour, acquires a scarlet hue, and repossesses it's vital properties. I am ready to acknowledge the value of the work in which this theory is maintained,† and my own incompetency to proceed on a formal discussion of the subject. In the arterialization of the venous blood of the foetus, in the maternal cells of the placenta, however, *carbonic acid is produced*. I am, therefore, prepared to show, that the theory leads to this dilemma:—oxygen either is not necessary to the

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\* Cent. IV. obs. 30.

† Currie's Medical Reports, VOL. I. page 314.

‡ Ellis's Enquiry.



process by which venous blood is arterialized, (a position which no theory ever yet maintained) or oxygen arterializes venous blood, by silently combining with it.—I am disposed to join in opinion with Dr. Bostock, and to admit the latter part of the dilemma. It remains unsettled, whether *azote* enters into combination with the blood in circulation through the lungs. Fibrina, which is formed in the lungs, contains, indeed, a greater proportion of *azote* than chyle from which it proceeds. But this change of proportions may as well be affected by the abstraction of carbon from the chyle, as by the addition of *azote* to it. However this may be, chyle cannot be produced from *azote* in health, when the functions of assimilation are perfect; how then can chyle, and much less blood! arise from *azote* in disease, when the functions of assimilation are suspended?"

Mr. Granger concludes the paper by commenting on two other supposed means of subsistence in cases of dysphagia, abstinence, &c. the one through the means of clysters; the other, the nourishment which the body has been imagined to receive from the absorption of its own fat. On both which points several ingenious observations occur.

In the London Medical and Physical Journal, Vol. xx. page 337, &c. the editor's comments on parts of Mr. Granger's statements thus; first in allusion to his opinion of water not being aliment, &c., they say:—

"We pretend not to determine what the nature of these changes in the lungs is; but this is certain, that they appear more necessary than food, as the animal suffers more from the privation of air than of food. Even a bad air appears to be more injurious than the worst kind of food; for with the greatest variety of aliment the body suffers without air, and with the advantage of pure air, a very meager diet is sufficient to preserve health and strength. Nor are we quite satisfied that water is a mere vehicle of aliment, without being aliment itself; far less that it passes through the organs of assimilation without being materially altered. It is well known that fish will live without any other food than what they derive from distilled water, provided that water is changed often enough, and the surface exposed to the common air.

"That the human race cannot live on air in common is very certain; for we believe no one ever tried the experiment very long without falling a sacrifice to it. But it is not easy to say what resources the constitution may have."

And in conclusion they observe:—

"For our own parts we pretend not to determine what the proximate or remote cause of such a disease may be; but for those who



wish to form themselves, it seems rational enough to suppose the origin of such a state may be in the stomach, or some of the chylipoetic organs. If these are in such a state as to be unequal to their office, every other means of supporting life will be roused. Probably, dissection may throw no light upon the subject; for an organ may be diseased, without shewing to our senses any marks of disease. On the whole, we forbear giving any remarks on so intricate a question, especially as we have no means of experiment, that is, of actually seeing, examining, and watching the subject. It ought, however, to be recollected, that the case is not without precedent, and that the correspondence of symptoms, between this and other events on record, entitle the whole to a grave consideration."

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*The following is an extract from a Paper in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, for April, 1813, entitled, "On unusual Cases of Anorexy, By Benjamin Granger, Surgeon.*

AFTER some remarks on Dr. Henderson's statement respecting Ann Moore, Mr. G. adds:—

"Although Dr. Henderson has argued against the possibility of this woman's abstinence, yet he has admitted, that "well authenticated" examples of fasting have occurred, in which the phenomena exhibited were not much less remarkable. He states that a person fasted *eighty-eight days* (that is, first thirty-four days, and soon after fifty-four days,) *without the flesh being materially reduced, or the pulse weakened, or the respiration disturbed.* That another person lived forty-eight days upon a pint and half of water a day; and so far from his strength being reduced for thirty-eight of the days he actually "*stood in the same position.*" —Such were the cases described by Dr. Eccles and M. Ponteau; and they incontestibly prove, that there are states of the constitution in which abstinence has no effect on the system.\* Now, as individuals, in these cases, have abstained from nourishment for eighty-eight days, without any prostration of strength,—may not other individuals, in similar states of the constitution, have fasted for much longer periods; and how is the extent of these periods to be defined? In reference to this subject, I may mention the extraordinary examples of long abstinence which have frequently occurred in the brute creation, and with the less impropriety, because a brute animal cannot be an impostor.

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\* The celebrated Dutch anatomist *Ruych* has described a remarkable case of long abstinence. The patient died; and, on dissection, the stomach and intestines were found diminished in size to an unexampled degree.

(Lieutand, T. I. Obs. 30)



"We have frequently seen," says the writer of the article of abstinence in Dr. Rees's Cyclopædia, "rattle snakes that have subsisted many months without any food, *yet still retain their vigour and fierceness*". Dr. Shaw (Trav. page 411,) speaks of a couple of *cerastes*, (a sort of Egyptian serpents,) "which had been kept five years in a large crystal vessel, without any sort of food, unless a small quantity of sand, wherein they coiled themselves up in the bottom of the vessel, may be reckoned as such; yet, when he saw them, they had just cast their skins, and were perfectly brisk and lively."

What the blood loses, in these cases of anorexy, by the organs of excretion, is replaced by absorption from the atmosphere. In cases of diabetes, absorption from the atmosphere takes place to a large amount. That the weight of the body may be increased by absorption from the atmosphere, has been sufficiently proved by the experiments of Dr. Watson. After all, examples of long abstinence are no more contrary to the order of nature, than the instances of spontaneous combustion of the human body. There are even instances, (says Johnson,) of this combustion being so rapid as to consume the greater part of the body. Thus, a female described by Wilmer, or the *Inflammable woman of Coventry*; Cornelia Bandi, near Cesena in Romana; another woman at Christ-church, in Hampshire; and Grace Pitts, at Ipswich, were consumed by an internal fire; so eager were the principles of which they were composed to combine, as Dr. Beddoes says, with oxygen.—These remarkable instances, however, of quick combustion, carried on in the human body, are very rare." (History of animal Chemistry, Vol. III. page 107).

## B

The following cases of Abstinence, which have been published at various times, and supported by authority of a respectable nature, are inserted here as specimens of that sort of information, which has long lain before the public, and induced many to attach credit to the circumstances therein recorded.

*Extract from Pennant's Journey to Snowdon, Vol 2, Page 105—107.*

London, 1781.

"In a former visit to this place, (Barmouth,) July 18th, 1770, my curiosity was excited to examine into the truth of a surprising relation of a woman in the parish of Cylynin, who had fasted a most supernatural length of time. I took boat, had a most pleasant passage up the harbour, charmed with the beauty of the shores,



intermixed with woods, verdant pastures, and corn fields. I landed, and after a short walk, found in a farm, called Tydden Bach, the object of my *excursion*, Mary Thomas, who was boarded here, and kept with great humanity and neatness. She was of the age of forty-seven, of a good countenance, very pale, thin, but not so much emaciated as might be expected, from the strangeness of the circumstances I am going to relate. Her eyes weak, her voice low, deprived of the use of her lower extremities, and quite bed-ridden; her pulse rather strong, her intellects clear and sensible.

On examining her, she informed me that at the age of seven she had some eruptions like the measles, which grew confluent and universal; and she became so sore, that she could not bear the least touch: she received some ease by the application of a sheep's skin, just taken from the animal. After this, she was seized, at spring and fall, with swellings and inflammations, during which time she was confined to her bed; but in the intervals could walk about, and once went to Holywell in hopes of cure.

When she was about twenty-seven years of age, she was attacked with the same complaint, but in a more violent manner; and during two years and a half remained insensible, and took no manner of nourishment, notwithstanding her friends forced open her mouth with a spoon, to get something down; but the moment the spoon was taken away, her teeth met, and closed with snapping and violence: during that time she flung up vast quantities of blood.

She well remembers the return of her senses, and her knowledge of every body about her. She thought she had slept but a night, and asked her mother whether she had given her any thing the day before, for she found herself very hungry. Meat was brought to her, but so far from being able to take any thing solid, she could scarcely swallow a spoonful of thin whey. From this she continued seven years and a half without any food or liquid, excepting sufficient of the latter to moisten her lips. At the end of this period, she again fancied herself hungry, and desired an egg; of which she got down the quantity of a nut kernel. About this time she requested to receive the sacrament; which she did, by having a crum of bread steeped in the wine. She at this time, for her daily subsistence, eats a bit of bread, weighing about two penny-weights, seven grains, and drinks a wine glass of water: sometimes a spoonful of wine; but frequently abstains whole days from food and liquids. She sleeps very indifferently: the ordinary functions of nature are very small, and very seldom performed. Her attendant told me, that her disposition of mind was mild; her temper even; that she was very religious, and very fervent in prayer: the natural effect of the state of her body, long unembarrassed with the grossness of food, and a constant alienation of thought from all worldly affairs.\*

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\* She was living in 1780, and in the same state.



This instance of the influence of disease, (for such only can it be called) strange as it is, is not without parallel.

The first is the case of a lady, a patient of the late Doctor Gower, of Chelmsford, who was confined to her bed for ten years, during which time she had an extreme and constant aversion to all kinds of solid nourishment. She drank a pint of tea daily; and once in three or four days chewed, without swallowing, a few raisins of the sun and blanched almonds, about four or half a dozen of each: she seldom eat oftener than once a month, and then only a bit of dry bread, of the size of a nutmeg; but frequently abstained from food for many weeks together. This lady recovered, by means of constant medical regimen, so that she could walk two miles without taking either rest or refreshment.

I refer the reader to the Tour in Scotland of 1769, for the extraordinary case of Jenet M'Leod of the county of Ross; and finally shall mention that of Martha Taylor, of ———, near Bakewell, Derbyshire, who abstained from food from December 22, 1669, for thirteen months, and took nothing the whole time, excepting a few drops of syrup, water, and sugar, or the juice of roasted raisins. She was also very religious; was much emaciated; her palms moist; her other excretions very small.\*

The above-mentioned case of Mary Thomas, the Welch abstinent, is referred to in the following Extract from Mr. Royston's Paper on Medical Topography, inserted in the London Medical and Physical Journal, Vol. xxi, p. 96.

"If the desire for length of days has occupied the feelings of mankind in an uncommon manner, a few instances of living without food has excited proportionate surprize and curiosity. There are on record several extraordinary instances of abstinence, and in your Journal for last November a case of this kind (viz. Ann Moore) has deservedly attracted considerable attention. But strange as this power of existing without sustenance may appear, it is perhaps less rare than has been suspected. In a remote part of North Wales there is actually at this time a counterpart to the case reported by Mr. Taylor. This extraordinary being is also a woman, named Mary Thomas. She is now of the age of 84 years, 63 of these she has been confined to the bed, and during this long period has lived nearly without eating or drinking. For ten years about the middle of this long term she was supported absolutely without food of any kind; then lying in a torpid state, unconscious of her own exist-

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\* Harleian Miscel. 4, 41, 55. See London Magazine 1762 p. 340, in which is another instance of long abstinence.



ence. In 1807 her ingesta were confined to one ounce of bread and a glass of water in fourteen days; and this was invariably rejected from her stomach in a few minutes after being taken. Under this extended period of abstinence she is reduced to a breathing skeleton. An eminent artist, Mr. James Ward of Newman Street, has in his possession an admirable sketch, unique in its kind, of this being, taken from the life by himself. It is superfluous to observe how much philosophers and physicians would be gratified by an etching from this curious portrait executed with the truth and spirit its possessor is capable of giving to it, and accompanied with such authentic facts as Mr. Ward's knowledge of the woman can supply. I will venture to assert that such a document would find a ready admission into the Medical and Physical Journal.

From these aberrations, the medical philosopher, gratified even by extravagancies that manifest the infinity of powers and endless varieties of nature will descend with increased zeal to subjects of more obvious utility, as well as of more frequent occurrence."

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*The following Case is from the Philosophical Transactions, Vol. 67, LXVII. Part 1.*

A woman, whose name was Janet M' Leod, daughter to Donald M' Leod, farmer, in the parish of Kincardine, in Ross-shire, an unmarried woman, continued healthy till she was 15 years of age, when she had a severe epileptic fit; after that an interval of health for four years, and then another epileptic fit. This was followed by a fever of long continuance, which was attended by the loss of the use of her eyelids. Afterwards, she had a third epileptic fit and second attack of fever. She then complained of much pain in her stomach and head. From that time she never rose for five years, but was occasionally lifted out of bed. She seldom spoke a word, and took so little food that it seemed scarce sufficient to support a sucking infant. Even this small quantity was taken by compulsion: and at last, about Witsunday, 1763, she totally refused every kind of food or drink. Her jaw now became so fast locked, that it was with the greatest difficulty her father was able to open her teeth a little, in order to admit a small quantity of gruel and whey; but of this so much generally ran out at the corners of her mouth, that they could not be sensible any had been swallowed. About this time they got some water from a noted medicinal spring in Brae-Mar, some of which they attempted to make her swallow, but without effect. They continued their trials, however, for three mornings; rubbing her throat with the water, which ran out at the corners of her mouth. On the third morning, during the operation, she cried out, "give me more water"; and swallowed with ease all that remained in the bottle. She spoke no more intelligibly for a year,



though she continued to mutter some words, which her parents only understood for 14 days. She continued to reject all kinds of food and drink for the space of a year and three quarters. At this time her sister thought, by some signs she made, that she wanted her jaws opened: and this being done, not without violence, she called intelligibly for drink, and drank with ease about an English pint of water. Her father then asked her why she would not make some signs when she wanted a drink; to which she answered, why should she when she had no desire. It was now supposed she had regained the faculty of speech; and her jaws were kept open for about three weeks by means of a wedge. But in four or five days she became totally silent, and the wedge was removed, because it made her lips sore. She still, however, continued sensible: and when her eyelids were opened, knew every body, as could be guessed from the signs she made.

