

Thomson (9)

Prox

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

THOMSONIAN SYSTEM

OF THE

PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

ON

BOTANICAL PRINCIPLES,

AS ORIGINATED BY SAMUEL THOMSON, AND CONTINUED
BY HIS COADJUTORS.

BY JOHN THOMSON.

“By what unaccountable perversity in our frame does it appear that we set ourselves so much against any thing that is new? Can any one behold without scorn, such drones of physicians, that after the space of so many hundred years’ experience and practice of their predecessors, not one single medicine has been detected, that has the least force directly to prevent, to oppose, resist and expel a continued fever? Should any, by a more sedulous observation, pretend to make the least step towards the discovery of *SUCH* remedies, their hatred and envy would swell against him as a legion of devils against virtue: the whole society will dart their malice at him, and torture him with all the calumnies imaginable, without sticking at any thing that should destroy him root and branch. *For he who professes to be a reformer of the art of physic, must resolve to run the hazard of martyrdom of his reputation, life, and estate.*”

DR. HERVEY, *Discoverer of the
Circulation of the Blood.*

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.....
1830.

Box 25

Samuel Thomson has cured and relieved many, where other physicians could not, without being a regular diplomated physician. I am indeed so disgusted with learned quackery, that I take some interest in honest, humane and strong minded *Empiricism*; for it has done more for our art in all ages, and in all countries, than all the universities since the time of Charlemagne. Where for goodness sake did Hippocrates study earth, air and water, man and his kindred vegetable? In a word he read *diligently* and *sagaciously* the *great book of Nature*, instead of the little books of man, as Thomson has.

DOCT. BENJ. WATERHOUSE,

Late Professor of Materia Medica and the Theory and Practice of Physic, Harvard University, Mass.

This certifies, that the preparing and compounding the medicines, which Doctor Thomson claims as his own invention, I believe to be new and useful.

WM. INGALLS, M. D.

Boston.

The principles which you have laid down in your Guide to Health, appear to me to be the most rational and consistent thing which has ever reached my knowledge, in relation to the healing art.

CALVIN MORRILL, M. D.

When I first knew the value of this *beautiful and excellent system of Practice*, I thought it a pity that there should be any restriction on it, and that Congress should purchase the right and make it public. But observation, reflection and experience soon convinced me that the medical faculty, aided by others, would soon prevent the people from being materially benefitted by it, as they are generally too idle to practice successfully in this way, and its benefits would be lost to the world.

HORTON HOWARD, M. D.

Ohio.

HISTORICAL SKETCH, &c.

TO THE PUBLIC.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS,

THE testimonials contained in the following pages are respectfully submitted to you, in proof of the propriety and utility of the botanical system of practice, as pursued by the subscriber and his coadjutors.

The use of *poisons* as medicines, has obtained such an ascendancy in the public mind, that it will be considered the influence of enthusiasm or ignorance that should prompt an individual to *oppose* the practice, or *expose* its evil tendency. But let the consequence be what it may, being deeply impressed with the deleterious effects of such poisons on the human system, and conceiving it a bounden duty to express to the public my honest sentiments upon the subject, I am induced to lay the following documents, referring to my system, before it. They speak a language which can neither be misunderstood nor evaded. They speak of circumstances which have transpired within the recollection of all, and of facts which can be attested to by hundreds of witnesses.

It might not be amiss here, for me to give a short history of the rise and progress of this system of practice, as discovered and applied by my father, Samuel Thomson, from the time he first applied Botonic medicine, and the reason which induced him to make such applications.

It is now about forty years since this new system of practice was first ushered into existence. The principles were first discovered accidentally.

In the early part of life, my father received a deed of 150 acres of land from his father; when at the age of twenty-one, my father being young and ambitious, purchased 150 acres more of adjoining land, of my grand sire, which would place in his possession 300 acres. He now principally depended upon his own industry for a support of himself and family. He laboured early and late, and having a young family, who were subjects of much disease, as well as my mother, who had been several times at the point of death, made it necessary that he should call a Doctor often. The distance being five miles to the residence of the Doctor, my father conceived the idea of having him remove his family

on to one part of his farm, in order that he might be near in case of necessity. During the time the physician resided on the farm, five patients in the family, which he had pronounced incurable, were restored to health by my father. This was the first time the mother of invention held forth her hand to assist him in relieving the sick, The means which he had recourse to, were the same which are now cried down as quackery, &c.; steaming and the use of the *Lobelia Inflata*; together with the capsicum were first used in these cases. And the restoration of the patients to health, was attributable, in a great measure to them. He then thought, if he must restore his family to health, after they had been abandoned to die by the doctors, how much more feasible would it be for him to restore them from the first stage of disease, without the trouble and perplexity which he was put to, by having the doctors reduce them.

From that time forward he attended his own family, and has reared as robust a family of children as any in the state of New-Hampshire.

The neighbours perceiving the beneficial effects of his practice in his own family, began to call upon him to attend their families, when they were sick; and he was generally successful in restoring them to health, in a very short time; but the means by which they were restored, were so simple, that his labours could not be worth any thing. The inhabitants, notwithstanding they considered his labors so completely simple and valueless, could not refrain from employing him, from every section of the country; which took his time from his farm, which suffered much for the want of his attention. His practice was most generally attended with success: at the same time he received no compensation for his labours, which reminded him of the adage, "that a prophet could expect no honor in his own land." He then formed the resolution of leaving home, and to seek employ in some distant part of the country, where he presumed his labors would be more properly appreciated than at home.— He accordingly left New-Hampshire, and went to the state of Massachusetts, where he commenced practice, and so successfully, that the jealousy of the doctors was excited, in so much that he was persecuted, even to the defence of his life.

One Doctor French went before a justice of the peace, who was a physician and an enemy to my father, and made oath that he had probable grounds to suspect, and did suspect that Thomson had murdered sundry persons during the year past, whose names were unknown to him, the complainant; upon which a warrant was issued against my fa-

ther, and he was thrust into prison, in Newburyport, where he was confined in a dungeon, before a bill of indictment had been found against him, upon the oath of said Doctor French. The cell in which he was confined, was so far beneath the surface of the ground, that the filth ran from the vaults above, which rendered the air so obnoxious, that Doctor Shepherd, who came to see him, said he must leave him, as he would not stay in the cell one week for all Newburyport. He was confined with a man who had been condemned to solitary confinement for one year, for an outrage committed upon a girl of six years old. My father's incarceration commenced on the 10th day of November, 1809, at a time when the weather was very cold, and he had no fire, and not even the light of the sun, or that of a candle: and to complete this scene of misery, during the first night, he felt a crawling over him, which created a cutaneous irritation, which he could not account for, when upon enquiring of his fellow sufferer the cause, he said it was lice, and that there were enough to shingle a meeting-house. The first kind of food which he received, was the nape of a fish, with a dry crust of Indian bread, which was too hard for his teeth to master: this, together with an old tea-pot of musty coffee, had to serve him until 3 o'clock P. M., when this disgraceful stock of eatables was again replenished. A Mr. Osgood, a particular friend of my father's, and a member of the society of Friends, came to visit him; and when he witnessed the deplorable situation which my father was in, he wept like a child. Mr. Osgood asked and obtained liberty to furnish my father with a bed, which rendered his situation more comfortable: before this, his bed and bedding consisted of an old straw bunk, with a woollen blanket which had never been washed, which was every article of furniture the cell consisted of: not even a table, chair or stool, of any kind, was allowed him. In a few days Judge Rice, from Kittery, Me., came to see him, and brought with him a lawyer. Upon consultation, they advised my father to petition to the Judges of the Supreme court, to hold a special court to try his cause, as there would be no court held by law, at which he could be tried, until the next fall; and as there could be no bail for an indictment for murder, he would have to lay in jail nearly a year, whether there was anything against him or not. This appeared to be the policy of his enemies, from the time of his confinement; probably thinking, from the bad condition of the cell, together with the unwholesome provisions with which he was supplied, he could not possibly continue a year; and it was the opinion of his friends, that he could not possibly live

but a short time, if the prison remained in its then present disgraceful state of uncleanness, and the ends of his enemies would be fully answered.

Judge Pearsons consented to hold a Special court, on the 10th day of December, to try his cause, which was one month from the time of his confinement. During which time the weather was very cold, and not being allowed any fire, together with what he suffered from the filthiness of the prison, his extreme suffering may be more readily imagined than described.

My father's friends were such, principally, as had been labouring under diseases of a protracted nature, and had been abandoned by the regular physicians as incurable; after which they were restored to health by him. They visited his prison daily, and furnished him with good and wholesome provisions, as soon as they had been made acquainted with the kind with which he had been furnished; so in this respect his sufferings were not so extreme from hunger, as they might have been, had he been among strangers. Having pursued the path of duty which he conceived was allotted him by his Maker, his mind was as tranquil as could be expected, considering the bad state of the prison.