By continuing their attempts to force open her jaws, two of the under foreteeth were driven out; and of this opening her parents endeavoured to avail themselves by putting some thin nourishing drink into her mouth; but without effect, as it always returned by the corners. Sometimes they thought of thrusting a little dough of oatmeal through this gap of the teeth, which she would retain a few seconds, and then return with something like a straining vomit, without one particle going down. Nor were the family sensible of any thing like swallowing for four years, excepting the small draught of Brae-Mar water, and the English pint of common water. In this situation she was visited by Dr. Mackenzie, who communicated the account of her case to the Royal Society. He found her not at all emaciated; her knees were bent and her hamstrings light, so that her heels almost touched the nates. She slept much, and was very quiet: but when awake, kept a constant whimpering like a new born weakly infant. She never could remain a moment on her back, but always fell to one side or another; and her chin was clapped close to her breast, nor could it by any force be removed backwards.

The Doctor paid his first visit in the month of October; and five years afterwards, viz. in October 1772, was induced to pay her a second visit, by hearing that she was recovering, and had begun to eat and drink. The account given to him was most extraordinary. Her parents one day returning from their country labours (having left their daughter fixed to her bed as usual,) were greatly surprized to find her sitting on her hams, on the side of the house opposite to her bed, spinning with her mother's distaff. All the food she took at that time was only to crumble a little oat or barley cake in the palm of her hand, as if to feed a chicken. She put little crumbs into the gap of her teeth; rolled them about for some time in her mouth; and then sucked out of the palm of her hand a little water,



whey, or milk; and this only once or twice a day, and even that by compulsion. She never attempted to speak; her jaws were fast locked, and her eyes shut. On opening her eyelids, the balls were found to be turned up under the edge of the os frontis: her countenance was ghastly, her complexion pale, and her whole person emaciated. She seemed sensible, and tractable in every thing except in taking food. This she did with the utmost reluctance, and always cried before she yielded. The change of her looks Dr. Mackenzie attributed to her spinning flax on the distaff, which exhausted too much of the saliva; and therefore he recommended to her parents to confine her totally to the spinning of wool. In 1775, she was visited again, and found to be greatly improved in her looks as well as her strength: her food was also considerably increased in quantity: though even then she did not take more than would be sufficient to sustain an infant of two years of age.

Mr. Pennant visited Janet M<sup>r</sup> Leod during his tour into Scotland in 1772, and confirms the truth of all the circumstances which are recorded in the Philosophical Transaction concerning her.

*Tour in Scotland, part 2, Appendix No. 4.*

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In the Harleian Miscellany Vol. iv, p. 41, is contained one of the earliest communications to the Royal Society on the subject of Abstinence. It describes an instance resembling the mode of subsistence which it *now* appears probable does take place in the case of Ann Moore. The article, which is written in the quaint phraseology, not unusual in the last century but one, is entitled,

*“A Discourse upon prodigious Abstinence, occasioned by the twelve-month’s fasting of Martha Taylor, the famed Derbyshire Damsel: proving that without any miracle, the texture of human bodies may be so altered that life may be long continued without the supplies of meat and drink: with an Account of the Heart, and how far it is interested in the business of Fermentation. By John Reynolds. Humbly offered to the Royal Society, London, 1669.*

AFTER a long treatise on the abstinent powers of the human body, under certain circumstances, he concludes thus:—



"I shall present you with a short narration received since I began this discourse, from a person of known ingenuity and honesty, and therefore most worthy of credit.

This abstinent is one Martha Taylor, a young damsel, born of mean parentage, inhabiting not far from Bakewell in Derbyshire, who receiving a blow on the back from a miller, became a prisoner to her bed for several days: which being expired, she obtained some enlargement for a time, but by increasing distempers was quickly remanded to her bed-prison again; where continuing some time, she found at last a defect in her gula, and quickly after a dejection of appetite; so that about the twenty-second of December Anno 1667, she began to abstain from all solid food, and so hath continued (except something so small, at the seldom ebbings of her distemper, as is altogether inconsiderable,) till within a fortnight before the date hereof, which amounts to thirteen months and upwards; as also from all other sorts both of meats and drinks, except now and then a few drops of the syrup of stewed prunes, water and sugar, or the juice of a roasted raisin, &c.—but these repasts are used so seldom, and in such very small quantities, as are prodigiously insufficient for sustentation; she evacuates nothing, she spits not that I can hear of, but her lips are often dry, for which cause she takes water and sugar with a feather, or some other liquids; but the palms of her hands are often moist, her countenance fresh and lively, her voice clear and audible; in discourse she is free, her belly flapped to her back-bone, so that it may be felt through her intestines, whence a great cavity is admitted from the cartilago ensiformis to the navel, and though her upper parts be less emaciated, though much too, yet her lower parts are very languid and unapt for motion, and the skin thereof defiled with a dry pruriginous scurf, for which of late they have washed them with milk. She sleeps so sparingly that once she continued five weeks waking. I hear nothing of any extraordinary previous sanctity, though since her affliction, being confined to her bed which lieth in a lower room by a fire-side, she hath learned to read; and being visited so plentifully by the curious from many parts, as also by the religious of all persuasions, she hath attained some knowledge in sacred mysteries, but nothing of enthusiasm that she pretends unto. And, least she should prove a cheat, she hath been diligently watched by physicians, surgeons, and other persons for at least a fortnight together, by the appointment of the noble Earl of Devonshire. Likewise several other persons at other times have been pleased to watch for their own satisfaction, who detecting no fraud, have given the account abovementioned."



which a number of remedies were employed in vain. Since that time she was mostly confined to her bed, particularly in Winter; but in Summer she found herself a little better. From February 1798, the alvine and urinary excretions began to cease, though she took now and then a little nourishment. But from the beginning of April of the same year, she abstained entirely from all food and drink, falling into an uninterrupted slumber, almost senseless, from which she only awoke from time to time for a few hours. Her sensibility was during this time so great, that the slightest touch on any part of the body, brought on partial convulsive motions. In this state she had continued for nearly ten months, when Dr. Schmidt-mann saw her first in March 1799. Though she had not taken the least nourishment during all this time, Dr. S. found her, to his utmost astonishment, fresh and blooming. For the last two months only, the intervals of sleep began to be longer; her senses of sight and hearing were in perfect order; but her feeling she seemed to have quite lost, as she could suffer pinching of the arms and legs without pain, her gums bled frequently, and the pulse was scarcely perceptible in the arms, but beat strong and full in the carotids, about 120 in a minute. Dr. S. attempted to make her drink a little milk, but she protested she could not swallow it. The alvine and urinary excretions had quite ceased.

“Although there could hardly be a suspicion of any kind of imposition, the parents being honest people; yet to remove all doubt, six sworn men were appointed from different places in the neighbourhood to watch her day and night, and instructions given to them accordingly. This being continued for a fortnight, the men were dismissed, having given evidence upon oath that the patient had never taken any food or drink whatever during that time, nor had any excretion alvine or urinary. She had been once very ill and nearly dying, seized with convulsions, feverish, and sometimes in a great sweat, which had the extraordinary property of turning water black. When Dr. S. saw her again, he found her quite recovered, not in the least emaciated, but rather looking lustier; her gums however still frequently bled, and her feeling was not yet returned; but her memory was not impaired, and she amused herself sometimes with reading and writing. No alvine and urinary excretion had taken place. Sometimes she was attacked by a sudden weakness, particularly after having bled from the mouth. During the last severe winter, she could not endure the heat of the stove, because she felt then faint and oppressed.

“Dr. Schmidtman then enters into an enquiry by what means the patient, in this case, was nourished and maintained in that state in which she was found; and having discussed the matter at large, he is of opinion that she drew, by resorption, such elementary par-



ticles from the atmosphere, as were sufficient for the nutrition of the body, and that the excretions were likewise replaced by the skin.

“However incredible and miraculous this fact may seem, yet we find similar instances recorded by several authors, viz. by Haller, in his *Elementa Physiologiae*, Tom. 6. Sec. 2. ||. 6.—Conf. *Memoires de l'Academie de Sciences de Toulouse*, T. 1, 1783; and in *Prichter's Library devoted to Surgery* (in German) Vol. 12. p. 184. *Swieten Comment. in Boerhaav. Aph. T. 3. p. 508*, *Histoire de l'Acad. Royale de Sciences*, l' an 1769; and in *Hufeland's art of prolonging life*, first edition, p. 67, *Halpart van der Wiel Observat. rar. Centur. Poster.* In the *London Magazine* for August 1769, there is likewise an account of a young woman, twenty four years of age, who had fasted for two years, and whose excretions were also entirely suppressed.

“A report\* has been lately spread in one of the newspapers, that the physicians of Osnabruck have, by an accurate and indefatigable inquisition, succeeded at last, in discovering the whole fact to be an imposture of the most subtle and intricate nature, for the sake of exciting pity, and getting presents from people, who came in great numbers from all parts of the neighbourhood to see this wonderful girl. It is said, that an account of the whole proceeding will be shortly published, which must certainly be very interesting; and we shall not omit to communicate it after it has been confirmed.”

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*Extract from a remarkable Case of Abstinence in a Young Gentleman who voluntarily Abstained from Food for 61 Days. Related in the second volume of the Medical Communications. By Dr. Willan. December 12th, 1786.*

“I was called on to prescribe the mode of treatment, and accordingly visited him on the 61st day of his fast, March 23d, 1786.

“He was at that time emaciated to a most astonishing degree, the muscles of the face being entirely shrunk; his cheek-bones and processus zygomatici stood prominent and distinct, affording a most ghastly appearance, his abdomen was concave, the umbilicus seem-

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\* This report proved true. Notwithstanding the length of time and the respectable authority by which this Girl of Osnabruck's case was supported, a second Watch under the superintendence of two other Physicians detected the artifice.—Dr. Henderson has given a curious parallel between her's and the case of Ann Moore at the end of his late publication.



ing to be retracted, from the collapsed state of the intestines; the skin and abdominal muscles were shrunk below the brim of the pelvis, and under the ribs, leaving the space vacant betwixt the ossa ilia, the lower ribs, and the spine. His limbs were reduced to the greatest possible degree of tenuity; the ossa ischia, the internal trochanters, and all the processes of the bones being distinguishable.

"His whole appearance suggested the idea of a skeleton, prepared for drying the muscles upon it, in their natural situations.

"His eyes were not deficient in lustre, and his voice remained clear and sound, notwithstanding his general weakness."

"The duration of this young gentleman's fast is, I believe, longer than any recorded in the annals of physic. He could scarcely have been supported through it, except from an enthusiastic turn of mind, nearly bordering on insanity; the effect of which, in fortifying the body against cold and hunger, is well known to physicians.

"In the *Memoires de l'Academie des Sciences*, 1769, we have the case of a madman recorded, who lived 47 days without taking any thing but a pint and a half of water per day. He stood constantly in the same position for 38 days of that time; but during the remaining eight, he was obliged to lie down through weakness; and then took nothing, refusing even water."

"When he first began to eat again, he recovered his reason for a time, but soon relapsed.

"In the *Edinburgh Medical Essays*, vol. vi. a case is related of a young girl, who fasted, at one time, 34 days, at another time, 54 days, from a spasm, or some obstruction of the œsophagus.

"M. Porteau, in his *Œuvres Posthumes*, mentions a young lady, thirteen years old, who, being unable to keep solid aliment on her stomach, subsisted eighteen months on syrup of capillaire mixed with water, and in that time grew two inches and a half.

"Several other remarkable instances of abstinence may be found in different works, particularly in Stalpart Vander Wiel's *Observ. Rar*;\* in the *Philosophical Transactions*,† and in the memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester:‡ but few conclusions of importance, with regard to medical practice, can be deduced from such extraordinary cases. It is not, however, amiss, to have ascertained for what length of time the human constitution is able to support itself under abstinence."

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\* Cent. post. pars. pr. obs. xv. † Vol. xvii. ‡ Vol. ii, p. 467.



*The following Extract is taken from Dr. Henderson's Examination of Ann Moore's case ; page 30.*

"To return to Ann Moore. Should we grant for the sake of argument, that the watching was conducted with the utmost strictness and regularity, what would the inference amount to? why, that she had fasted sixteen days and nights, a period of time during which it is certainly not impossible that she may have endured the privation; not, that she had lived five whole years, and odd months, without any nutriment whatever.

That the human body can be brought to subsist on very small quantities of food, has been long known, and if we consult the records of medicine, we shall find, that there are not wanting well authenticated instances of even more protracted abstinence, than is said to have been exhibited on this occasion. In 1559, a bishop of Spire, who had fallen into a deep melancholy, persisted in refusing any sustenance during forty days, standing or walking all the while. On his returning to food, his feet swelled to such a degree, that he was unable to use them; and he recovered his reason during a short interval. But relapsing into his former state, he determined, in the following year, to repeat the experiment. This time, however, it was not so successful: for, on the thirty-fifth day of his fast, he was seized with such debility, that he found himself compelled to take to his bed; and, on the forty-eighth day, after having twice tasted some Saurbrunn water, died.\* A canon of Liege attempted to imitate the example of this prelate, but was with difficulty saved from death, by a supply of food, on the seventeenth day.†

A fanatic, of the name of Elliot, made the same experiment, in 1789, and lived till the sixteenth day.‡

The lady, whose case has been already noticed, subsisted on small quantities of beer, and vinegar, and the juices of lemons and oranges, from the end of March to the 16th of June, when she was persuaded to relinquish her design. Dr. Willan's patient persevered in the disuse of solid food, till the sixty-first day; taking only a little

\* Joh. Pontanus, ap. Lentul. p. 87.