On the morning of the day which was appointed for him to be removed to Salem for trial, he was taken out of the prison by the jailor, who gave him water to wash, and he was permitted to eat his breakfast by the fire, which was the first time he had seen any in thirty days. He could not bear to sit near it, as it made him faint. As soon as he had eat his breakfast, iron shackles were put upon his hands, to confine him while he rode to Salem, a distance of twenty-six miles, the going being very bad, and the wether severe. On his arrival, he was delivered over to the jailor, who confined him in an upper room of the jail, which was quite comfortable, when compared with the den which he had left. He soon learned that Judge Pearsons was sick, and had put off his trial for ten days. However, he was not without friends, as Elder Bowles, a Baptist preacher, whom he had cured of a consumption, Capt. Russell, and several of his old patients, whom he had cured, visited him, and saw that his situation was as comfortable as the place would admit. On the 20th day of December, 1809, the Supreme court convened to hear his trial, at which Judge Pearsons presided, assisted by Judges Parker and Sewall, as assistant judges. After he was arraigned at the bar, he was directed to stand up, to hear the indictment which the grand jury, upon their oaths, had found against him; which was in the common form, that he had with malice afore-

thought, without having the fear of God before his eyes, but moved by the instigation of the devil, did murder and kill Ezra Lovett, with Lobelia, a deadly poison. To this indictment he pleaded not guilty. The jury were called and sworn, and the trial commenced. Doct. Howe was called on the part of the prosecution, and he produced a sample of the poison, which he stated to be the root of the Lobelia. He said that my father had given it to Lovett, and that he called it coffee. The sample was handed around for the court to examine, and the people generally appeared to be afraid of it. At length Judge Rice took it and eat it, which very much surprised the court. The Solicitor General, with marked astonishment, asked the Judge if he intended to poison himself in presence of the court, to which the Judge replied, that it would not hurt him, should he eat a peck of it.

Doctor Cutler was called upon to inform the court what it was which Doctor Howe had so positively sworn to be Lobelia. After tasting and examining it, he said he believed it to be marsh-rosemary, which was the fact, and he declared it to be a good medicine. Jon Leman was next called as a witness on the part of the commonwealth, against my father. He stated, that being out of health for two years, that he had been troubled with a pain in his breast, and that he was so bad that he was not able to work, and that he could get no help from the doctors, and that he applied to the prisoner at the bar, who had cured him in one week, and that was all he knew about him. After examining several other witnesses, Judge Pearsons appeared out of patience, and said he wondered who they had for a grand jury, who could find a bill on such evidence. The Solicitor General said he had more evidence which he wished to bring forward. Doctor French was then called upon and sworn, and as he had been the most busy actor, during the whole of the business, in getting my father indicted; as by his evidence, (my father was informed,) the grand jury had found their bill against him. It was expected his evidence would be sufficient to condemn him at once, but it turned out like the rest, to amount to nothing: he was directed to state what he knew about the prisoner at the bar; he said the prisoner had practiced in the part of the country where he resided with good success, and that his medicines were harmless, being gathered by the children for the use of the families.

The judge was about to charge the jury, when the Solicitor General arose, and said that if it was not proved to be murder, it might be found for man slaughter. The Judge

said, "you have nothing against the man," and again expressed his astonishment that the grand jury should find a bill on such evidence. The jury being charged, gave a verdict in about five minutes of **NOT GUILTY!**

Thus was a fellow-citizen indicted, imprisoned, and tried for his life, by a set of malicious villains, solely because he was a powerful rival to them in their practice, and whose crime consisted in effecting cures upon those patients which they had abandoned to die. The same spirit of malicious revenge has followed the practice by regular physicians, wherever it has been established. The author has had a goodly share of the same kind of persecution from the physicians of this city. My father has spent the flour of his life in toil and perplexity, he has sacrificed his health and property in propagating a system of practice, which bids fair to be of the greatest temporal blessing, which is possible for man to conceive of, in this life, which is the preservation and restoration of health. It is estimated that 100,000 persons in this state make more or less use of the vegetable medicines, prepared from my father's directions, and it is also calculated that about 1-3 of the people of the state of Ohio, besides a great number in the states of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New-Hampshire, Vermont, &c.

So rapid has been its progress, in this state, that the faculty have become alarmed for the safety of their fabrick, and have sought and obtained legislative aid, to secure monopoly, so much afraid were they, that this system of Quackery as they please to call it, would get the pre-eminence. It is well known to an enlightened public, that any system which is not capable of supporting itself without the aid of the arm of the law, has a poor foundation for its basis, and must ultimately come to nought. One thing, the faculty may remember, and that is, a root is in a rapid state of progression and has already very seriously undermined their superstructure, and notwithstanding they may continue to have, as they have had, by legislature aid, the power to dictate to the public, what physicians they shall employ; this oppression is of short duration, as the people have become sensible of the servile state into which the physicians would wish to have them reduced, and have become alarmed, and have presented petitions, which contain signatures to the amount of between 45 and 50,000, which are now before the legislature. How long will the people of this state have their physicians dictate to them, by law, what medicines they shall use? It makes no difference how great a quack the pretended physician is, he is palmed upon the public without reference to merit or ability, if he has studied a

certain period, without any experience in practice, which is to be acquired by experiments upon his patients. Where is the person who would wish to be a subject to one of these young practitioners, who had never had the privilege of administering a dose of medicine to a patient under the eye of his master, since they are licensed to use Arsenic, Mercury, Niter, Opium and all other deadly poisons which it is possible to select from the vegetable or mineral kingdoms? Is there any thing in a diploma that will stay the deadly poison of Arsenic, in the hands of a physician any more than in the hands of an assassin? Surely not. But should the physician use the poison and destroy his patients it is done legally, and he is clear of all law and reproach, when it would be murder should the assassin do the same. But should the physician come from another state, he is treated nearly in the same manner as the assassin in this state. Doctor Warren studied and received his diploma in the state of Massachusetts, he came to this city and commenced practice, in the course of which he gave one John Hogle a dose of Arsenic, which terminated his existence in a very short time, and Warren was indicted, tried, and sentenced to solitary confinement, in the Albany county jail, for three years. The learned judge in the course of his charge to the jury, stated, that if Warren had been a practitioner in the eye of the law, the laws of this state would have had no jurisdiction over him, but as he had received his commission to kill, from the state of Massachusetts, and had committed the very deed here, he was not guilty of manslaughter, but of a misdemeanor, and received his sentence as before mentioned, the punishment of which are synonymous.

In October, 1824, I first came to this city, and commenced my practice, and in forty days, I had administered relief to many, in whose cases the medicines prescribed by regular physicians had entirely failed. This seems to have had a powerful effect on the physicians; whether it was an alarm for the profits of their practice, or for the public weal, is left for the reader to judge. Be that as it may, so great was this effect, that one of them (probably by the direction of the rest) wrote me a letter, warning me to leave the city, or expect a prosecution; which this tool, as I afterwards found him to be, said, would otherwise be commenced against me. However, I did not see fit to comply with this modest request, and yet have escaped prosecution to this day: They did not profess to find any fault with my practice, but the reason assigned, was, that I had not entered my diploma in the office of the County Clerk, agreea-

bly to law. In my reply to this letter I informed them that my system of practice was secured to my father by *patent*, and I, as his heir, claimed it as heritage property, and as an Agent, sought protection under that patent. But judge of my astonishment when this learned man informed me, (for the first time that I ever heard of it,) that whatever privileges might have been given to my father, "could not be entailed on his children." Verily, this was the first time that I ever was told that a parent had not the privilege of giving his property to his children, if he thought proper to do so! Several other pompous things were said by this man of Esculapian lore, which I shall not trouble my readers by repeating to them.

When I first came to this city, and commenced a successful course of practice, I often applied *steam* in cases of obstructed perspiration, and when rightly applied, it opens the pores and produces an agreeable warm glow through the whole system, to the comfort of the patient and the probable overthrow of the disease. And had I been a savage from the wilderness, going about seeking whom I might destroy, instead of alleviating the sufferings of my fellow beings, my opponents could not have made use of much worse language against me. It was said that I *steamed* my patients *to death*, and destroyed them in divers other equally ridiculous ways. But mark, reader, the wonderful, the astonishing, the magical effect of a *name*, in converting this powerful combination of the elements, from a dark, malignant, horrible spirit of death and destruction, to a benign cherub of life, of health and of happiness! The name of the "*Albany* MEDICATED VAPOUR BATH," which is the new fashioned name for STEAM, among us, has taken from it all its ferocious and deadly qualities, and rendered it the choicest favorite of those identical physicians who a few days since, when it was only found in the simple annals of Thompson's practice, denounced it as arrant quackery and the awful engine of "murder most foul!" In the hands of regular physicians it is loudly proclaimed a specific for almost every complaint, while in the hands of its original advocate it was the very quintessence of all evil! What a misfortune to me, that I could not have discovered and applied this useful, this all-powerful name, before!

In addition to the contumely which has in various ways been heaped upon me by these regular physicians, they have styled me a "Steam Doctor," "Quack," "Murderer," &c. Now if I have merited these epithets, while I have been performing cures upon patients whom they had

given over to die, what term will be most suitable for them since they have adopted a portion of my practice?

A few days since a lady was taken very ill. A doctor was employed, who attended her some time, but she still continued to grow worse, and to use the language of the husband, "his medicine was fast hurrying her to the grave." He sent for another, whose medicine had a rather more salutary effect, though it did not remove the cause. The husband, not willing to limit his exertions to save his wife, applied to a third, who refused to go; for, said he, "three Doctors are enough to kill a woman at any time." He certainly spoke more truth than he was aware of; and if three will kill, each one must bear a third part in the transaction. It is my belief, that if medicines have a tendency to kill, they never will heal; or, in other words, that an instrument of death cannot be tortured into an instrument of life.

Physicians, when called upon to attend a sick person, should endeavour to assist nature to throw off the disease instead of giving him medicines that are treated in his stomach as a common enemy, which nature is obliged to struggle as hard with to throw off, as she does with the disease. This principle of giving a medicine to cure a sick person, which would kill a healthy one, I could never reconcile with philosophy, reason, or common sense.

I will now advert to the qualities which I think medicine should possess, in order to remove disease and restore the patient to health, after referring to the essential component parts of the human system. We find man to be composed of the four elements. Earth and water are the solids, and air and fire the fluids. The two first of them are the component parts, and the two last keep him in motion. Heat is life, and cold is death. All constitutions are alike, excepting in regard to their comparative strength. It is by keeping these elements in a proper temperature that we enjoy good health. It is a deficiency of this vital heat, or life, that causes disease. As soon as this heat partially absents itself, the vacancy is filled with cold. The remaining warmth struggles to throw it off, and produces a coat, cancer, or fever, on the stomach and tongue. And as our extremities receive their support from the stomach, through the glands or conductors, this coat becomes drawn in, and obstructs those organs of the stomach. This is generally called "obstructed perspiration," because the conductors which convey moisture and nourishment from the stomach are completely stopped. Then the effects are seen. The patient grows hot, or feverish and dry; his flesh wastes away; the surface or skin begins to die or turn pale; and

in fact the whole machine is out of order; the gastric juices and gall are continually augmenting in the stomach; the stomach becomes sour, and many times the heart-burn, and other complaints, set in, and costiveness, or inactivity of the bowels, follows; and unless these obstructions are removed, the patient will languish and die. The question is, how is this to be effected? First, give medicine to restore the deficiency of heat. Second, a medicine to take the coat or canker from the glands. Third, take an active emetic to throw the whole mass from the stomach. Fourth, take bitters to restore the gall, which has become torpid and weak, in proportion to the rest of the system. When this is done, the patient is clear of fever, and is well in every respect, excepting the debility which the disorder may have produced.

In time of disease, nature requires a powerful assistant to aid her in throwing off the malady, and one that will not prove an enemy to her, when she most stands in need of a friend. If the remedy is an innocent one, if it can do no good, it remains silent, and produces no bad effect. This is the case with all the medicine I make use of. It will never do harm, if it does no good; but I do not promise that it will invariably prove efficacious; for there are doubtless many cases where diseases are so situated as to place their cure beyond the reach of human power.



But let the reader observe the difference between botanical, or active medicine, and mineral, or inactive ones. We will suppose a person to be severely attacked with bilious cholic, and has cold chills, with severe pains, which are a sure indication that the system is powerfully attacked by her great enemy, the cold—that the vital spark is materially reduced, and brought into a state of inactivity—in a word, it is bent *deathwards*. What shall we do? Shall we give medicine that will assist nature in throwing off the disease? Or shall we administer such medicine as she must be compelled to throw off *with* the disease, and that with a double exertion, if she should prove strong enough? If, being much weakened by the disease, she does not prove strong enough, she must inevitable fall under it. Hear and reflect on what the physicians frequently say, that such or such a poor patient has so many doses of physic, or calomel, in them; and if that cannot be removed, *they must die*. So, if the disease does not kill the patient, the remedy must! God forbid that I should ever be guilty of using *such medicines!* We are complete machines, and the Doctor *should be* the repairer. His remedies should be such as to keep the elements in a proper temperature, or the machine in

such repair as to wear out only with old age. The remedies we ought to apply are such as will restore the delinquent element or power, and while restoring that, to neither destroy nor derange any other part of the machinery, as we know calomel and other minerals will. Food and medicine should harmonize with each other. The latter is to prepare the stomach for the reception of the former, and consequently they should agree. When the patient is taking medicine, then is the time the appetite should be satisfied, in order to nourish the system, and thus assist nature in conjunction with the medicine, to conquer the disease; and if your medicine is congenial to nature, the food you take to satisfy the appetite, will never distress you. The simple reason why a person is compelled to *diet*, while taking calomel, and other minerals, is, that the digestive organs become, in a measure, useless or inactive, or are deadened so much, that when the pangs of hunger call, and are imprudently satisfied, it has frequently cost the patient his life.

Let us, therefore, study nature, and endeavour to see what she most requires. Every man who has a hundred acres of land, has remedies sufficient thereon to cure all the diseases which he will ever be liable to, that are curable. And, reader, this medicine is innocent, and is that which the God of nature has provided and intended for the cure of the maladies with which frail humanity is afflicted. Let us, then, try the virtues of Vegetable Medicine, and learn to doctor ourselves, without being beholden to Botanical Doctors, Apothecary Doctors, or Doctors of any other description. Remember the words of holy writ, to this effect: "The Lord hath created medicines out of the earth, and he that is wise will not abhor them." If you do this, candid reader, you will save yourself much pain, distress and vexation, (for I candidly believe that it is as easy to relieve our diseases, in their first stages, as it is our hunger,) besides enriching yourself by retaining the money which you will otherwise squander in Doctors' bills, loss of time, and many other disadvantages which you will have to encounter. That the happy era may soon arrive, when this doctrine will be adopted, both in theory and practice, is the ardent wish of the public's humble servant.

Albany, January, 1830.

JOHN THOMSON.

P.S. It was very justly remarked by a gentleman from a neighbouring state, in relation to the medical law of this state, that  "New-York had freed her Slaves, and enslaved her Freeman." 

TO THE READER.

The author having given a superficial narration of the rise and progress of this new system of practice, together with his *theory*, it was thought highly necessary that there should be some specimens of its practical utility subjoined, which, by uniting the *theoretical* with the *practical* part, the system would be rendered perfect, if the principles were philosophical; which must be left for the reader to judge, after having past the ordeal of his investigation.— It may be proper here to remark, that the patients who have been attended by the subscriber, were such, generally as had been abandoned by the regular physicians as *incurable*; and the success which he has had in restoring them to health, under his father's system of practice, by the statements subjoined, will most clearly appear.

For the opinions of the honourable the committee which was appointed by the Assembly of the state of New-York, to investigate the subscriber's practice, as a specimen of the Thomsonian system, he will ever feel grateful. The indefatigable exertions of these gentlemen, in their investigation of said system, rendered them worthy of the honourable vocation to which they had been called, and an honour to the judgment of their constituents. Judge Dimmick had a brother and a nephew who were physicians, and kept their office in the same room with him; and from his being long accustomed to seeing his brother prescribe for his patients, had rendered his habits of thinking diametrically opposed to my method of practice: but see his written opinion, after about three weeks examination of the patients, personally, who gave the certificates in the city of Albany, the results of which he reported to the committee.

General Metcalf, having a son-in-law who was a physician, which certainly could not render his opinion any more favorable to my method of practice, if he believed in his, as he expressed an opinion decidedly against me in the commencement of his investigation. Mr. Edgerton declared that he was opposed to me, in his written opinion, all of which is most respectfully submitted for public investigation.