† Wierus. ut supra.

‡ Gentleman's Mag. Obituary, 1789.



water slightly flavored with the juice of oranges, to moisten his mouth: the case soon afterwards terminated fatally.

A French officer of infantry, who had retired from service, and become deranged, took it in his head to refuse food, and continued in that determination from the 25th of December till the 9th of February, drinking only about a pint and a half of water daily, with a few drops of aniseed-liquor in each glass, till the thirty-ninth day: from which time, till the forty-seventh day, he took nothing whatever. Till the 38th day, too, he remained out of bed; but weakness at length obliged him to lie down. The return to food was followed by a temporary cure of his insanity.\*

In the Philosophical Transactions we have an account of four Colliers, who were confined twenty-four days in a coal-pit, at Herstol, near Leige, with nothing to support them but water; and in the medical commentaries,† there is a history of a girl, who had lost her way, and remained 18 days on a barren moor, in the island of Lewis, where she could not possibly have had any other kind of sustenance. Mr. Miller, who relates the case, saw her two hours after she was found, and describes her as much emaciated. In fact, proofs abound as to the possibility of maintaining life, for a considerable time, and under the most unfavorable circumstances, on small quantities of water, or other liquids.‡ *Jejuni magis sitiunt, quam esuriunt.*—The feeling of hunger, if not appeased by food, often ceases all together. But the feeling of thirst becomes constantly more urgent; and if the body be at the same time under the influence of heat, it produces the most aggravated distress:

—————“*Torrentur viscera flamma,  
Oraque sicca rigent squamosis aspera linguis.  
Jam marcent venæ, nulloque humore rigatus  
Aeris alternos angustat pulmo meatus;  
Rescisoque nocent suspiria dura palato.  
Pandunt ora tamen, nocturnumque aera captant.*” ||

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\* Histoire de l'Academie des Sciences, 1769. p. 45. † Dec. Vol. iv. p. 360

‡ See a paper on the subject by Dr. Perceval, in the second volume of the memoirs of the Manchester Society.

|| Lucan. iv. 324. The narrative of the sufferings of the persons confined in the black hole of Calcutta. (Gent. Mag. Feb. 1758,) and the narrative of the sufferings of Lieutenant Spearing, who remained seven days in the bottom of a coal pit, (Gent Mag. Aug. 1793,) furnish striking examples of this fact. See also, Park's Travels in Africa.



*Extract from a Paper in the second Volume of the Manchester Memoirs, by Dr. Percival, entitled a Narrative of the sufferings of Thomas Travis, a Collier, who was confined more than seven days without Sustenance in a Coal-pit not far from Manchester, with observations on the effects of Famine, &c. page 467.*

"THIS affecting catastrophe coincides, in a striking manner, with an observation of Hippocrates, *"That most of those, who neither eat nor drink for seven days, die within that period. And that though they survive, so as afterwards to take nourishment, their former fasting will prove fatal to them."* \* Yet it is evident, that the remark of this faithful recorder of facts, was founded on experience too limited to give it validity. For we have many well attested accounts of longer continued abstinence, without destruction to life. Sir William Hamilton, in his narrative of the earthquakes in Italy, A. D. 1813, mentions a girl, of sixteen years of age, who remained eleven days without food, under the ruins of a house at Oppido. She had a child in her arms, five or six months old, who died the fourth day. A light, through a small chasm, enabled her to ascertain the time of her confinement, and she gave a very clear relation of her sufferings. When Sir William Hamilton saw her, she did not appear to be in bad health, drank easily, but with difficulty swallowed any thing solid.† In cases of this kind, is it not probable that the body may be supplied with fluids from the external air, by the exertion of some extraordinary powers in the lymphatic system? Thus the negro, mentioned by Dr. Chalmers, who was gibbeted at Charles-town, in March 1799, and had nothing given him afterwards, regularly voided every morning till he died, a large quantity of urine.‡ The spring season, in South Carolina, is attended with great nocturnal dews, which being imbibed by the pores of the skin, furnished the poor Negro with a superabundance of fluids in the night, and a sufficiency to support perspiration in the day. I visited, not long since, in consultation with her kinsman, Dr. Eason, an elderly lady, who laboured under a very severe lientery. Her evacuations, as often happens both in this disease and in the diabetes, far exceeded in quantity the liquids which she swallowed, or what could be ascribed to the dissolution of her solids. During five or six days before her death, she took no aliment whatever, and only oc-

\* Hipocrat. de Carnibus, Sect. III. † Philosophical Transactions, Vol. LXXIII, page 169.

‡ Chalmers on fevers, page 2.



asionally moistened her mouth, by putting her fingers into it, after they had been dipped in water. Yet she discharged a pint of urine once in twenty-four hours. I am inclined to conjecture, that the moisture of the coal-pit was favourable to Travis; but how long he might have subsisted under such circumstances, it is not possible to determine. It may however be presumed, that his death was rather accelerated than retarded by the changes and the hurry which he underwent.

In famine, life may be protracted with less pain and misery by a moderate allowance of water. For the acrimony and putrefaction of the humours are obviated by such dilution, the small vessels are kept permeable, and the lungs are furnished with that moisture, which is essential to the performance of their functions. Fantonus, a writer of respectable authority, in the estimation of Morgagni, relates the history of a woman, who obstinately refused to take any sustenance, except twice, during the space of fifty days, at the end of which period she died.\* But he adds, that she used water, by way of drink, though in small quantities.

Redi, who made many experiments, (cruel and unjustifiable in my opinion) to ascertain the effects of fasting on fowls, observes, that none were able to support life beyond the ninth day, to whom drink was denied; whereas one, indulged with water, lived more than twenty days."

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*A Case related by Dr. Vollitin in a Pamphlet published at Leyden, 1777, of which an Abstract is given in the Leipsic Commentaries for 1779, Vol. xxii, page 547.*

"A woman, who had previously enjoyed very good health, in her 43d year, from excessive grief for the death of her sister and child, became subject to hysterical affections, which were succeeded by debility and a gradual failure of her appetite. She lived for about a year on coffee and milk, suffering dreadful fainting fits, with frequent hæmorrhages from the nose and elsewhere, and such great prostration of strength, that for three years she could scarcely stand. She however slowly regained her strength, so far as to be capable of performing her usual duties: but from this time she took nothing but water, tea, infusion of saffron, sugar, negus, and a small quantity of gin. During the four years which she lived in this manner,

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\* Morgagni de sedibus et Causis Morborum. Epist. 27.



she is said to have had scarcely any evacuation from her bowels; and was let blood annually in the month of May, on account of pains in the joints. She was of a small and slender habit, yet not unusually thin; her mind was tranquil and often cheerful. Her body was examined after death, when the gall bladder was found very large; whilst the stomach and intestines were thickened and much contracted."

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W A T C H

INSTITUTED ON

A N N M O O R E.

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*Rules and Regulations adopted and prescribed at the general Committee-Meeting, on Tuesday the 20th of April, 1813; Sir Oswald Mosley, Baronet, in the Chair.*

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- I. **T**HAT the day shall be considered as divided into six watches of four hours each, and that the day be considered as commencing at ten in the morning.
- II. That the watchers be at the Committee room at least one hour previously to the commencement of their several periods of watching.
- III. That in case any gentleman, having made an engagement, shall unavoidably be prevented from attending, he shall be considered liable to procure a substitute in the person of another of his profession, or that the Committee shall have two hours notice of the disappointment which may be expected to arise, and which shall be communicated to them by a special messenger from the party who may wish to be so relieved from such engagement.
- IV. That each person shall proceed immediately to the Inn, and announce his arrival to some person of the Committee, who will be near at hand to receive him.
- V. That each person shall watch not less than four successive hours.
- VI. That it having been made a preliminary stipulation by Ann Moore, and fully consented to by the Committee, that, during the whole course of the Watch, she shall be treated by the watchers, with humanity and tenderness; and that



every thing shall be avoided, which can tend to hurt her feelings, or occasion her any needless fatigue or uneasiness:—the watchers be required to engage, on the honour of gentlemen, to abide by this stipulation, and to promise, that during the terms of their respective watches, no experiment on, or examination of, the person of Ann Moore, shall take place, as it might tend to discompose and distress her,—but on the other hand, the strictest observation and attention are to be maintained as to the main object of enquiry, viz. whether she takes any food or not, subject to the above-mentioned stipulations, as to conversation and conduct towards her, which the Committee are decidedly of opinion will be essential to the success of the investigation on every principle of justice, humanity, and expediency.

- VII. That each person be required to subscribe to a declaration agreeably to the last regulation at the Committee-room, previously to entering upon the Watch.
- VIII. That each person be required to sign the attestation presented by the Committee at the termination of their several watches, and that one or more of the Committee be present to witness such attestation, who shall also subscribe his or their names.
- IX. That a supernumerary watcher be kept in attendance, in order to meet any emergency.
- X. That if any occasional circumstance shall render it necessary, that either of the watchers should withdraw during their appointed periods of watching, a messenger in waiting shall previously be dispatched to procure the attendance of the supernumerary watcher to supply his place, before he is permitted to withdraw.
- XI. That no person whatever be allowed to enter the room, except they are introduced under the immediate order and inspection of the Committee.
- XII. That a ticket be given, signed by the chairman, to each member of the Committee.
- XIII. That the watchers may require of the Committee, or of any individual member thereof, the production of their ticket, before they permit them to enter the room.
- XIV. That the Committee, or any member thereof, shall not, unless called or required by the watchers, approach Ann Moore, nearer than the line of partition expressly made between the two ends of the room.
- XV. That the exception to the two last rules must be admitted for the necessary purposes of cleaning the room and making fires, but that all such exception on the part of messengers or assistants shall take place in the presence of at least three of the Committee.



XVI. That each person acting in the capacity of assistant or messenger, shall be liable to be searched, if the Committee think necessary.

Jos. B. H. BENNETT, Secretary.

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*The following Attestations are selected from the Secretary's Book as Specimens of those which were signed at the conclusion of every four hours, from the beginning to the end of the Watch by the different Watchers successively.*

*The first Attestation was the regular form adopted, when nothing particular occurred. But whenever any Occurrence took place, to which the slightest suspicion could attach, in regard to the conveyance or receiving of Food, every attention was paid and every such Occurrence noted and attested accordingly.*

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1813.

*Ten o' Clock in the Evening.*

WE, Elias Sanders, Curate of Church-Broughton, and John Webster, of Burton, Surgeon, do hereby certify and attest, that (from Six o' Clock this evening to the present time, being four hours) we have most diligently and attentively watched Ann Moore during the said four hours, (having first entered the room before the preceding watchers withdrew) and we are fully satisfied, and do declare, and will maintain, that she has not received any food whatever, liquid or solid, in the course of that time, and that our said watch has been conducted in strict conformity with the regulations prescribed.

AS WITNESS OUR HANDS,

ELIAS SANDERS.  
JOHN WEBSTER.

*Signed in the presence of*

CHARLES BOTT, and  
J. B. H. BENNETT.

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### MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1813.

*Three o' Clock in the Afternoon.*

WE, Frederick Anson, Rector of Sudbury, and George Alsop, of Uttoxeter, Surgeon, do hereby certify and attest, that, with an ex-



extremities may be considered as a part of the imposition which she has so successfully practised upon the public; that she has sensation and motion in them, and consequently the power of *moving* her legs which are *voluntarily* drawn up under her, with a view to render her case more striking, and to excite a greater degree of sympathy and interest in her visitors.\*

I saw no more of her till the morning of the 10th day, when I visited her in consequence of a communication from Mr. Bennett, the Secretary, on the preceding evening, "that debility was increasing fast," and desiring to see me as soon as possible. I found her very much reduced; her tongue was dry, brown, and parched; her pulse so irregular, feeble, and tremulous, as not to be counted; her hands cold and livid, and her general appearance that of a person in a dying state. Under the impression that she could live but a few hours, I recommended to the Committee that the Watch should instantly cease, which being assented to, Mr. Allen, by my desire, put two or three tea-spoonful of warm water into her mouth; this was immediately followed by a violent fit of coughing, which ended in the discharge of some viscid mucus, and with it, as I believe, the whole of the water; *and during this time she made no effort to swallow.*"

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*The Rev. E. Sanders, Curate of Church Broughton, Derbyshire, states:—*

"That, during his first watch, "she appeared displeased at *two* candles being lighted at the dusk hour; and, when he insisted they should *both* be used, she said it was great extravagance, &c."

She said, in the course of conversation, "Dr. Henderson has said one thing against me, which is true, i. e. that I *have been* a great and notorious sinner." "Well, I would ask the Doctor, if he is not a sinner? They who are without sin, let them cast the first stone." Her voice was clear and strong, and she *slept* more than an hour during this watch.

Mr. S. says, that when he watched her the second time (on Monday morning) "the arrival of the weighing machine was announced to her, at which she seemed very much agitated, and said illnatured things about the Committee."

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\* It may be here proper to observe that Ann Moore used to assert that her legs, which were drawn up under her as she sat, had no feeling whatever, and that she could not use them. She also said, that she scarcely ever slept, and that what sleep she had was rather a dozing, without entire forgetfulness or unconsciousness of passing events. She likewise said, that she always reclined (her legs being still in their contracted situation) on the *right* side, and *could* not do so on the left.



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*Mr. Webster, Surgeon, of Burton-upon-Trent, speaking of the Second Watch, (Wednesday, April 21,) says:—*

“During the four hours which I attended Ann Moore, the three first were employed in talking; which she did in very excellent spirits, and appeared to have no doubt of going through the Watch; and during the last hour she slept a good deal, and part of that time apparently very sound. She said that she had taken a bad cold from having her bed changed.”