It is most earnestly desired, that if there should be any persons who do not believe the statements contained in

these certificates, that they would call on the subscriber, who will cheerfully accompany them, as he did Judge Dimmick, with a book in hand, and they may examine the patients who gave the certificates, personally; also, relative to their making the certificates. Judges Eldridge and Soper examined the patients in the same manner as did Judge Dimmick: their opinions are subjoined. It is the subscriber's wish, that should there be any thing in this work which is calculated to render the investigation of his practice unfair, in relation to the regular practice, that it shall be removed as soon as the clause or part is pointed out to him; as he is determined to have every obstacle to a fair and impartial investigation removed; as he is not unwilling to have his practice tested with any of the *regulars* in this state.

JOHN THOMSON.



THE OPINIONS OF THE HONORABLE THE COMMITTEE.

WE pretend to no knowledge of the virtues of this much talked of system of medicine. the opinions of Messrs. Dimmick, Edgerton, and Metcalf, are very favourable, and the high respectability of their characters entitles them to an attentive perusal.—*Daily Advertiser*.

ALBANY, April 20, 1828.

DOCT. JOHN THOMSON,

SIR—In answer to your request as to my opinion upon the merits of your system of practice, I cheerfully say, that I believe it will eventually take the preference of all other systems of medical practice. My prejudices, habits, and education, all were opposed to your system; but after the careful and laborious examination I have given it, I am satisfied that you will succeed, and in the judgment of the candid and liberal part of the community, share their protection and confidence. I hope you may continue to do well, persevere in your efforts to benefit the human family, and to add to the stock of *practical* knowledge, that the rewards of honest industry may await you.

I am respectfully yours,

BELA EDGERTON,
Member of Assembly, and Chairman.

I certify that I was a member of a committee of the Assembly, to whom was referred sundry petitions, praying for a repeal of certain provisions of the Revised Statutes, regulating the practice of physic and surgery, so as to allow of what is called the Thomsonian practice. And that it appeared by the petitions and other papers presented and referred to the committee, as well as from the testimony of several persons, residents of the city of Albany, who attended the committee personally, that the practice of Dr. Thomson had in many instances proved highly beneficial; and there was no evidence submitted to the committee, to show that his practice had proved deleterious in any case.

A. M*****.

Albany, April 11th, 1823.

ALBANY, April 19th, 1823.

SIR—Incompliance with your request, and with a wish to do justice to the public in relation to the effects of what is called the “Thomsonian system of practice” on the community, I feel myself justified in saying, that having been one of a committee of five, appointed by the Assembly of the state of New-York, to inquire into and report to that house on the subject, I have made particular examination so far as I could find time and opportunity, during three or four weeks in the city of Albany. But my inquiries have not only extended to the examination of various individuals, from different parts of this state where that system is in use, but I have also examined about twenty-five families, or the heads thereof, in the city of Albany, where considerable use seems to have been made of that method of curing diseases. I am sensible, that from education, from habits of thinking, and from my intimate connexion with regular physicians, I approached that examination with strong prejudices against every species of *quackery* and *empiricism*. But of *this species of quackery*, I had no knowledge before. I first read Dr. Thomson’s certificates of great cures, with all that indifference which men generally do, when they expect imposition or deception is about to be played off upon them. On examination, however, of all, or nearly all the cases certified, as having taken place in the city of Albany within a few months, in the latter part of the year 1824, and the fore part of the year 1825, I found them fully supported by statements made by the respective families, or heads thereof. I also found many *particulars* of those cases stated, which in my opinion, adds much to the importance and striking features of them, which do not appear in the short statements made of them in these certificates. I also endeavoured to find out, if possible, by inquiry

of various individuals, as well of the enemies of the system as the friends, and those who were indifferent on the subject, what cases, if any existed, of injurious effects arising from its use; and although I found some three or four, in which dark surmises and suspicions seemed to have been set afloat in the community, in every case which I was able to trace, I did trace, by examination of the friends of the persons thus supposed to have been injured by, or fallen victims to such practice; and could find no reason to believe or suspect that any injury had been done to the patient, but more or less relief thereby gained. It is also due to Dr. Thomson to say, that in every case wherein suspicions have been indulged, it appeared that the patient had been pronounced by the regular physicians incurable; and that such opinion had been given in nearly all the cases, amounting to some forty or fifty, of which I heard detailed the particulars; and in some of which, to use the language attributed to the regular physicians, "it was as impossible to restore them to health as it was to create a new world." After such an examination, and maturely reflecting thereon, I think it neither rash nor indiscreet to say, that judging from the effects of his practice in the city of Albany, however much regular physicians may, as I am sure they will, carp at the expression, and speaking after the manner of men, or if you please, according to human reasoning, it has snatched ten *from* the grave, where it has hastened one *to* it.

What may be its *particular* effects in other parts of the state, or when not administered by Dr. Thomson himself, I am unable to state. The persons thus examined appeared respectable, intelligent, and candid, and generally expressed their great opposition to, and want of confidence in Dr. Thomson's practice, before they had tried it, and were induced to make the trial in consequence of the *desperate* nature of their cases, and with a belief or hope that no injury could be done thereby. With your theory or principles, I had little to do; the *effects* of your practice was the principal thing sought for by me, as by your fruits, I was resolved to judge you, and however much may be the obloquy which the declaration of a favourable opinion of your practice may call forth from the learned, not only against *quacks*, but the *supporters* of quacks, I freely take upon myself the responsibility of subscribing to the above.

Your obedient servant,

A. DIMMICK,
Member of Assembly.

P. S. Most of the individuals thus examined, had family rights, upon which they placed a very high value; and one gentleman, whose respectability and candour are very high in public estimation, declared he would not be deprived of the knowledge for 1000 dollars. I also examined two gentlemen from Nantucket, who spoke most distinctly of the respectability and credibility of the persons whose signatures appear attached to Dr. T.'s certificates of his practice in that place.

A. D.

JUDGES ELDRIDGE & SOPER'S OPINIONS.

ALBANY, April 29, 1829.

SIR.—While we were members of the Legislative body in 1829, numerous petitions were received in favour of the Thomsonian system of practice of medicine; but from the unfavourable accounts which we had seen in the prints, together with the force of education, we were induced to believe it a system of quackery. Having never seen any patients, who had been attended by Dr. Thomson himself, and being favoured with an invitation, we resolved to embrace the opportunity, and accompanied him one afternoon, when we saw and heard detailed, accounts of twenty-five or thirty who had been restored to health from the last stages of disease, after apparently all other remedies had failed. If the statements which we heard were facts, which we have no reason to doubt, as the people appeared to be respectable and candid, we should think this system bids fair to become of inestimable value to mankind; and therefore has our best wishes for its prosperity and success.

Respectfully yours, &c.

J. B. ELDRIDGE,

A. D. SOPER.

To Dr. John Thomson, 102. North Pearl-street.

CERTIFICATES.

(No. 1.)

ALBANY, October 23, 1825.

This may certify that I have been afflicted with ulcers in my left side, dyspepsia and dropsy, and a complication of distressing complaints too numerous to mention. Four years I had gradually declined, often seeking relief from medical assistance, and as often obliged to hear the painful reiteration that my diseases were incurable. At length my whole system became so disorganized that I could neither

eat, drink, sleep, nor enjoy in any degree the comforts of this life. Having, therefore, given up all hopes of recovery, and daily expecting to bid adieu to all that earth holds dear, Dr. John Thomson came to this city, and having had some previous knowledge of his botanical profession, to him I made speedy application, hoping that he might produce something that would give a temporary relief. Accordingly, on the 10th day of October, he commenced his attendance, and in the short space of ten days I was reduced, in size, ten inches, could lie down on my left side and rest quietly, which I had not been able to do in two years before. I have continued to improve in health ever since, so far that I enjoy my food and repose in a very good degree, believing the dropsy to be totally eradicated, dyspepsia cured, the ulcers healed, and the cause principally removed. It is true that I am not as strong, and cannot endure fatigue or hardship as well as I could before I was sick, but whenever I take cold, or from any other cause begin to feel any pain or inquietude in my side or stomach, the medicine which I have heretofore made use of is sure to prove efficacious.— I therefore feel a disposition to recommend Dr. Thomson's medicine and practice to all, believing it, from my own experience, to be good and salutary in removing all kinds of diseases with which the human family is afflicted.

SARAH SCOVEL,

No. 126, State-street.

The above statement, in regard to my wife's case is correct.

JONAH SCOVEL, Jun.

(No. 2.)

ALBANY, March 17, 1829.

This may certify, that I was attacked with bleeding at the lungs, and a cough, in October 1826, both of which continued until the present winter, when my system was so generally debilitated that I was unable to do any kind of labour. The least trifling exercise would start my lungs a bleeding, insomuch that I have frequently lost a pint of blood before it could be stopped. At this crisis, I had no earthly prospect but that I must share the fate of my father, mother, two brothers, and one sister, who had fallen victims to the same complaint, which terminated in a consumption. Thro' the medium of one of our public journals, I heard of Thomson & Coffin, botanic physicians, of Albany, to whom I made immediate application, and commenced taking their medicines the 17th of February, and at this date (17th March,) I

consider myself a well man. My lungs, to all appearance, are as strong as they ever were, and what appears to me more astonishing is, that this complaint, under which I have been labouring for about 32 months, and which was considered by the doctors and my friends incurable, should be removed in the short space of less than 20 days, and leave me in the quiet enjoyment of perfect health. Reference to John B. Van Benthuisen, 25 Division street, Albany, with whom I boarded.

JOHN COCHRAN.

(No. 3.)

The following certificate was written by Judge Dimmick, from the verbal testimony of Mr. Gladding:

ALBANY, March 12th, 1828.

This may certify, that I was three years ago taken with a pain in my stomach, and throwing up of my food, and general derangement of the organic system. I employed many Doctors, among whom were Doctors Fay, Edson, Phelps, Danforth, Craig, Dubois, Burnham and Paige—all in the state of Vermont, where I then resided. They attended me through the summer and winter, in all about one year. I was then reduced so much I could set up but a few minutes at a time, and was given over to die by them all, excepting Dr. Dubois; but his medicines did me no good. My brother, in this city, heard of my situation, and came for me, that I might be placed under the care of the most distinguished doctor of this city. I was so weak and reduced, that I was brought all the way in my brother's arms. Doct. McN. attended me about five weeks.—He said my whole system was disordered, and that there was no action in my stomach and bowels, and that my liver was very much decayed. At the expiration of that time, he told me I never should get well—accordingly left me to die. I was so much reduced, that my backbone was plainly and distinctly felt by placing a hand on my bowels. I, by accident, heard of Dr. Thomson, as having effected great cures, and was anxious to have him called in; with much apparent reluctance on the part of my brother, he was called in accordingly, and administered to me. And such was the effect of his medicine, which I declare in the most unequivocal terms, that in five, and certainly not to exceed ten minutes, I felt quite comfortable and easy. I continued its use, and in one week's time I walked out without help, which I had not before done in six months. In six weeks I walked about a mile: and in three months

I enjoyed better health than I had done in three years. Dr. McN. then declared that Dr. Thomson had done more than he could do, and that no apothecary medicine could have any good effect upon me. I am now in good health, and am ready to state the above facts under any circumstances.

STEPHEN GLADDING.

We certify that we were well acquainted with the above facts, set forth by our brother Stephen Gladding, and that they are true.

H. HULETT
MARIA HULETT,
No. 50 Liberty-street.

(No. 4.)

ALBANY, November 4, 1825.

This may certify that one of our children was taken sick, and we employed one of the first physicians in this city; but notwithstanding his unwearied exertions to relieve the child, it died in one week after. The second was taken ill. Its complaints seemed to baffle the skill of the physician—it lingered some length of time and died likewise. The third, and last, being taken more violently than either of the former, we thought it best to try some other remedies. We accordingly sent for Dr. Thomson, who came, and relieved the child immediately, which was more than we expected, or could expect from the violence of the disease and the effect the apothecary's remedies had on our other children. The child has had several serious attacks of disease since, which Dr. Thomson's medicine has proved equally efficacious in removing. Accordingly, we think the system superior to all others which we have had recourse to, and as such lend our names to vindicate its utility.

NATH'L. WHITE,
ELIZABETH WHITE,
No. 16 Hamilton street.

(No. 5.)

ALBANY, September 1st, 1825.

This may certify that I have been complaining with the gravel for nearly six years, and I was in very great distress for the principal part of that time. In addition to this distressing complaint, I had the liver complaint and dyspepsia very bad. The first mentioned disease continued to grow worse, (notwithstanding I had the attendance

of eleven regular physicians, who were eminent in their profession,) in so much that I was confined to my bed nineteen months, and for seven months was obliged to submit to the most painful instrumental operations. The distress I underwent at times is more easily imagined than described. My limbs were so contracted from the tortures of my complaints, that I had not walked a step in nine months; and as I was placed in bed, so I had to remain until I was removed by my attendants, (being perfectly helpless,) from one side to the other. I had entirely lost the use of my system below the pit of the stomach—my head and hands I could use. My physicians had given me over to die, and indeed I was of the opinion myself that I could not live long, when I heard of Dr. Thomson, and at the request of my friends he came to see me, and administered his medicine; since which I have not undergone but one instrumental operation. I continued to improve in health so much, that when Dr. Thomson discontinued his attendance, I was able to earn my living by my own industry, and capable of going about town, which I altogether ascribe to the beneficial effects of his useful medicine.

LAURA CROSS,
No. 67 Beaver-st.

(No. 6.)

This may certify that my health had been very poor for about six years prior to May last. In the Spring of 1826 I had a severe attack of the influenza, which left me with a distressing pain in my breast, the severity of which was such, at times, as to prevent me from labouring for several months together, at last I was attacked with a severe cough, which reduced my strength and flesh so much that I was obliged to quit my business; by the advice of a friend, I was induced to try Doct. Thomson's medicine, which I commenced to take on the 12th of May last, and in one week I was as clear of the cough and pain as ever I was in my life, nor have I experienced any symptoms of said complaints returning, and at this date consider my health better than it has been before for more than six years. The numerous remedies which I had applied, together with the advice and attendance of several Physicians had no good effect upon me.

DANIEL B. WALLS,
No. 59 Church-st.

Albany, December 28, 1829.

(No. 7.)

ALBANY, November 18, 1825.

This may certify that my little daughter received an injury in her back when two years of age, and notwithstanding she was attended by two of our most skillful physicians she continued to grow worse. She lost the use of her limbs her health was very bad, her pain and distress was so great as almost to deprive her of any rest. In that situation; they pronounced her incurable. We then applied to Dr. Thompson; he attended, and in one month's time her pain was entirely removed, and her health was completely restored.

I likewise, became possessed of a family right, and have administered the medicine on various occasions, and have invariably found it to have the desired effect. I am much pleased with the system of practice and can cheerfully recommend it to my fellow-citizens as being the most safe and salutary remedies I have ever applied, and in vindication of which I hereby place my signature.

ALEX'R. MCHARG,
No. 479 South Market-street.

(No. 8.)

ALBANY, October 28, 1825.

This may certify that my daughter was taken with the inflammatory rheumatism, and that I employed two of the first physicians in this city, but notwithstanding, she lay five weeks in the most agonizing distress before she found any relief. My son was taken with the same complaint, and worse at times before he got relief than my daughter was, when we applied to Dr. Thomson, who relieved him immediately. This was on Tuesday, and in three days he walked one mile, and the next week was able to work. When Dr. Thomson first attended him, he was confined to his bed, his flesh was so sore that he could not bear to be moved in any way. I think there is a great contrast between the practice of Dr. Thomson and that of the regular physicians in the treatment of the same complaint; the former gave immediate relief, the latter gave not a shadow of hope for five weeks. I can, therefore, recommend Dr. Thomson's practice as being the most salutary remedy that has ever been applied in my family, for this complaint.

THOMAS FITZSIMMONS.

Arbor Hill.

(No. 9.)

BERN, November 29, 1825.

This may certify that my son-in-law was taken with the rheumatism, three years ago, and was attended by three of the most eminent physicians in our quarter, to no advantage. I at last had given up the hope of his ever getting any better. When Dr. Thomson came to Albany, I applied to him, and my son-in-law found immediate relief. I have witnessed its success in many other violent attacks of disease where I think the patients must have died had I not been acquainted with Dr. Thomson's medicine and system of practice. I am decidedly of opinion that his medicine is the best that can be made use of in a family. I would, therefore, respectfully recommend to the public in general, to throw aside the mask of prejudice, as I have done, and at least, become acquainted with the virtues of these invaluable medicines.

STEPHEN WILLES,
Late member of the Assembly.

(No. 10.)

NORWICH, Orange Co. May 14, 1829.

This certifies that I was attacked with bleeding at the lungs, which was attended with a cough, about a year since; and notwithstanding the remedies which I applied, I continued to grow worse until this spring, when by accident I saw the account given by Mr. Cochran, of Columbia Co. of the cure which was effected on him by Doct's. Thomson and Coffin, induced me to repair to Albany, and try their remedies, and the twenty-first day after my arrival at Albany, I started for home in good health.

MOREAU BARNEY.

(No. 11.)

ALBANY, May 26, 1829.