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*Rev. G. W. Hutchinson, Vicar of Tutbury, speaking of his Watch on Saturday Morning, April 24, observes:—*

“I was struck with the sudden transitions in her temper: sometimes she was perfectly cool, reasonable, and pleasant, and in a very short space as much the reverse. In one of her calm moments she suggested the propriety of making affidavit before a magistrate at the conclusion of the whole Watch, and said she had made it a matter of much consideration, and conceived it would be an additional satisfaction to the public. She spoke so reasonably and seriously upon the subject, that I felt no scruple whatever in telling her, that I fully approved of her proposal, but left the further consideration of it to a future conversation.

Third watch from two to six on Monday morning, with Mr. Tabberer. At this time she was very hoarse and her countenance sunk, which I attributed to the cold. She told me that she had been sleeping so sound for two hours that she did not feel so well in consequence of it. She was then very wakeful and cheerful, and continued so through that watch. She washed her hands and mouth, and it evidently gave her some refreshment to keep her hands in the water. We narrowly watched her during the operation. She passed her wet fingers several times across her lips, which she kept closed, so that no water could have been admitted into her mouth. I was a little surprised at the satisfaction she expressed at having the room kept very warm with a large fire.

I also watched for three hours on Friday morning with Mr. Dewe, having relieved Mr. Richmond at seven o'clock. She was more emaciated than ever I recollect to have seen her, and with difficulty raised herself up in the bed. She earnestly begged me not to tell her daughter that she was worse. “Tell her,” she said, “that my



hoarseness continues, but say nothing of my being worse : pray dont." She expressed her wish to speak to me alone, which I told her was impracticable, but proposed writing to my father to take a watch with me the next day, if approved of by the Committee. With this she appeared perfectly satisfied. She spoke as if she thought death was not far distant, yet with some inconsistencies, such as mentioning future watchers for some length of time forward. I was not at that time apprehensive of immediate danger. Indeed, at times, she spoke with considerable strength, and even washed her hands without apparent fatigue. Cloths wet in vinegar and water were now given her as often as she requested, and she complained of their not being wet enough, but I was not conscious that she swallowed the liquid. When Dr. Garlike and Mr. Allen proposed to her to make the attempt to swallow a teaspoonful of water, she did not object in a peremptory manner as I expected, but when the water was inserted into her mouth, it seemed to meet with resistance, and she threw herself forward apparently in a convulsed state. The Doctors almost immediately left the room. I went up towards her, when she still appeared to be convulsed : her countenance was paler than before, and her nostrils contracted. Mr. Dewe and I thought she was then dying, and sent for Mr. John Allen. It was not long however before she revived, and the first thing she said was, "they had almost killed her." Some time after, Dr. Fox came in, felt her pulse, and, as he was going out of the room, whispered to me, she is dying. All this time she kept her arms stretched out of bed. I proposed to her to cover them with the cloathes. She said "she could not bear them upon her, and that her arms and hands were very hot." Upon feeling them I was surprised to find them exceedingly cold to the touch. Towards the conclusion of the watch she put them towards me as I stood by the side of the bed, said she believed she was dying, and desired me to observe how livid and parched they were. I also perceived her extend one of her legs down the side of the bed, beyond what I conceived she was capable of doing. Previously to my leaving her she again expressed her wish to make affidavit of her integrity, and proposed to do it before night. She also begged that Sir Oswald Mosley might be sent for, as she had promised to take the oath before him. Upon being told that he was from home, and that Mr. Lister was to take the following watch, she readily agreed not to defer the business any longer, and proposed the hastening of it, saying that she had well considered the subject.

Mr. Lister being arrived, it was resolved that the oath should be administered to her agreeably to her request. I was present immediately before ; and during this solemn transaction and heard her dictate to Mr. Lister the form of an oath, which he wrote down, and which contained an appeal to Almighty God, and upon her dying bed, that she had subsisted without food for six years, and without tea or other liquid for upwards of four. She mentioned particular



dates, which I do not recollect. Immediately upon this the other form, drawn up by the Committee, was brought up and presented to Mr. Lister, who suggested some little alteration. She now appeared impatient to have the whole business concluded, and as soon as the members of the Committee, who were at hand, could be assembled, I was called upon by Mr. Lister to read the affidavit to her, as supposing that she was most familiar with my voice. In reading it she two or three times interrupted me to confirm, by some addition of her own, what we there inserted: and she went through the whole solemnity without the slightest hesitation, leaving upon the minds of the witnesses a strong impression in her favour. It was now thought advisable that I should immediately break the matter to her daughter Mary. I accordingly went over to Allen's, but before I had properly opened the business to her, one or two of the Committee brought word that the mother would be very shortly dead, and that there must be no delay. I therefore accompanied Mary into her mother's room. She went to the foot of the bed, looked attentively at her mother, and lifting up her hands exclaimed, "O she is dying, she is dying." She then went towards her and I believe kissed her, but immediately afterwards hastily withdrew, ran down stairs and across the road, crying out "she is dying, she is dying." We endeavoured to pacify her, and she soon afterwards returned to her mother, and remained with her. What followed afterwards I was not witness to, but was not a little surprised in the course of the afternoon, to hear that Ann Moore was reviving, and that some expectations were entertained of her recovery. I saw her the next morning, when she was considerably better, and at that time she asked, whether she had not done every thing to satisfy the public. Very soon after this, the discovery was made which led to the detection of the whole imposture."

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*Rev. R. P. Buddicom, Fellow of Queen's College,  
Cambridge, writes thus:—*

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**First Watch of Ann Moore,**

APRIL 22, 1813.

*From 2 P. M. to 6 P. M. being the Second Day.*

"HER appearance had very little remarkable: she seemed in indifferent health, but had no marks of that extreme emaciation which might have been expected. On the contrary, her face, which is naturally long, was sufficiently full; and no more wrinkled than might be expected from her age ( $51\frac{1}{2}$ ); her hair auburn, with no dis-



cernible mixture of grey; there was a slight natural colour in her cheek, except when she was under the influence of violent pain. She was sitting up in bed with her feet drawn under her thighs to the left of her body, which she represented as her invariable posture for the last four years, except when she reclined on her right side to sleep. When I entered the room her pulse was 86, nothing thready or wiry, but full and distinct and regular. She told me her last nourishment was a little water, 16th September, 1808, which convulsed her a quarter of an hour, and that she did not know whether she could swallow, having never attempted it since that time. In answer to my question what had produced this indisposition or inability to eat, she told me it arose from poverty, that having at one time only parochial allowance she was obliged to fast, when her children were provided for, and what was at first necessity, became habit. The œsophagus was plainly open, for she had frequent flatulency and was relieved by evacuations upwards. She said her daughter used to sleep with her; (the Committee had thought it necessary to remove her during the watching) she declared herself much in want of the support which the warmth of her daughter's body afforded her, and said this privation would do more to reduce her than any other condition of the watching. Indeed she complained much of the cruelty of removing her daughter from the house, though she said she did not wish to see her. She took a considerable quantity of Scotch snuff; there was a very plentiful discharge of mucus from the nose. Her skin was moist, cool, and soft, and its secretions were evidently carried on with full activity. She seemed unable to move more than the index and second finger of her left hand, but moves all on her right. She had also a confined motion in her left knee, but none in her right. She said her right leg was much wasted, probably from its position. She declared that she had not walked for seven years past. Her voice is clear, strong, and distinct, and from her own account without the least pain: in fact she talks with great freedom, and even with rapidity; but complains of inability to open her mouth beyond certain limits, or to protrude her tongue beyond her lips. She said she washed herself irregularly, occasionally four times, sometimes only once a week, always without feeling refreshed, and indifferently with hot and cold water. There was no urinous smell about the bed, which indeed had been changed only the preceding day. One of the Committee told me, it was very perceptible in her former bed. I could discover no appearance of alvine discharge. She said her family ate and cooked in her room; the smell of meat did not annoy her, but wine, tobacco, or spirits, were disagreeable to her. The window was closed when I entered the room, and so continued for two hours, without any wish on her part for the admission of air. Her mouth was moist without the production of very much saliva, and I did not observe any appearance of swallowing it, which would have been decisive in my mind of her insincerity. At a quarter past four P. M. she was



moved, and the arrangement of her bed altered at this time. She complained of excessive pain around her loins occasioned, as she declared, from the circumstance of her bed having been insufficiently aired. It was filled with new chaff, she refused feathers. After being moved her pulse was 94. The application of warm flannels mitigated the pain. She had a strong hard cough, such as might be expected in a healthy person. At half past four she fell into a slumber, and breathed full and distinct at regular intervals, but soon afterwards awoke in much pain. When under the influence of pain, her mind is restless and impatient, and even the most trivial things produce irritation. She is evidently of a sanguine temperament, unsubdued feelings, and great liability to passion. Her intellect seems strong and acute. She laughs loud, and even with considerable force. Her lungs were evidently in sound and healthy action, and from the freedom with which they did their office, there must be a great expenditure of substance, as carbon, from whatever source it might be supplied. Her eructations were frequent, and much air was disengaged from the stomach. She agreed to be watched so long ago as last November, which I collected from a letter sent her by the Rev. Legh Richmond, which she put into my hand. I mention this as some proof of her readiness to meet inquiry whether real or assumed. When I left the room, her pulse was 100, full and strong, and nothing tremulous. My colleague was Mr. Gilbert Bridges, Surgeon, of Narborough, near Leicester."

## Second Watch of Ann Moore,

APRIL 23, 1813.

*From 2 A. M. to 6 A. M. being the Third Day. Pulse 88.*

"SHE had been in much pain since I saw her, from some complaint about the loins, apparently spasmodic; probably induced by cold, and the alteration of posture, affecting a frame of much nervous sensibility: it yielded in some degree to the application of warm flannels. She complained of uninterrupted acute pain on the left side below the ribs internally, and said that when she turned suddenly, a large lump flew to that side, which subsided only after strong pressure of her hand. [Half past Two o' clock.] She could not recline upon the right side as before, and as she had always done, but started up after every attempt in much pain. I moved her about 3 o' clock, enabling her to lie more on her back, with her knees before her, an alteration of posture, which she said she had not tried for four years. She soon lay down on her left side, and fell into an uninterrupted sleep. She had before dozed a little in a sitting posture, seemed in much pain, and much exhausted; talked less, and less cheerfully. In moving her I had opportunity of observing that she was extremely



thin. Her breath and flatulent eructations were not fetid, but distinguished by a smell of peculiar and excessive acidity, as was likewise the effluvia of perspiration exuding from her body. At 20 minutes past 3 she awoke in great pain. Her forehead was cool in her greatest paroxysms. Indeed, I could discover little difference in the state of her skin between great suffering and seasons of comparative ease. From half past 3 to 5 she dozed or rather slept with little intermission. At three-quarters past 5 o'clock her pulse was 100. We left her nearly free from pain, and in recovered spirits. She had cut her hand the day before I first saw her. The wound, which at our request she exhibited, was on the large muscle of the thumb. She said the blood flowed freely. I saw some remaining near it, which was sufficiently florid, and the wound, which was about an inch in length and rather superficial, was healing kindly."

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*Mr. Bridges, of Narborough, Leicestershire, observes:—*

"I perfectly recollect her sleeping for nearly fifteen minutes. When she awoke, she denied having slept at all.

During the time I stood close to her, I thought I heard the bowels as if filled with flatus.

She said she had not saved five pounds in the world."

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*Rev. J. Dewe, Rector of Breadsall, near Derby, writes:—*

"SHE spoke much of the supposed dampness and consequent weight of chaff, and of the loss of her daughter, who usually slept with her, and from the warmth of whose body she derived much comfort. From these circumstances, added to the green state of the wood of her bed frame, she observed that she must necessarily lose much of her weight, which loss, would, in all probability, be ascribed to some cause tending to injure her character, and induce suspicion of imposture. These remarks of the woman did not strike me forcibly at the time, as I entertained not the slightest suspicion of any attempt at deception on her part. Of the state of her mind I did not form any favourable conclusion, as she appeared to be restless and dissatisfied, and occasionally cast reflections upon the gentlemen of the Committee, for changing her bedding. When I left her at 10 o'clock, expressing my hope and intention of seeing her at 6 the



morning, she told me I should not see her alive at that hour. Believing the woman to be sincere, and that her sufferings arose from the causes she had assigned, I pitied her, and lamented that any change of her bed had taken place, as it appeared to have produced effects of so painful a nature.

At 6 on Friday morning, I found her considerably better, and comparatively cheerful. She conversed much on various subjects, some of them of a serious nature. On the subject of religion her language was that of a person no way ignorant of sacred truths, yet by no means such as would have induced a suspicion of hypocrisy or fanaticism. At 10 o'clock I left her, not only satisfied, but pleased at all I had seen and heard, and entertained not the slightest suspicion on her part.

On the 29th of April my third watch commenced. A change in her personal appearance was at this time perceptible. Some variations in the mode of treatment had, I found, taken place, as she was permitted occasionally to apply to her throat the corner of a handkerchief dipped in water, and afterwards in a mixture of vinegar and water. Her fever appeared to be high. Her lips and the interior of her mouth were parched, and from the latter, when rubbed by the handkerchief, came a thick mucus. Still unwilling to harbour suspicion, I considered all this as the effect of a cold contracted, and from want of the usual lenitive applications, increased to a dangerous fever.

At the same time, candour compels me to own, that, in the occasional conversation I held with Ann Moore, I could not but remark great inconsistency in her language. At one time she would speak of her death as of an event nearly approaching, and in a short time after, of going in the month of August or September to settle at Lichfield, where she proposed to take handsome lodgings. On hearing her hold language so inconsistent and contradictory, I could not forbear asking her how she, a dying woman, could entertain the idea of changing her situation otherwise than for the grave? This question confused, and (as far as I now recollect) silenced her. She, no doubt, flattered herself that, should she survive the ordeal, she should, by settling in Lichfield, be enabled not only to support herself and daughter, but to realize a fortune.