This may certify, that our son was violently seized with a cough, and pain in his side. We applied to two of the first Physicians, as we considered, in this city, but they both said there was no help for him, as he was in the last stage of a consumption, his whole system being swelled, and a yellow tinge on the surface, they said he might live a few days, but their medicines would ultimately hurry him out of the world. One of the physicians said the internal parts of his system were nearly destroyed. In this critical situation we were induced to call on Doct's. Thompson & Coffin

without the least prospect of his being cured; but thought if he could be made comfortable it would be a great satisfaction; they attended him about 5 weeks, and to our surprise his bodily health is now better than it has been before for 2 years, and in fact we consider him radically cured.— They commenced their attendance the 16th of Dec. 1822.

SAMUEL MATTHEWS,
ABIGAIL MATTHEWS,
218, South Pearl-st.

(No. 12.)

ALBANY, Dec, 19th, 1825.

This may certify that my wife had been troubled with a pain in her left breast for four years. During that time she had the attendance of three of our city physicians to no advantage. She at last gave up all hope of recovery from their prescriptions. Soon after this Dr. Thompson came to this city; she applied to him and his medicine had so good an effect that the pain was removed in a very short time. She now enjoys her health better than she has for five years. The medicine having had such a beneficial effect on her, I was induced to purchase a family right. From what I have seen of the effects of the medicine, in various cases, I am led to believe it the best that can be used in a family. What renders the medicine more safe in the hands of the people at large is, that all deleterious vegetables and poisonous minerals are excluded from it.

NOAH LOUGEE.
No. 469 South Market-street.

(No. 13.)

ALBANY, Oct. 25th, 1825.

This may certify that I had been afflicted with the liver complaint and consumption, and was attended by two of the first physicians in this city, the most eminent of whom, told me, that if the calomel which he was then giving did not benefit me, I could not live over the month of March. This was in December, 1824. I continued to grow so much worse, that I was confined the greater part of the time to my bed, for two months; and it was the general opinion, that I was in a deep consumption, and that I could not continue but a short time. About this time Dr. Thomson was recommended to me, and was accordingly employ-

ed. The medicine which he administered gave me immediate relief, and I have enjoyed good health for the last six months.

The above is a correct statement, as far as my recollection serves me.

ELIZABETH RUSSEL,
No. 133 Washington-st.

(No. 14.)

ALBANY, Nov. 5th, 1825.

This is to certify that I have been troubled with dyspepsia for nine years. My food distressed me so much, that at times I could neither lay down nor take any kind of rest for twenty-four hours together. I suffered so much from my food, that I was compelled to abstain from eating, as much as possible. I applied to three physicians, but all to no purpose. The remedies they prescribed for me rather aggravated than relieved the distress. I concluded there was no help for me, until the last winter, when Dr. Thomson effected for me a final cure. I was likewise, last winter thought to be in a deep consumption, and was confined to my bed in consequence of the debility occasioned by a distressing cough, and did not myself, nor did my neighbours entertain an opinion that I could long survive. But by the use of Dr. Thomson's medicine, (which I know to be the best I ever have made use of for the above mentioned complaints,) I am once more restored to health.

SARAH GOODWIN,
No. 67 South Pearl-street.

(No. 15.)

ALBANY, Oct. 24, 1825.

This may certify, that my daughter took a violent cold in March, 1824, which had such an effect on her, as to produce a high degree of derangement. She was in a distressed situation for seven months, during which time we had the advice and attendance of two of the first physicians in this city, but to no advantage. I began to despair of her ever being any better. It was the public opinion that she soon would have the consumption. At this time Dr. Thomson was recommended as having relieved some who had been in a similar situation. I accordingly sent for him, and in twelve days he relieved her entirely:

and I feel perfectly safe in recommending his system of practice to all, who may be thus afflicted. Various other violent attacks of disease with which she has been afflicted, have been immediately removed by this invaluable system of practice.

LUCY HANNA,
No. 5 Montgomery-street.

(No. 16.)

ALBANY, Nov. 29, 1825.

This may certify that my daughter was taken sick in October, 1824, with the bilious fever. We employed two of the first physicians in this city, but she continued to grow worse, in so much, that in February following she appeared to have a confirmed consumption, which symptoms were attended with a severe pain in her side, and a violent cough, which had reduced her to a mere skeleton. In this critical situation, I sent for Dr. Thomson, when she began to mend in forty-eight hours after his attendance. Her cough and pain in the side left her, and now she enjoys good health, which was far beyond our expectation at that time. We think that Dr. Thomson's medicine is the best we have applied to our daughter for a consumption, which it was undoubtedly believed she had.

JOSEPH PEIRCE,
IRENE PEIRCE.
Patroon-street.

(No. 17.)

ALBANY, Sept. 29th, 1828.

This may certify, that I have been troubled with *violent convulsion fits* for nearly eight years. I have had the advice and attendance of several physicians, but all to no purpose. I had nearly given up the hope of ever being cured, when I heard of Dr. Thomson, of Albany, to whom I made application; and in about thirty days I found myself better than I had been in five years, believing my fits to be entirely cured. Several other *weakly and troublesome* complaints, his medicine has succeeded in removing, which I had been labouring under for a great length of time.

ABIGAIL LAWSON.

(No. 18.)

ALBANY, December, 24th, 1829.

This may certify, that my brother *Frederick Goodridge* had been laboring under a complication of diseases for five years. His complaint was a *decay* in his left side, which had fallen away considerable, from which he suffered excruciating distress: also, he had a *pain* in his *breast*, with a bad *cough*, which had attended him for upwards of two years. So severe were his difficulties, that he, as well as his friends, believed him in a consumption. He was attended by Dr. Twitchell, a celebrated physician, of Keene, N. H. Also, Doctors Wells & Robbins, Bellows Falls, Vermont; and had the advice of Doctors Steel and Porter, at Saratoga Springs; from which attendance and counsel he received no benefit, but was gradually wasting away. His left side became numb, and the circulation of the blood in it had nearly become extinct, or so much so that his left hand had a deadly white appearance, while the right one was quite florid. He came to Albany in August last, and commenced taking Dr. Thomson's medicine; and in three weeks he was restored to better health than he had enjoyed in four years.

I have also been labouring under diseases of various kinds; such as weakness of the stomach, dyspepsia, and pain in my right side, for four years. I have applied numerous remedies, without effect, and after my brother had found relief, I commenced taking Dr. Thomson's medicines, and in six weeks I enjoyed better health than I had done before in four years, which continues to the present time.

A. GOODRIDGE,
No. 276 North Market-street.

(No. 19.)

ALBANY, Oct. 27, 1825.

Experience has taught me that Dr. Thomson's system of practice is superior to all other remedies which I have applied to cure a consumption, which complaint, three regular physicians in Quebec pronounced me to have, and said that they knew of no remedy for me, excepting the West-India climate. Having a very bad cough, and failing very fast, I was confident, without immediate assistance, I could not live long; accordingly I set out for the south, and when I arrived in Albany, was recommended to try Dr. Thomson, who relieved me immediately, so that I was able to work at my trade, which I had not been able to do

before he saw me, for six months. I have found his medicine to have no other than a beneficial effect, both upon myself and many of my acquaintances.

JOHN GOLDBER,
No. 83 Washington-street.

(No. 20.)

ALBANY Oct. 28, 1825.

This may certify that my family have been subject to much sickness at various times and I have employed six regular physicians, but we have never experienced such salutary relief from their prescriptions as we have in the year past from the use of Dr. Thompson's medicines, in cholic, fever, dysentary and rheumatism. Our little daughter was taken with a bad cough, her appetite failed, her flesh became much wasted, her face, hands and feet became much swollen, and bore a yellowish aspect; and she had the appearance of a person in the last stage of a consumption. There was not one who saw her at this time, but what said she could not live long; but she was restored to health by the use of Dr. Thompson's medicine.

From what experience has taught me, I believe I shall make use of no other medicine in my family as long as Dr. Thompson's is accessible.

CHARLES WHITNEY,
No. 70 Washington-street.

(No. 21.)

ALBANY, Nov. 1, 1826.

This may certify that I had been complaining with the dyspepsia for three years, and had the attendance and prescriptions of various physicians, but to no effect. I at last applied to Dr. Thomson, from whom I have received more relief than from any other source, and think I should recommend his medicine to my afflicted friends, who may be so unfortunate as to be afflicted with this distressing complaint.

CAROLINE ALLEN,
No. 656 South Market-street.

The above is a daughter of mine, and the account given by her, I believe to be correct.

HORACE ALLEN.

(No. 22.)

ALBANY, Nov. 3d, 1825.

This may certify that I have been troubled from my youth with various complaints: they have seriously afflicted me for several years past. I applied to seven physicians, by whom I was attended separately for a long time, to no advantage. I at last despaired of ever recovering, until Dr. Thompson came into the place, when I thought I would make one effort more, knowing his system of practice to be botanical. I sent for him. He attended about one week, from which attendance I received so much benefit that I bought a patent right, and have made use of the medicine occasionally, and I now enjoy better health than I have done before in twenty years. I think his system of practice superior to all others which I have made use of in my family, and as such place my signature to state its utility.

TIMOTHY GLADDING,

No. 79 State-street.

(No. 23.)

ALBANY, August 31st, 1825.

This will certify, that our infant child was taken with the croup last December. We employed a physician, and notwithstanding his unwearied exertions to relieve the child, it continued to grow worse, in so much, that the day previous to our sending for Dr. Thomson, both ourselves and neighbours had despaired of its recovery, and did not think it would live six hours. Its lungs were so badly affected, and its stomach so much swollen, that its breath had become nearly extinct. Dr. Thomson came and prescribed to so good effect, that the child now enjoys good health, which was far beyond our expectations at the time.

G. V. S. HOFFMAN,

SARAH HOFFMAN,

No. 123 North Market-street.

(No. 24.)

ALBANY, Dec. 15, 1825.

This may certify, that I have been in possession of Dr. Thomson's system of medical practice for more than two years, during which time I have repeatedly administered his principal medicines, both to myself and family; and from its innocent and salutary effects, I am constrained to give it the decided preference over any mineral medicines.

that has (to my knowledge) been made use of in my family. I believe it well calculated to promote health, and apparently to prolong the lives of the human family.

HORACE MEACHAM,
No. 33 Maiden Lane.

(No. 25.)

ALBANY, Dec. 17, 1825.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your enquiry, whether I have been benefited by the use of your medicines? I will briefly state, that having been for more than ten years under the necessity, at times, of taking more or less medicine, to obviate the effects of indigestion, I have, for the last three months, employed your prescription for that purpose, and from the benefit already experienced, am induced to believe it may effect a cure.

Yours, &c.

B. D. PACKARD,
No. 71 State-street.

Dr. J. THOMSON.

(No. 26.)

SARATOGA SPRINGS, Nov. 10, 1825.

This may certify that I had been complaining for seven years. My complaints were of such a nature as to distress my head and stomach very much. I had applied to four physicians in our county to no advantage, being unable to work, and I at last despaired of ever recovering, when I heard of Dr. Thomson, in Albany. To him I made speedy application, and was relieved in one week. In a month I was better than I had been in six years, and am now able to do considerable labour. I have likewise used the medicine in my family in several cases, and find it superior to any that I have ever made use of before.

GIDEON CONANT.

(No. 27.)

ALBANY, Oct. 25th, 1825.

This may certify that I have been afflicted for twelve years past with consumptive complaints, and had the advice and attendance of six regular physicians, from whom I have received no relief, and at last was so reduced that I did not expect to live, which was the general opinion of

people who saw me. At this critical moment I applied to Dr. Thomson, and was relieved immediately. This was about the first of August last, and I now enjoy better health than I have before in eight years.

My daughter has been afflicted for five years with a *polypus* in her nose. For three years the left side had been entirely closed, and she suffered excruciating distress for the greater part of the time. I applied to one of the first physicians in this city. He gave her some snuff, which had no effect. He then said she must have it extracted with *hooks*; but having seen one person who had suffered all the inside of his nose to be pulled out, it made me shrink at the distressing thought. I was at length relieved of all these dreadful anticipations by Dr. Thomson's making a perfect cure of it, in *two weeks*, without distressing her in the least.

PETER BAUDER,
No. 5 Pine-street.

(No. 28.)

ALBANY, October 25, 1825.

This may certify, that I have experienced immediate relief in various complaints, by the use of Dr. Thomson's medicine, particularly in the nervous headache, cholic and ague. It has been very useful in my family, for the diseases common to the climate. Many of my friends and acquaintances have made use of his medicines while boarding with me. Two cases, of long standing, I was witness to. The first was Mrs. Gidevan, from the city of New-York. She told me that she had been attended to by thirty-four of the first physicians in that city, and that they had generally given her up to die of the consumption.— Having heard of Dr. Thomson, she came to Albany, and commenced taking his medicine. For the first ten or twelve days she appeared to improve, but was subject to violent fits. In the course of four weeks, however, they were cured; and she was enabled to return to New-York, in better health than she had been for eight years before. The second case was that of a Mr. McDonald, from Cornwall, Upper Canada. His complaint was rheumatism in the head. He said he had been attended by four of the first physicians in Montreal, without experiencing the least relief from bleeding or blistering, the usual remedies in such a case. He then sought relief from the use of the waters at Saratoga Springs; but was not benefitted. He

there met with a friend, who advised him to repair to Albany, and try Dr. Thomson's medicine. He has used it, and was entirely relieved of his complaint, in the short space of thirteen days.

WILLIAM BISSELL,
No. 23 Pine-street.

Having heard of the case of Mrs. Gibevan, I called to see her, and what she told me was in substance the same as the statement given by Mr. Bissell.

PETER BAUDER.

(No. 29.)

ALBANY, 31st October, 1825.

DR. THOMPSON.

Sir—Having a desire to be as instrumental as possible in relieving my fellow sufferers, in time of distress, I send you this my certificate, which you may make public if you think proper, showing that you was the means, with the assistance of a kind providence, in relieving me, who but a short time since was lying on a bed of sickness.

For a number of years past I had been in a very delicate health, in so much that I scarcely knew what it was to enjoy a well day. My case growing worse daily, I called several of our physicians, who attended on me punctually, but to no purpose. I was reduced to such a way that I could not be raised in any way to receive nourishment, without fainting. I gave up all hopes of ever recovering—this was likewise the opinion of my attendants. At this critical juncture I was called on by a friend who persuaded me to try Dr. Thompson, who, he said, had done a great deal of good in this city, in restoring many persons to health who were in as bad a situation as I was, if not worse. Willing to try every effort, though with little hope, I sent for him. When he came he expressed an opinion that I was dying, or very near death. I asked him if he thought he could afford me any relief; he answered me he would make a trial, if I would dismiss the physicians who then attended me. I did so.—He commenced with his practice, and in the course of twenty-four hours, I was, to my great surprise and the surprise of those who attended me, much better than I had been for four weeks previous. He attended me very punctually for six days; and my old complaint which had hung on me for several years, was entirely removed, after this he administered to me medicine to remove the pains in my breast, which had so good an effect as perfectly to relieve me.—

Several of my acquaintances have been relieved in the same extraordinary manner through the means of those medicines, after the failure of apothecary remedies. The value I place upon such practice can be more easily imagined than described.

ELIZABETH REYNOLDS, •
No, 17 Van Schaick-street.

(No. 30.)

ALBANY, November 1, 1825.

This may certify, that I have employed Dr. Thomson, as a physician, in my family, for a short time, from whose attendance, both myself and wife have received much benefit. She has not enjoyed her health so well in twelve months. In acute disorders, his medicine has proved itself superior to all other remedies which I have ever seen or heard of. My wife was taken with the cholera morbus, and was in great distress from Friday night till the next Monday morning, and could find no relief, when she sent for Dr. Thomson. His medicine relieved her in about thirty minutes, and by twelve o'clock she was enabled to attend to her business. I have never heard of a person being relieved so soon of this distressing complaint, and think I have abundant reason to prize his invaluable remedies.

DANIEL ADAMS,
No. 121 State-street.

(No. 31.)

ALBANY, November 14, 1825.

This may certify, that there has been several severe attacks of disease in my family, and that I have employed five regular physicians, at various times, from whose attendance very little or no benefit was derived. My wife, in particular, was in a distressed situation for eight or ten years, and was attended by the most skilful physicians of our acquaintance, but found no relief. Last winter I employed Dr. Thomson. His prescriptions have had so happy an effect, that my wife, at this time, enjoys her health better than she has before in ten years. I was so well pleased with the effect of the medicine on her, that I have made myself acquainted with his system of practice, and have witnessed its beneficial influence, not only in my own family, but on other persons of the first respectability, who are ready to attest to the same. The medicine is perfectly

harmless, and may be used with perfect safety by any reasonable person. I believe it to be, when properly used, superior to any remedy now in use.

JOSEPH BULL,
No. — Hawk-street.

(No. 32.)

ALBANY, Dec. 2, 1823.

From what experience has taught me, I can certify, Dr. Thomson's medicine has been of much more service to me in removing consumptive complaints from my system, than any other medicines which I have taken. The benefits which I have experienced from the use of these valuable medicines, and the effects which I have observed them produce on others, induces me to believe them superior to the mineral medicine usually given by physicians. I also consider them the safest and most efficacious remedies which can be used in a family.