At 6 o'clock A. M. on Friday the 30th, I resumed my watch, when the Rev. Legh Richmond was my colleague. This gentleman availed himself of the favorable opportunity they afforded him of entering upon a most serious and interesting conversation with the woman, whose observations upon and answers to the questions put to her, not only evinced great strength of mind, but appeared to be the result of deep reflection, yet calculated to impose even upon the most incredulous.



About 7 o' clock Mr. R. was called away, and succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Hutchinson, who resumed the conversation that had been interrupted; and at the woman's express request, prayed for her in the most earnest and impressive manner.

About 9 o' clock Dr. Garlike and Mr. Allen entered the room, and after some opposition on the part of the woman, the latter gentleman forced a tea-spoonful of warm water into her mouth. On receiving it she appeared to be greatly convulsed and agitated, and as the medical gentlemen had quitted the room, being apprehensive of her immediate dissolution, I proposed to Mr. H. to send for Mr. Allen, Jun. who came in a few minutes. After some time the convulsive motions ceased, and she appeared to be calmly sinking into the arms of death. Dr Fox, who entered the room before 10 o' clock, felt the woman's pulse; and after he had quitted the room, I was informed that he considered her death as an event very nigh at hand.

Under these circumstances it was judged proper to break up the Watch, and admit the daughter to take leave of her dying mother.

Expecting her death every moment I stayed at Tutbury till nearly four P. M. and, to my no little astonishment, found that the woman was better, and appeared likely to recover. With the subsequent transactions the public are fully made acquainted."

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*Rev. Mr. Best, of Uttoxeter, speaks of*

"HER great irritability of temper during part of the watches in which he engaged.

When the weighing machine was spoken of, she took great pains to impress us with the idea, that it was impossible that she could lose weight; if therefore there should be any loss of weight, it must be occasioned by the sinking of the chaff, &c. &c. At other times she talked with the greatest possible confidence of continuing through the Watch without feeling any inconvenience from it, talked of settling at Lichfield, &c. &c."

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*Mr. Cotterell, Surgeon, of Hinckley, speaks of*

"HER great fretfulness and complaining of pain in her right side.

At two o' clock on Friday morning, April 23, I began my second watch, in which she soon shewed a disposition to sleep, and after



being assisted in turning her legs, she inclined upon her *left* side, and slept near two hours.

I was struck with the capacious state of the stomach and æso-phagus, as she had frequent eructations, from which I concluded that digestion might be carried on there."

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*Mr. F. Goodall, Surgeon, of Uttoxeter, observes:—*

"I frequently discovered about her an urinous smell, and observed a particular disposition to talkativeness and vivacity of spirits, which seemed to me of an extraordinary nature for a person of abstinence.

In my second watch, towards its conclusion, there was much impatience discovered; such as one might expect from the want of some kind of nourishment; and her pulse then extremely quick, together with a profuse but warm perspiration.

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*J. Lane, Esq. of King's-Bromley, observes,*

"THAT she was much irritated at the suspicion which he seemed to entertain lest any food might be conveyed to her in the pocket-handkerchiefs which were brought to her. None however was found in these on the Friday."

I may add, she seemed generally to watch me full as much as I did her."

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*Mr. J. Kirkland, Surgeon, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, says:—*

"MY first watch of Ann Moore was on Friday, April 23, from 10 at night until 2 the next morning, during which time hot flannels were obliged to be constantly applied to her stomach to relieve her from violent spasms, which at that time I imagined might arise from the want of sustenance, it being the third day of the Watch; but on questioning her respecting it, she assured me it arose only from her being shifted to a fresh bed, by which she had taken cold. My second watch began at 2 in the morning on the 24th, in which four hours the flannels were not applied above two or three times, and that at the beginning of the watch. She had some comfortable sleep. When I told her of it, she answered in an angry tone, "Sleep Sir,



what sleep have I had?" Finding this irritated her mind I said no more, fearing it might be the cause of something unpleasant: but if woman ever had four hours sound sleep out of eight, Ann Moore, had that that night, or more."

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*Mr. J. Rice, Surgeon, of Uttoxeter, writes;—*

"IT will not perhaps be unacceptable if I transmit a few observations which I made the morning following the cessation of the Watch. It was appointed for me to renew my watching on Saturday May 1, at 6 o'clock A. M. [the Watch discontinued the day before, viz. Friday,] and in consequence of going part of the way overnight, I reached Tutbury before I knew that it was at an end. Being informed of the fact, and understanding that the greatest part of the Committee were gone from Tutbury, I was anxious to ascertain the result, and to acquire what information I could respecting her: accordingly I waited for an opportunity to see her, her door being at that time (6 o'clock) made fast; but in the course of an hour I saw Mr. C. Bott, whom I accompanied to her dwelling; and not having seen her for a week before, upon entering into her room I was struck with astonishment at beholding her much-reduced state since I watched her. The pulse was then about 130 in a minute and feeble. She told me positively that she could not swallow: her own subsequent "declaration" has shown that assertion to be incorrect.

From what has transpired since the withdrawing of the Watch, it appears evident that *inanition* was the cause of the frequency of the pulse, its feebleness, and the wasted condition of the body."

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*Mr. Hawthorn, Surgeon, of Uttoxeter, writes:—*

"ALL I recollect concerning her is, that when I saw her about twelve months ago, her pulse at that time were about 90, firm and good; and when I commenced the watch on the fourth day from her fasting they were 106 and much weaker: in two hours afterwards they were 108, which clearly shewed that debility with irritability was fast approaching."

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*Mr. G. Hutchinson, Surgeon, of Ticknal, says;—*

"IN reply to your letter I have merely to observe, that disbelieving Ann Moore's case in toto my attention was chiefly directed to detect the method by which she had so long and so successfully imposed on the public and the profession to which I belong. I there-



fore made no remarks of a "medical or any other nature" which have not been noticed in the attestations signed by me during my two first watches; neither did any thing occur in the course of my other two watches worthy of observation, except that I found Ann Moore evidently reduced and labouring under a considerable degree of erethism which I was *then* at a loss how to account for, supposing with equal probability that it might be a consequence of synochus fever brought on from exposure to a stream of cold damp air, which she persisted in having admitted into her room, as of long protracted abstinence."

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*Mr. J. Adams, Surgeon, of Burton-upon-Trent, writes:—*

"MY watch commenced on Ann Moore at 6 o'clock in the morning of the fifth day of watching. I found her sitting almost upright in bed, reclining now and then on a pillow for ease and rest; her mind seemed to be uneasy and perplexed; her body fatigued and emaciated: the extremities appeared cold, torpid, and inactive; pulse about 90, very feeble and weak; pain in her side, sore throat, cough, &c. I then imagined she would soon die. However, in that expectation I was disappointed, as she gave up in time."

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*Mr. J. Allen, Senr. Surgeon, of Tutbury, writes:—*

"I attended the Watch of Ann Moore with Sir Oswald Mosley, from 10 o'clock to 2 on Sunday the 25th of April. She appeared to be in good spirits, and conversed cheerfully the whole time with us; although her countenance certainly indicated languor and dejection.

She was evidently laboring under catarrhal affection. She had cough, hoarseness, and occasional expectoration of mucus. The skin was cold and dry; the lips and mouth were also dry, and parched; her pulse were quick (upwards of 120 in a minute) and feeble. That she had wasted considerably of her flesh from the commencement of the Watch was to me very perceptible.

On Thursday, April 28, I had no doubt but Ann Moore was suffering from forced abstinence, and made that opinion of mine known to a friend."



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*Rev. H. Williams, of Derby, writes:—*

“TWO observations must be obvious to most of the Watch;—that she both slept soundly and brought up much mucus: which circumstances were contradictory to her general affirmations, that she neither “spit nor slept.” By approaching her very closely, I perceived each time a very offensive smell, but at the moment I imputed it to a sick bed, which prevented any suspicion of evacuations, or else I should have reported it to the Committee.”

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*Mr. J. Webster, Surgeon, of Derby, says:—*

“SHE slept several times *alternately* on each side. I feel confident her lower extremities are not paralytic, having observed she straightened her legs considerably in turning herself over. At another time she lost her spectacles, and in looking for them, exerted herself very much, and in such a manner, had she lost the use of her legs, she could not have done. She had several violent eructations, which made me make a remark to my colleague, that her stomach was not contracted but capacious, and a free passage down the *æosophagus* into it.”

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*Rev. E. Cooper, Rector of Hamstal-Ridware, observes:—*

“DURING the time of my watch, Ann Moore complained much of her cold, and of the hoarseness occasioned by it; and consequently she spoke but little during the four hours, but expressed herself with great confidence as to the final result of the Watch.”

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*Dr. Fox, of Derby, writes:—*

“I did not see Ann Moore until Monday Evening the 26th of April, (being the day on which the weighing machine arrived) and not having any dependance on the watching of her alone, I did not wish to watch her, without its being accompanied with the weighing of her at the same time, as I was very apprehensive she might by some stratagem elude the observations of the watchers, but if she lost weight at the same time, it would then be conclusive. From many observations and facts with which I was acquainted, I had for some time no doubt in my own mind that she was an impostor. I watched on the above evening with the Rev. Mr. Williams of Derby.



about three quarters of an hour during the time one of the watchers went out to get some refreshment. On entering the room I was much struck at the alteration which had taken place in her countenance since I last had seen her, being nearly three weeks: the pulse was 120, her face and body considerably thinner, and her arms much emaciated; her tongue was become very dry and hard, and she seemed to be in a suffering state, attended with great discharge of mucus from the nose and windpipe, hoarseness, &c. such as usually attend a common catarrh. I had not any doubt in my own mind, that all the above symptoms were produced by abstinence, as I think it would not be difficult to prove, that the same symptoms might be produced either by cold or abstinence; but herself and several other persons were very anxious to impress a belief, that they were all occasioned by cold, in consequence of being removed from her own bed to a new one provided for this purpose, and to the evaporation from the board of Merlin's weighing machine, but in my opinion without the slightest foundation for such a supposition. She desired me to rub her neck and throat with a mixture of spirits of hartshorn and lavender, the principal intention of which was to prevent the smell of urine in the bed, and likewise to refresh her, as she was then in a languid state.

The next morning (April 27) at 10 o' clock, I watched her again until two in the afternoon, in company with the Rev. Mr. Cooper. She appeared much the same as the night before, except the hoarseness, which was rather better. Her pulse was quick (130) and very feeble, especially when she sat up. I gave her a handkerchief dipped on one corner in water to moisten her mouth, several times; from which she said she experienced great comfort. She expressed great confidence in being able to go through the Watch to the end of the month. I told some persons in Tutbury, as soon as I left off the watch, that in my opinion she must give up being watched before the end of the week, otherwise that she would die.

I did not see her again until Friday morning (April 30th) at 9 o' clock, when I found her to all appearance in a dying state. There was no pulsation of the artery in the left wrist, and it was nearly imperceptible in the right one. Her hands and arms were quite cold, and indeed she was in a most dangerous state. She spoke to me in a very low voice and said she was very ill, and asked me what I thought of her. I gave my opinion to several persons in the room and in her hearing, that unless she had some nutritious food, as little stimulating as possible immediately, she would certainly die very soon; indeed, I was perfectly satisfied that the whole of her indisposition proceeded from abstinence. In a short time afterwards she told Mr. Lister, (who was then on the Watch) that she wished to give it up and to have her daughter sent for. Shortly afterwards



she was left alone with her daughter, and in consequence she gradually recovered, no doubt from having supplies of nourishment afforded her. During the night, she requested to have a handkerchief moistened with vinegar and water, which was allowed her by Mr. Wright, Surgeon, from an apprehension that she would die if it was refused her. It was thought that she swallowed several ounces of vinegar and water in this way, by sucking it from moistened handkerchiefs, and in all probability her life was preserved by it, as the vinegar would restore, in some degree, the lost excitability of the stomach, and that a small quantity of the stimulus of alcohol, either in the form of wine or any other shape, would have destroyed her, by exhausting the very small degree of excitability which the stomach possessed at that time. It was particularly satisfactory to me on many accounts that this wretched woman did not die, and on one in particular, that her death would have been attributed to disease, and that it was not occasioned by abstinence. Her rapid recovery after nourishment was given to her, was, of itself conclusive, as to the cause of her illness. I rejoice much with the public at large, at the detection of this daring impostor, and with many thanks to the Rev. Mr. Richmond, for his being the means of establishing a plan, which has completely brought to light this base and most disgraceful deception."

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*Rev. John Jones, of Walton, says:—*

"I entered her room for the first time a few minutes before two o' clock P. M. April 27, with Mr. Hutchinson, Surgeon, of ————. I asked her how she did? She told me she was in constant pain. I enquired if she felt resigned to the will of God? To which she replied, "I am very happy; I would not change my state with you."

She informed me that her long fasting had not in the least impaired her mental powers; but that, on the contrary, her memory in particular had been much better since she had left off eating, than it had ever been before. She told me that the present Watch had been instituted at her particular request; but seemed not to like the idea of being watched for 4 weeks; she thought a much shorter period might have been sufficient. She assured me she had not taken any kind of food since March 1807, nor had she drank any liquor whatever since September 1808; she added that she had entirely lost all power of swallowing. During this watch, she either sat upright in bed or else reclined on a pillow on the right side. She thrust two fingers into her mouth repeatedly for some minutes. She lamented being deprived of her daughter's society for so long a time; and said she believed she derived much nourishment from her daughter's sleeping with her. Her spirits appeared tolerably good;



there was a degree of pertness about her. She expressed that she was sorry, that being so unwell, she could not entertain her company better.

I sat up with Mr. Leedam, surgeon, of Burton-upon-Trent, from 10 o'clock the same evening till 6 o'clock the next morning. She complained of fatigue; and wished to be excused from speaking much. She was more restless than she had been in the afternoon. She observed that she slept very little, and had no sound sleep at any time. She acknowledged that she was as irritable as any person in Tutbury; and said her temper gave her minister great uneasiness. She told me she made work-bags and the like for the ladies; and that they would give her a guinea a piece or more for them; but observed, that she never made any charge for her work, but was thankful for what might be given her, which was generally something liberal. She said she could not go to sleep without saying her prayers.

A little before I quitted her room her breath was so very offensive, that it obliged me to keep at the greatest possible distance from her bed."

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*Mr. T. J. P. Burman, Surgeon, of Henley-in-Arden, says :—*

"DURING the early part of my watch we conversed much upon her situation. Not seeing her before, she related the exact time of her long pretended fast, mentioning several anecdotes of various visitors with much spirit. Two volumes of Blair's Sermons lay upon the table. It was remarked they were works of merit: she replied, "I do not admire them as they do not tell me of my faults." From the variety of religious tracts, and from the tenour of her conversation I must confess, I supposed her to be quite a religious character.

She slept some time and easy; pulse 130, feeble; tongue foul and rough; a quantity of thick mucus surrounded the teeth and fauces."

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*Dr. Trevor Jones of Lichfield, writes :—*

"Soon after I entered the room Ann Moore's pulse was 136; some time afterwards 132.



"I asked her, if she had ever felt any desire for food or drink, or the power of taking either, during the time she said she had fasted, and she declared she never had.

"She complained of pain under the sternum, and some time, perhaps an hour after, expectorated twice, which she said gave her ease."

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*Mr. T. Eaton, Surgeon, of Derby, says;—*

"MY first watch was on the 28th of April, from six to ten in the evening. During the greater part of this watch, her countenance appeared cheerful; she talked almost incessantly; coughed several times; and expectorated twice freely. She changed her position with the greatest facility, and without assistance. She had a handkerchief moistened with clear water and wrung out again twice during the watch.

I went on watch again at six in the morning of the 29th of April. On entering the room I found her much altered: her countenance was much collapsed and shewed great anxiety: her voice was very faint, and talking extremely irksome to her. She could not change her position without assistance: her pulse were feeble and tremulous, varying from 120 to 132. In assisting her to change her position, which I did several times during the watch, a strong smell of urine arose from the bed. On weighing her, found she had lost ten ounces and a half from 6 the former evening. A short time before I left her (at ten o' clock) she complained of giddiness; said she was afraid she should lose her senses; that she was certain she should die; and that it was a terrible trial."

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*Rev. H. Des Vœux, of Burton-upon-Trent, states:—*

"DURING the time of my watch upon Ann Moore, she expressed a wish that I should read to her a chapter in the bible, and upon my expounding to her some particular passages and conversing with her respecting their meaning, she evinced a knowledge of the scriptures which surprized me, but which only serves to cast a darker shade on that deceit and hypocrisy which has since been so fully developed. You know of course that before the time of my watch she began to use cloths dipped in water for the purpose as she said of cooling her tongue; when they were given to her in my presence with the water squeezed out as much as conveniently could be, she pretended not to be satisfied, but used her own strength seemingly



to extract any drops that might still remain, saying at the same time, that if a particle of the water were to find its way down, it would probably suffocate her, or throw her into convulsions, and appealed to Mr. Allen, to bear testimony to nearly a similar effect having been produced by the *last drop* which she swallowed *some years* before. I mention this more particularly as I understand she has since affirmed that she never denied taking liquid nourishment."

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*Dr. Simpson, of Etwall, writes, concerning his Watch on Thursday, April 28.*

"WITH respect to Ann Moore's bodily state, I perfectly recollect the circumstance of being very much struck with the alteration of her personal appearance, in consequence of the extreme and general emaciation which had taken place from the period of the commencement of her being watched. Her pulse too were about 130 and very feeble. I also remember that she made but little complaint and expressed herself as "feeling rather better" than she had done in the course of the preceding night.

From the four hours I was with her I formed a higher opinion of the powers of her mind than I had before been led to entertain from the short calls I had sometimes made her with various friends, upon which occasions the conversation of course turned merely upon her own situation. This opinion was formed in consequence of a request she made to my fellow watcher, Mr. Des Vœux to read her a chapter from the bible, to which he immediately assented, and begged her to make her selection for this purpose. She fixed upon the eighth chapter of the Romans, amongst some others, and at the conclusion of it, Mr. Des Vœux asked her sentiments respecting one of the verses on the subject of predestination, which led to an interesting and amusing conversation.

Although my ideas of her intellectual powers were heightened, I cannot say so much for the dispositions of her heart. These unfavorable impressions originated from some artful hints and awkward conversations respecting pecuniary topics."

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*Rev. S. Shipley, Vicar of Ashbourne, writes ;—*

"ON the evening of the 29th of April, I went on the Watch over Ann Moore, at 6 o'clock, in company with Mr. Shaw, of Wirksworth. She appeared to me, at the time I entered the room, very feeble, and requested me to assist her in laying her head on the pillow. This was doubtless affectation, as she afterwards raised



herself up, and lay down without appearing to want assistance. At some times she would, as it were, throw her head on the pillow as if to excite compassion. During the time of my watch with Mr. Shaw, she was extremely anxious for a little vinegar and water, which was given her on the corner of a handkerchief, wrung nearly dry, with which she rubbed her mouth for a considerable time, as long I conceive as moisture and coolness remained in the handkerchief. She observed that she was allowed that indulgence once in every two hours, but generally pleaded the privilege before the time arrived. I cannot but think that the moistened handkerchief was of particular service to her, as on its second application she seemed so much refreshed that she shortly had, in consequence of it, nearly an hour's composed sleep. She expressed herself when just awakened very much refreshed; but still her pulse did not give way, being as it had been for some time about 130. She appeared for the general part of the time uneasy, frequently changing her posture; expressed her apprehensions that she should not survive her present indisposition; and observed, that unless she was better the following day, she would send for her mother and brother, and which at the instant I construed into an intention of giving up the Watch; but at the same time intimated, that her present indisposition arose from the effect of a violent cold.

A little after ten of the same evening, Mr. Wright, of Derby, came on the Watch: and soon signified to me, that his intention was not so much for the purpose of watching to see that she did not take any thing, as to prove that she certainly did; and subsequent facts shewed that his conjectures as to her taking nourishment were too well founded; but I conceived that the object of the Committee was confined to the circumstance of preventing any thing in the way of nourishment or support being conveyed to her, I objected to his proposal; and the following communication took place betwixt us in writing:—

*Mr. W.* Would you venture to give her the handkerchief as wet as possible? It does appear to me that she can swallow, and if she should attempt it, it may certainly be observed.

*Mr. S.* I certainly should not approve of her having any quantity that she could swallow, unless she directly asked for it.

*Mr. W.* She is certainly very ill, and by no means free from danger. However desirable it may be to ascertain the fact (if such it be) of her living entirely without food, we should not lose sight of the unpleasantness we produce to our feelings, if any thing should happen which may be attributed to her undergoing the Watch.



*Mr. S.* The simple fact in question, is in my opinion the first thing to be ascertained.

*Mr. W.* But though this woman may have existed for a length of time upon a very small portion of food, does it not appear probable that she is sinking from the entire want of sustenance. Other circumstances may have contributed to bring her into this state, but is not that the principal cause of her indisposition?

*Mr. S.* I conceive that her present indisposition may reasonably be accounted for; partly in consequence of changing her bed; partly from the room being white washed; and partly from the dampness of the weighing machine..

*Mr. W.* Shall we leave as much moisture upon the cloth as possible, and then observe closely?

*Mr. S.* She must certainly know how the case really is; and if she has been in the habit of taking sustenance, she would of course conclude, that her present indisposition arises from her abstinence; and she must know likewise, that if that be persisted in, death must inevitably be the consequence. And what to her in such case can be so dreadful as death and its consequences!

I do not recollect any thing further during my watch with Mr. Wright, than that Ann Moore certainly signified that it would be pleasant to have more liquor given her in the handkerchief, as it would moisten every part of her mouth: and that she threw herself on her left side, which she usually asserted she never did: but she had no more moisture given to her than usual."

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*Mr. J. Wright, Surgeon, of Derby, writes;—*

"Wednesday, April 21, 1813, I attended from 10 o'clock at night till 2 the next morning, in company with the Rev. Legh Richmond. When we entered the room she was sitting upright in bed, and seemed cheerful and in good health. She said she had never taken any solid food since the 17th of March 1807, (on which day she eat a small quantity of roasted potatoe from the end of a tea-spoon) excepting a few black currants, not exceeding ten or twelve in number, which she swallowed one day in the month of July following. that she continued to take small quantities of water, or tea without sugar, till the 16th of September 1808, on which and the two preceding days, she took one ounce of water at five different times; but in attempting to take the last portion of it, she suffered so much pain and difficulty, that she had never since



that time swallowed the smallest quantity of food either solid or liquid whatsoever. She also said that her jaws *were fixed, and that she was not able to open her mouth*: that she had not had any evacuation by stool since August 1808: that she made water about eight weeks before Easter 1809, but was not sensible that she had ever passed any since. She also said that by leaning forwards she occasionally *reposed a little*, but believed she *never* so completely lost herself as to become wholly unconscious of what was passing around her. However, I have no doubt she slept nearly two hours during our stay, and very soundly; and although she wished us to suppose she had not, by saying she had heard the man below snore, and that she had also heard our conversation during the whole of the time, I do not believe her.

Her pulse were 78 in a minute; her tongue moist and the heat of her skin natural.

Thursday, April 29, I attended from 10 o' clock at night till six on Friday morning; the first four hours with the Rev. S. Shipley, Rector of Ashbourne; the last four with Mr. John Allen, surgeon, of Tutbury.

On entering the room I found her lying upon her right side, nearly across the bed, with her knees bent, her head and shoulders sinking forward, and apparently asleep, with her eyelids nearly half open. When she awoke I examined her mouth and found it extremely dry and parched, and her tongue loaded with a brown fur. Her pulse 120, and so feeble as scarcely to be felt.

The gentlemen who had taken the preceding watch informed us that they had several times, by the direction of the Committee, given her the corner of a white linen handkerchief dipt in vinegar and water, and wrung as dry as possible, for the purpose of cleaning and cooling her mouth; and as her indisposition was supposed to arise from catarrhal affection (brought on by the dampness of the bed,) great care had been taken to prevent the possibility of her swallowing the smallest portion of it.

Observing the dreadful emaciations which had taken place from the time of my seeing her before (Wednesday, 21st inst.) and not being able to impute it to any other cause than the want of sustenance, I proposed to Mr. Shipley that we should give her as much of the liquid as we could convey by the means which had been prescribed to us. To this he objected, but impressed with the idea that her dissolution was rapidly approaching, and that unless something was given to her she could not exist many hours, and not being able in her presence to express my sentiments so fully as I could



have wished, I determined, as often as I could unobserved by him, to give her as much moisture as she appeared to require.

At eleven o' clock, the corner of the handkerchief dipt in vinegar and water and slightly wrung out was given to her twice, with which she rubbed the roof of her mouth and tongue for some time. This was repeated three times at half past eleven, and twice at half past twelve, as wet as I could make it. At half past one she moved round upon her elbows and lay on her left side, her knees still remained bent, with her feet towards the feet of the bed, and rather inclining to the right side of it. She asked me to move the pillow for her, which I did, and feeling at her hands and face, found them very cold. She said she felt as if she should *sleep*, and begged that if she did we would wake her within the hour, for if she slept longer it would make her ill.

At half past two I gave her the corner of the handkerchief twice, (made very moist,) which she used as before, and when she had done she exclaimed "there, thank the Lord for another cooling."

She appeared at times much troubled with flatulency at the stomach, and had frequent eructations. The moistened handkerchief was again repeated twice at twenty minutes past three, when she said that the taste of the vinegar was very grateful to her but *the very thoughts of attempting to swallow made her tremble*. At four o' clock she asked for the moistened handkerchief again, and having given it to her twice, she desired I would moisten her *one little corner more*, it was so very pleasant to her, and had so much removed the giddiness in her head. She said "we had been good creatures to her, and if it had not been for us she did not know what she should have done; and having understood it was not my intention to be there again, begged very earnestly that I would.

From the large quantity of fluid which had been given to her during the night I felt no doubt but that a considerable portion of it must have passed into the stomach, and after having suffered total abstinence from the commencement of the Watch, which was then a period of more than nine days, would account for the flatulency and eructations I had observed in the earlier part of the night.

Although I watched her very attentively every time I had given her the wet handkerchief, I was not satisfied that I had ever seen a direct attempt to swallow; but I had generally stood before her, and as she had then raised her head somewhat from the pillow, at the same time inclining it forwards to the right side of the bed, I placed my back against the corner of the fire-place, and leaning over her, fixed my eyes on the upper and forepart of the throat, so that if any action in the muscles of deglutition took place I must



observe it. This I did on giving her the handkerchief the lastti me :— she sucked it; and having withdrawn it, smacked her lips and tongue, and made a distinct effort to swallow, which seemed to be done without any difficulty whatever. To this I endeavoured to call the attention of Mr. John Allen, who was sitting very near to the fire and immediately before it, by touching his foot with my own, when she smacked her lips a second time, and very distinctly swallowed.

Fully satisfied with what had happened, and without leading her to suspect what I had seen, I strongly urged the necessity of her attempting to take something, and that I was of opinion if she did not it was impossible she could live many hours. I advised her to take some coffee; she replied that the very name of swallowing made her ill, but if I thought it would do her good, and would attend again with John Allen she would attempt it. She repeated “that we were the kindest friends she had ever had,” and said “she was afraid she should not meet with such treatment again, and that if it had not been for us, she believed she could not have lived.”

Half past four o’ clock.—During the last hour or hour and half she had talked much more cheerfully, and seemed to be gaining strength. She had slept very little; and had moved over several times in bed.

At a quarter before five she asked to have the handkerchief dipt in water only, which I gave to her with the middle portion made as wet as possible, three times. The third time she said “*if she had a lump of ice she could suck it, and the handkerchief was so cool and pleasant, she felt as if she could swallow it altogether;*” and when she had done, to use her own words “I wish you would have the goodness to dry the handkerchiefs, for if they see them they will suspect something, they are so very wet.” “This is come for my end, I feel I cannot hold out long; they (meaning the Committee) have brought it all upon me by not observing more care in shifting me, and in letting me take such a cold; but I wish them no harm and truly forgive them.” Though in her eagerness to take the liquid she often forgot herself, and occasionally let fall an unguarded expression, she endeavoured as much as possible to carry on the deception; and did all she could to prevent its being *supposed* that her sufferings arose from want of sustenance, and to have it believed they were *entirely* in consequence of cold and fever brought on by being put into the damp bed. She began to talk of giving up the Watch, and said that if it was agreed she should give it up she would pledge herself on oath at the end of the two years, if she lived, to be watched again. She told Mr. John Allen she felt as if she should die, and hoped he would take care and restore her if he could, and not let her be “worried” by people coming to her.



At half past five the middle part of the handkerchief dipt in vinegar and water, and not wrung out, was given to her twice; and about six it was repeated several times. Her pulse at this time were 124; but on using the least exertion became much more frequent.

On measuring a saucer, as near as I could guess of the same size as the one out of which I had given her the liquid, I think there was not less than twelve ounces used; and allowing for waste of even half that quantity, I have no doubt but that six ounces *at least* passed into the stomach."

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*The Rev. F. Anson, Rector of Sudbury, after describing some Circumstances which occurred during the periods of his Watches, says:—*

"I did not see her again till summoned by a letter from the Secretary on Friday April 30th, requiring the Committee to assemble without delay. I found several people in the room, the Watch being then over, merely asked her how she did, to which she *feebly* answered, "very bad indeed," and I left her, supposing from what I had heard and seen, that she was a dying woman, and required to be left uninterrupted by the presence of strangers. I saw her twice afterwards; and in the last interview, she told me she thought she could not live two days, and mentioned the oath she had taken before Mr. Lister, and was sorry I was not by when it was administered, but desired I might see the affidavit she had so solemnly made. I told her I had already done so, and that I could not doubt but from the impressive and awful manner and circumstances under which it was both given and taken, that the statement of her extraordinary case, which she had always so solemnly asserted to be so, was true. She earnestly requested me to call and see her again soon, and the next day if possible. I must here mention a trifling circumstance, though I confess it was one that caused me some surprise. She had in a former watch requested me to procure her some old linen, to use as a handkerchief, from Lord Vernon's House-keeper: I promised her I would do so; and it occurred to her mind to ask me if I had brought it, at a time when it was supposed that this world's goods would profit her nothing."

Mr. Anson after detailing the discovery of the imposture which was made in his presence on Saturday May 2, adds:—

"Ann Moore during this seemed to be in a state of obstinate despair, and so I left her, and have not since seen her. She maintained, upon my remonstrating on the wickedness of her taking such a



false oath, that she had not made a false affidavit, as she had stated she had never eaten food. I explained the fallacy of the quibble of words she made use of, as she had sworn that she had not for the last four years taken *any sustenance whatever*, either solid or liquid."

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*Mr. Gregory Hickman, Surgeon, who came on May 2d with intention to watch, says, in a Communication made to the Secretary on that day:—*

"MY first opinion upon the case of Ann Moore, after seriously considering what I have observed at several times before, and what has so recently taken place, is, that the constitution of her frame is of so singular a nature, as to enable her to live upon very small quantities of aliment, and that, at considerable long intervals of time: but that as far as relates to her pretended *total abstinence*, I conclude her as being a complete impostor."

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*Mr. Charles Bott, who took Minutes of various particulars connected with the discovery of the Imposition, speaking of Tuesday, May 4, writes:—*

"ON Tuesday, the Committee met. But before they assembled, I called upon her with Mr. Granger, Surgeon. He very minutely examined her person, and measured the exact thickness from the umbilicus to the back of the spine with an instrument; it was  $4\frac{7}{16}$  inches.

"After the Committee had received the woman's confession, I went to her room, and found Mr. Granger, Mr. Wright, and some other persons with her. They were again examining the form of her body, and endeavouring to persuade her to swallow some milk. She consented to try; she took a little into her mouth; and did swallow a small quantity, perhaps half a spoonful. She said it felt very heavy on her stomach. She then also declared, that she had only been used to take a little tea, without either milk or sugar; but I should observe, that sugar was always placed in a cupboard within her reach, therefore she had the power of taking it if she chose."

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*Another Member of the Committee in a recent Communication, says:—*

"OBSERVATIONS have been made since the time of the late Watch, unperceived by her, from which it appears that Ann Moore



has been seen to exhibit such movements as prove that she must have some use of her lower limbs. Although the observer has never seen her stretch out her legs, yet he has distinctly seen her shift her position from the middle to the corner of the bed in such a way, that he thought she was on the point of getting out of bed, which however she did not do.

He adds, "She has not had many visitors lately, and I should imagine the number is daily decreasing. As far as appears, poverty is coming fast upon her. They have been under the necessity of selling some of their cloaths, glass, &c."

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*The Rev. L. Richmond in his official Communication to the Secretary, as one of the Watchers, observes:—*

"HAVING not only occupied the station of watcher myself during various periods of the late transaction, but having also had repeated opportunities of witnessing her behaviour during the watches of other gentlemen, through my daily intercourse with her house, as a member of the local Committee; I had the means of comparing and contrasting her manner and appearance at different times with each other. I did not then think that her conduct betrayed the marks of deception. I often thought her conversation and temper, unbecoming; but they did not appear to me as the result of deliberate artifice. I still conceived she might be sincere in the main assertion, although I believed that popularity and temporal elevation had much contributed to injure her spirit and disposition, as a christian. The solemnity of her conduct on the morning of breaking up the Watch revived better hopes, and I was willing to trust that at such a moment religious and moral integrity were in due exercise. The mind receives a painful shock on discovering the reverse to have been the case, and revolts at the remembrance of the scene. Few of us sufficiently know the depths of corruption in the human heart! Much advantage, however, may be obtained, for our own sakes, from suitable contemplation even on so deplorable a case. I chiefly lament that a spirit of unbecoming levity, on a subject attended with so many serious facts, should in any instances have been suffered to transpire either in print or conversation."

"I think it right to observe that from comparing all the events of that morning (May 1) together, I entertain much doubt, whether she did herself actually apprehend death to be immediately at hand. The united testimony of so many intelligent gentlemen of the faculty leaves me no room to suspect but that in reality her danger was great. She also solemnly *professed* to us all, individually and collec-



tively, that she believed herself to be dying. Notwithstanding both of which circumstances, I *now* think that she *did* secretly expect to recover when the Watch ceased; and that, awfully wicked as her behaviour respecting the affidavit undoubtedly was, she acted that presumptuous part under the expectation of a speedy amendment, rather than of approaching dissolution. This remark is perhaps of more consequence in a religious, than a physical point of view. But whatever might be the case then, christian feelings teach us to hope and pray, that before the hour of her *real* departure shall arrive, a just sense of her long protracted and complicated guilt may, through a divine blessing, lead her to seek and obtain pardon at that throne of mercy, from which no true believing penitent is ever sent empty away.

“In regard to the final result of this Watch, more particularly as it respects those who once believed in the integrity of the woman’s case, I feel disposed to apply the language of the learned Hildanus, who for many years credited and recorded the particulars of the supposed abstinence of Eva Flegon, a woman of the City of Mortz, in Germany. After the detection of her imposture, he was advised by his friends to cancel all that he had written concerning her in the second edition of his work. On a principle of honorable consistency he declined doing so, adding; “I am not ashamed to confess that I have been deceived in this matter; for I know, that it is notorious to all that this woman has for more than thirty years past, imposed upon a very great number of eminent and most circumspect men, even in the very City of Mortz itself.” Hildanus then expresses a wish that some one acquainted with the whole history of the imposture would publish a detailed account of it, “that for the future all persons might become more cautious in regard to fraudulent illusions of this kind.”\* From the consideration of this, and also the case of another abstinent, Apollonia Schreiera, he declares his opinion that there is reason to suspect the accuracy of most of the facts which have been recorded upon the subject of abstinence, even by authors † of the highest reputation.

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\* “Hortati sunt amici nonnulli, et quidem viri docti, ut præscriptam observationem 33 de falsa et fictitia inedia puellæ Morsiensis deleverem, aliamque locum substituerem. Cum vero lectorem qui jam primam editionem hujus in ipsius Centuriæ vidit, id in suis studiis perturbare posse, apud me perperderem, nihil in secunda hæc impressione mutare volui. *Non enim pudet*, hac in re me deceptum esse confiteri, cum sciam, omnibus notum esse ipsam a triginta et amplius ab hinc annis, infinitis viris præclarissimis et prudentissimis, etiam in ipsa urbe Mortz impossuisse.

“Optarem autem ut aliquis eorum, qui ab initio hujus fictitiæ inedia ipsam cognoverunt totum negotium conscriberet, et in publicum daret; quo in posterum in hujusmodi fraudulentis illusionibus cuncti cautiores esse possent.”

† Nec non quam plurima, quæ de hujusmodi inediis ab authoribus quantumvis approbatissimis sparguntur, suspecta mihi esse, ausim dicere.”  
Hildan. Cent. V. Obser. 33.



Having watched through all its stages the progress of the cold which I apprehend she caught on the first day of the Watch, and in particular the increased state of mucous excretions occasioned by catarrh, &c, I think that the wasting of her flesh was more rapid than it otherwise would have been, and that her ability to maintain the trial of the Watch for a longer period was of course diminished. Had there been no presence of *accidental* disease, it seems probable that the Watch might have been prolonged for some days longer; at least so it has appeared to me from close observations of the various symptoms which occurred.

So far as I have been the instrument of bringing this experiment to an accomplishment, I shall always rejoice that the truth has been established. I think that physiology and morality are each benefited by the disclosure. In the eyes of some, perhaps *religion* may appear to have suffered through the hypocritical assumption of its character and principles on the part of this unhappy woman. But eventually I fear nothing on this score. Useful lessons of watchfulness and caution, will probably be learned from the result of the recent investigation. Christianity will in the end be a gainer, and those who have engaged in this transaction in the spirit of humility and desire to do good, will find that their labour has not been in vain."

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While the foregoing pages were in the press, a very elegant work was published under the title of  
*"Some Account of Mary Thomas, of Tanyralt, in Merionethshire, who has existed many years without taking Food; and of Ann Moore, commonly called the Fasting Woman of Tutbury, accompanied by Portraits and illustrative Etchings, by James Ward, Esq. R. A."* Imper. folio.

"IT may not be unacceptable to the reader to see a few extracts from a work which, from the beauty of its execution, is likely to deliver the history and portraits of these two extraordinary characters "down to posterity," and, as far as it concerns Ann Moore, "to record her imposition to future generations."

When Mr. Ward visited Mary Thomas \* in 1802, she appeared to be free from pain, and had a marked character of serenity. He

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\* This is the person whose case is given above, page xix—xxii.



was assured by herself and many others, that she had for years abstained from every kind of food. He found "the temporal arteries beating strongly. The pulse at the wrist was marked by a regular irregularity of beats; two pulsations quickly succeeding each other, and then a momentary pause before and after the third. She put his hand upon her chest, which produced the sensation of its being placed upon a skeleton. Her legs and thighs were quite useless, and doubled under her: her arms were drawn up towards her shoulders at an acute angle."

Mr. Ward found that she had been in this abstinent and crippled state for the greater part of a century, being then very advanced in age. During ten years she had been in a state of torpor, unconscious of her own existence, and during that interval took no kind of sustenance whatever.

On recovering from this ten year's state of torpidity, she expressed a desire to take the sacrament, but being unable to swallow a morsel of bread, the sacred rite was administered to her, on her own suggestion, in boiled egg; of which she took a portion no larger than the head of a pin. The clergyman of the parish informed Mr. W. that he had thus frequently administered the sacrament to Mary Thomas: that on these occasions he always found her religious feelings so exalted, and her mind so uncommon, as to raise his admiration and respect. As far as I could judge, piety and resignation were the prominent features of her character.

Mr. W. visited her again in 1807: he then observed that "all the veins from the nose to the eyes were largely distended, some being of a purple colour, and others blue—the eyelids red—the eyebrows very black—the skin of the face, arms, and chest much shrivelled, and wrapped over the bones, apparently without the intermedium of muscles or cellular substance."

The persons about her corroborated the circumstance of the ten years of torpidity; and they were convinced that she received no sustenance during that period. They admitted, however, that she did now and then make an effort, occasionally, to swallow a bit of bread and drink a little water. But the quantity thus taken, did not exceed one ounce of bread in a fortnight, and one wine glass of water, taken at intervals in minute quantities: and even this did not remain in her stomach. Every effort to swallow produced sickness, and whatever she took into her stomach was *generally* rejected immediately, or *never* remained more than ten minutes."

That a woman, who has existed between seventy and eighty years, almost without food; and certainly, according to evidence that does not in any way seem objectionable, for ten whole years,



without the least particle of nutriment of any kind or form passing her lips, and without shewing any sensibility to or knowledge of external events; who neither had intestinal nor urinary excretions, presents a case most interesting and possibly instructive, is hardly to be denied. In 1812 this woman was still living."

Five very fine etchings illustrate this part of Mr. Ward's narrative, respecting Mary Thomas.

The account of Ann Moore was drawn up previous to the recent detection of imposture.

"The instance at Tutbury, in Staffordshire, though very surprising, can neither in duration or degree, be compared with this, yet existing in an obscure part of Wales. The morbid state and abstinence of Ann Moore, has continued not more than six or seven years, and some circumstances have arisen in its progress, which have afforded a pretence for a charge of imposition. Having frequently seen and conversed with this woman, and having drawn her portrait, from which the etchings No 6 and 7 are taken, without joining with those who support her to the extent of her assertion of entire abstinence; or with others who would prove her to be, in every particular, an impostor, I have believed it a duty I owed to society to record such facts as have fallen under my own observation, or have been reported to me by Ann Moore herself."

Mr. W. visited her first in 1809, and records the usual particulars.

In the month of November, 1811, he saw her again. He was "struck with her improved appearance. Her face had become more fleshy; and on laying my hand across her back and stomach, the improvement was so remarkable, that I acknowledge my faith in her history to have been, for the first time, considerably staggered. She had a perfect recollection of me from my former visit two years before; and retraced our conversation of that time with great exactness.

"On the 6th of November I returned again to Tutbury, and made a third visit to Ann Moore. In the interval between the 3d and 6th, it was evident that a great change had taken place in her health. She was languid, and I think, much thinner. She had fits now very often, and they were occasioned by slight causes. This morning, on the 6th, she had suffered three paroxysms. Two fingers of her left hand were closed, and it gave her much pain to have them opened: the left arm was thrown back close to the spine during the fit. But the most impressive change I saw in her, was a sinking of the head between the shoulders, and a languid bowing down of the whole frame, as if oppressed by its own weight.



"Notwithstanding the extreme tenderness and morbid sensibility of the left side, she had no feeling in the stomach and bowels; and the latter were perfectly flat, lying low in a compact mass, occupying the center of the pelvis, below the spines of the ilia, and appearing to have lain long in that position.

"To this extraordinary morbid derangement of corporeal structure and functions, is conjoined in Ann Moore, a mind of great sensibility, impetuous passions, corrected and chastened by the peculiarities of her present condition, and under which her intellect has greatly improved: particularly the property of reminiscence; for she states that remote circumstances of her former life, supposed to have been forgotten for ever, have returned, during her illness, with the vivid colouring of recent events. To religion she seems indebted now for every consolation; and her mind, fully charged with pious sentiments, dwells, with evident satisfaction, on subjects connected with this disposition.

"There are individuals, however, who still doubt: and the best ground of their scepticism seems to be the continuance of this woman in a state far removed from emaciation, and with even an improving external appearance, notwithstanding it is not denied that some of the excretions are going on in a natural manner, particularly sensible and insensible perspiration. The diurnal evaporation from the surface of the body, which Ann Moore evidently experiences, would, under common circumstances, soon exhaust a person who did not take food, or took it in a quantity disproportionably small: but she is to be considered as being in a peculiar and undefined state, from which the same conclusion cannot fairly be drawn. This undefined condition of the animal frame, though seldom occurring, has sometimes appeared in the records of medicine, often, possibly as an artifice, but surely in some instances, founded in truth.

The objection to the validity of Ann Moore's history arising from the frame being so little extenuated by her long continued fasting, may perhaps, in a measure, be removed by having recourse to a known function of animal bodies, for the performance of which a system of vessels is exclusively destined. It will possibly be difficult to prove, but I speak it with great submission to the medical faculty, that the absorbents, in this instance, have *not* assumed an extended action for the performance of the duties of other organs, which, from some inscrutable change, have fallen into a state of torpidity, or have been rendered useless by excessive morbid irritability; and that she is not supported by the imbibition of fluid from the surrounding atmosphere. If a lad at Newmarket, when almost starved in order that he might be reduced to a proper weight for riding a match, gained in one



hour thirty ounces by absorption: if a negro, gibbeted alive in South Carolina, and kept without food and drink, regularly discharged a large quantity of urine every morning, the materials for which were derived from the surrounding atmosphere—what reason is there to deny that Ann Moore may receive nutriment from this source? or that this nutriment, if it be nothing but water, may not, under the peculiar change which has taken place in her system, be sufficient for the support of life?"

Mr. Ward afterwards says, "Without entering into a critical examination of Dr. Henderson's pamphlet, the ingenuity and learning of which I fully admit, I must say that I rose from the perusal of it with my opinion of the veracity of Ann Moore unshaken by any proofs he has adduced. Yet I cannot deny but incidents have arisen which go to weaken the evidence that supports the fact of the long continued abstinence of this woman. But it appears to me that the testimonies of the truth of her statements are more full and convincing, than those which endeavour to establish the contrary: and the possibility of the phenomenon being allowed, as I think it must, on the history contained in the first part of this narrative, it will require most positive proof to shew, satisfactorily, that she is an impostor.

But in whatever degree the case of Ann Moore may be equivocal, the circumstances which have given rise to the equivocality, do not, in any degree, apply to that of Mary Thomas.

She is emaciated, poor, friendless, and almost unknown. No licentiousness has disgraced her early life; no charge of former imposture is alleged against her; there are no objectors to her veracity; and her abstinence continues after the impressions excited by its novelty have been worn away. Forty years ago she was seen and examined by a gentleman fully competent to judge of her case, and he does not doubt of its truth. When Mr. Pennant visited her in 1770, he found, according to his own narrative, the neighbourhood convinced of her long and preternatural fasting: no suspicion had ever arisen of any fraud being practised, no motive for imposition offered: few persons saw her, the neighbours excepted, but those, who like Mr. Pennant, were seeking to illucidate the natural history of the country, or to develope its picturesque scenery. This gentleman examined, very minutely, into the facts and symptoms of her extraordinary case, and left her, fully satisfied of the actual existence of a peculiar state of the system of Mary Thomas, which enabled her to live without the supplies of nutriment, at least in the usual routine and common form, by which Providence has determined to repair the waste of the animal machine,



She then was and still remains, a wonderful instance of deviation from the common course of nature: a proof of the possibility of life being sustained, for a great number of years, without food."

Two etchings of Ann Moore\* accompany this publication.

The dedication of the book bears the date of March 20, 1813.

A supplement is stitched into Mr. Ward's publication, in which he mentions the result of the late Watch on Ann Moore.

He says, "The extreme moral depravity of this woman, can only be equalled, probably, by her self denial; for it certainly appears, that, for nine days and nights, she remained without sustenance.

The case of Mary Thomas is, by this confession of Ann Moore, rendered at least doubtful; and I am sorry to add, that a full and satisfactory developement of the particulars is prevented by her death, which occurred some time in the last year. But it does not follow as a necessary consequence, that Mary Thomas must be an impostor, because the Tutbury woman has confessed her guilt. The whole tenor of her conduct and the absence of obvious motives for the practice of fraud, do yet give a degree of authenticity to her history. Having, however, been so far deceived by the plausibility and earnest observations of Ann Moore, I feel that the evidence in favour of Mary Thomas has been much weakened."

The editors of the London Medical and Physical Journal for August, 1813, speaking of this publication of Mr. Ward, observe, that "the extreme emaciation of Mary Thomas is happily shown in the etchings; and indeed nothing short of these facsimiles, could distinctly point out the absolute loss of muscular fibre, and the diaphanous representation of a skeleton dimly seen through the shrivelled integument."

In the same number of that Journal, Mr. Dunn, Surgeon, communicates some observations on abstinence, and quotes the treatise in the Harleian Miscellany, referred to above at page xxiv, with the case of Martha Taylor.

He writes, "In consequence of the great attention which has been bestowed by the philosophical world to the impostor Ann Moore, together with the spirit of enquiry which *still* exists as to the possibility of the human animal subsisting without food, I have

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\* A well engraved likeness of Ann Moore has been also published by Messrs. Mosley and Tunnichiff, of Derby.



transmitted to you the following extracts from a paper in the Harleian Miscellany, which I thought at the least curious and perhaps not without some degree of interest."

"His exordium, consisting of a collection of similar instances, bears strong testimony of such occasional deviations from the course of nature: and I must confess, although at a loss to account for it, we are by no means to disregard such a mass of evidence, let the impositions have been ever so numerous. Many other facts less palpable to the community at large, and much less susceptible of proof, are believed, although equally inexplicable; and deceptions of this kind are so easily detected by the eye of the vulgar as well as that of the philosopher, we ought to be no less cautious in our rejection of what appears supernatural, than in giving it our implicit obedience. Credulity and incredulity are alike the offspring of unreflecting habits. Too great a pliability on the one side, and too much inflexibility on the other, are obstacles that will always interrupt the way to truth." (page 104.)

Mr. Dunn then quotes a long list of cases of abstinence from the abovementioned paper, and adds, "most of these cases are certainly too unnatural to attempt to refute, however gravely they have been asserted. Useless, therefore, as the task would be to disprove what nobody would believe, as well as to combat with arguments the existence of what has been said to be seen, believed, and sworn to, it would be equally unjust to doubt the authenticity of the whole. The case which the author himself has related, bears strong testimony of the possibility of the human body subsisting under privations of food for a number of days, if we do not give credit for the full time he has represented.

Then Mr. D. extracts the case of Martha Taylor.

He afterwards observes, "The principle of life in the torpid animals is certainly maintained by some mysterious laws quite independant of circulation, secretion, or digestion: for, according to the observation of Hunter, a portion of food put into the stomach of one of these animals in their dormant state, will not be acted upon till the season when its customary functions are renewed; and yet it continues subject to the properties of living matter. It resists putrefaction and possesses muscular power, whenever called into action by its proper stimuli."



## Postscript.

*A Letter has been received from a Member of the Committee, resident in Tutbury, dated August 12, 1813, from which the following is an extract:—*

“ANN MOORE voluntarily quitted this place at half past seven this morning. She was seated in an open cart amidst several articles of furniture: but her face was not exposed, and she appeared to be well wrapped in woollen. I saw her removed from the door of her house to the cart, which was placed as conveniently as possible, and her body had the usual appearance of contraction and emaciation. At the moment of her departure there was much less confusion than might have been expected. Upon the whole, things were attended with tolerable order, and what was very satisfactory, little or no violence was attempted to be offered to her person. When the cart was moved off, there was a general shout, but the crowd immediately dispersed without molesting her. It is said she is to take up her abode with a relation about nine miles distant. I believe she is reduced to the necessity of removing, as they have sold a great part of their furniture, which must have been to answer present purposes.”

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On a review of the rise, continuance, and final detection of this imposture, the christian moralist will recollect the observations of Zophar, the friend of Job, and connect them with the circumstances of the present narrative.

“Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth, that the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the *hypocrite* but for a mo-



ment? Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds; yet he shall perish like his own dung: they which have seen him, shall say, where is he? He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found: yea, he shall be chased away as a vision of the night. The eye, also, which saw him, shall see him no more: neither shall his place any more behold him.—He hath swallowed down riches, and he shall vomit them up again.—Surely he shall not feel quietness in his belly, he shall not save of that which he desired.—In the fulness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits: every hand of the wicked shall come upon him.—The heaven shall reveal his iniquity; and the earth shall rise up against him. The increase of his house shall depart, and his goods shall flow away in the day of God's wrath. This is the portion of a wicked man from God, and the heritage appointed unto him by God."

*Job. xx. 4, 9, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29.*

Still, however, the christian, conscious of the glorious harmony which subsists between the attributes of the Deity whom he worships, will earnestly pray, that, out of the depths of poverty, disgrace and wretchedness, the voice of true repentance may yet be heard to break forth, and that the God of wisdom, power, and love, will in the midst of "Wrath remember mercy."

*finis.*



A M.

1772

THE READER'S ATTENTION IS REQUESTED TO THE FOLLOWING

### Errata.

Page 2, line 10, dele *t* in *important*.

— 15, 2, for *consistant*, read *consistent*.

— 31, 31, for *on entering*, read *on their entering*.

— 33, 3, for *are*, read *were*.

— 36, 7 from bottom, for *concious*, read *conscious*.

— 40, 32, for *in to*, read *into*.

— 50, Note at bottom, for *assertained*, read *ascertained*.

### IN APPENDIX.

Page ii, line iii from bottom, for *illü*, read *iliü*.

— iii, iii, for *uniform* read *ensiform*.

— iv, vi from bottom, for *assimulated*, read *assimilated*.

— x, viii from bottom, for *et*, read *ex*.

— xv, In the note at the foot of the extract from Mr. Granger's paper, after the words *historia singularis*. Cent. vi. obs. 33, the following paragraph is omitted:—"I am well aware that a distinction must be made between the *observations* and the *opinions* of Hildanus; the evidence of the former being strongly contrasted with the extravagance of the latter. He held out, that these examples of abstinence were signs and miracles! by which *divine goodness* notified impending calamities, and stirred up sinners to repentance. After all this misplaced piety, he very much doubted if they were not *devilish illusions*. The vague account, which *Monkeimius* sent last to Hildanus, is by no means capable of fixing limits to Eva Flegen's abstinence.

— xvii, xii, dele!

— Do. xxi, for *editor's comments*, read *editor's comment*.

— xviii, i, after *form*, add, *theories*.

— Do. xii, for *entitle*, read *entitles*.

— xxi, xxi, after *small*, add ".

— Do. xxviii, for *has*, read *have*.

— xxiii, xxviii, for *light*, read *tight*.

— xxiv, xviii, for *transaction*, read *transactions*.

— xlv, v, dele;

— lxviii, Erase *in ipsius* in the fourth line of the Latin note, and place it after *aliamque* in the second.