ELIZA PAUL,
No. 33 Union-street.

The above statement in regard to my wife, I believe is correct.

NATH'L. PAUL,
Pastor of the African Baptist Church, Albany.

(No. 33.)

ALBANY, November 3, 1825.

Heretofore I have been among the disbelievers in the utility of Dr. Thomson's system of practice. Pure necessity at length obliged me to apply to him. I was violently attacked with the bilious cholera, and was in so much distress that I could not place myself in any position that would afford relief. I had been in this state for some length of time, before I could persuade myself to call on Dr. Thomson. My excessive distress compelled me to go somewhere. Dr. Thomson living the nearest, I went to him in great agony, and asked him if he could relieve me. He gave me medicine which relieved me in about ten minutes. I got rid of my prejudice with my pain. Since that time I have seen the good effects of his valuable medicine in many cases.

SAMUEL P. SMITH,
No. 136 State-street.

(No. 34.)

Several obstinate cases of *Saltrheum* have been effectually cured. Also, many cases of Consumption, pain in the *sides* and *breast*, have been cured; *Ague and Fever*, several cases of which have been cured the season past in one week, without injury to the constitution; *Liver Complaint*, cured with vegetable substances, and leave the system vigorous and strong, unless the constitution has been broken down with *mercury*. Two cases where suicide had been attempted, one from taking *arsenic*, the other from *opium*, both of which have been cured, and both residents of this city; and several cases of *Dyspepsia* and *Dropsy* have been effectually cured. *Palsy* relieved, but not cured.

(No. 35.)

We, the subscribers having been in possession of Doct. Thomson's system of practice, or Family Right for several years past, and having made use of his vegetable medicines in our families for said length of time, do believe them to be the most *simple and efficacious remedies* which have ever reached our knowledge in relation to the healing art. We have witnessed the salutary effects of these valuable medicines in desperate chronic diseases with astonishment; in consequence of the medicine being destitute of deleterious properties, they can be used with perfect safety in the hands of the people. The theory is simple, and all that is necessary to prove its utility is the application of the medicines agreeable to the directions; every person within our knowledge who has had a desire to become acquainted with the virtues of the medicines of this valuable system of practice, have become perfectly satisfied of their great utility.

E. B. HUBBARD, Hudson-st.
 ALEX'R. McHARG, Rose-st.
 NOAH LOUGEE, Liberty-st.
 HORACE MEACHAM, Pearl-st.
 TIMOTHY GLADDING, State-st.
 B. D. PACKARD, State-street,
 CHRISTOPHER RUBEY, N. Market-st.
 BENJ'N. HOFFMAN, State-st.
 SAM'L. WILSON, Washington-st.
 NATHANIEL WHITE, Hamilton-st.
 JONAH SCOVEL, State-st.
 STEPHEN WELLS, Beaver-st.

Albany, March 1829.

CERTIFICATES FROM NANTUCKET.



In addition to the preceding documents, (which are deemed sufficient to satisfy the most incredulous,) I have thought proper, in the conclusion, to introduce a few certificates from Nantucket, out of a great number in my possession, to show that the virtues of my medicine and practice have been justly appreciated elsewhere.

JOHN THOMSON.

I examined two gentlemen from Nantucket, who spoke most distinctly of the *respectability* and *credability* of the persons whose signatures appeared attached to Dr. Thomson's certificates of his practice in that place.

JUDGE DIMMICK,

N. B. See page 18, P. S.

Being acquainted with most of the persons whose names appear attached to the certificates of Dr. Thomson's practice in Nantucket, I certify that they are entitled to credit, as persons of respectability and moral probity.

STEPHEN BAILY,

Pastor of the First Parish in Nantucket.

(No. 36.)

NANTUCKET, June 1st, 1823.

Doct. J. THOMSON,

Sir,—You enquire of me relative to the benefits which have been derived from the use of your medicines in my family. I answer with pleasure; and with joy and gratitude do I place my signature to vindicate the utility of so valuable a system as yours has been proved to be in my family. I have been subject to an unusual share of sickness in my family, and have employed the first physicians in skill and experience, as I thought, on the island, until I had lost three children, at the ages of man and womanhood. Their complaints were the *typhus fever*. I never had the consolation of seeing one of them relieved during their sickness for a moment, until relieved by the cold hand of death. The first one taken was a son, at the age of 17. He lingered out a shocking existence, *raving distracted*, under the care of Docts. G. & M. until he was relieved by death. His distress was through his head,

back, and in his stomach. The exertions of these physicians were unwearied, but unavailing; for he had not relief for one moment, until his exit into eternity, which was seven days from perfect health. The second, a daughter at the age of twenty, was taken precisely in the same manner as the first; and the reader may more readily imagine than describe our feelings, when we were obliged to yield her to her Maker in four days. Nor did the strong arm of death rest here: the third was seized—a son at the age of 19, with the same disease as the former. He continued writhing in indiscrible distress for eleven days, when welcome death came and put an end to his sufferings.—The next month following the fourth was attacked. I now began to be in despair, thinking there was no cure for the complaint. But after the last one had died, Dr. Thomson was recommended as having performed some great cures, and I resolved to send for him, should I have another attacked. Accordingly, when the last one was taken, a daughter at the age of 16, he was employed, and his medicine relieved her distress immediately; and in six weeks she was well of the same difficulty which had baffled the skill of the most eminent physicians in the place on my other children. In two weeks from the time she was taken, the fifth was attacked, and the same kind of treatment restored him in five weeks. In about three weeks from this time, the sixth was taken, and was cured in four weeks; likewise a daughter was cured during this time, of the bilious fever, and a son with the jaundice complaint. What was most surprising to me, was, that Dr. Thomson did not administer a medicine but what had the desired effect, to relieve within 30 minutes, to either of them; and I am firmly of the opinion, that three of my children that are now living, would have been in their silent graves, had it not been for Dr. Thomson, and his method of practice; or had we employed for them, the physicians who attended those that died. I can truly say, that when these medicines fail, in such cases as those in which we have used them, I shall have no faith to try any other remedy, without it is for the satisfaction of friends.

GARDNER COFFIN.

(No. 37.)

NANTUCKET, June 6th, 1823.

This certifies that my wife had been complaining for several years with *indigestion*, and throwing up her food. She employed Docts. B. & G., who attended her for a great

length of time. Her stomach, for five years, was in such a weak state, that it was with difficulty that she kept down food sufficient to keep her alive. She tried every remedy which had been recommended for her complaint, without effect; and at last was induced to try Dr. Thomson, who attended her for a short time, and at this date her health is better than it has been in seven years.

OWEN CHACE.

(No. 38.)

NANTUCKET, June 6th, 1823.

I do certify, that I had been subject to the *lumbago* or *rheumatism* in the loins, small of the back, and in the bowels, for nine years. The distress which I suffered at times, was so excruciating, that my groans might have been heard at some distance from the house; and my friends were frequently obliged to hold me in bed. I had been subject to these distressed spells, upon an average, about once in three weeks, during the nine years; and I had employed Docts. B., G., C. and M., whose directions were closely attended to, and their remedies applied, until I was convinced that they had no tendency towards removing the cause, or giving relief for a moment; neither did I know of any relief for said complaint, until March, 1822; when I was attacked as severe as ever I was, when I sent for Dr. Thomson, who relieved me immediately. He attended me for three weeks, for some other complaints, and I have not been troubled with the *lumbago* since. It appears to me that I rather die an easy death, than again have another of these distressed spells.

TAMOUR RUSSELL.

The above account, set forth by my wife, is correct.

JEDDEDIAH RUSSELL.

(No. 39.)

NANTUCKET, June 6th, 1823.

This may certify, that I had been complaining for one year with a bad cough, and pain and soreness through the breast. I applied to two of the most skilful physicians in the place, as fears were entertained that I was in a consumption. I made a thorough trial of their medicines,

without experiencing any relief, and then employed Dr. John Thomson, who made a cure of my complaints in one week.

JOHN W. OLIN.

(No. 40.)

NANTUCKET, June 3rd, 1823.

I hereby certify, that I had a child that was in a consumption for six months, and his flesh had nearly all left him. During this time we employed several of the faculty, but to no purpose. We then employed Dr. Thomson, and to our great surprise, the child got well, to the astonishment of all who saw him. Our friends would say, "Why do you give him medicines, as he cannot live; and what little time he did stay, it should be in peace, if he was mine.

I was taken with the *cholera morbus*, and was in as distressed a situation as ever I knew a person to be in and live, for four hours; and it appeared to me that I should not have felt more, had I been pierced with daggers; when we sent for Dr. Thomson, who came and relieved me in twenty minutes. I have made much use of his medicines in my family, and do believe them the most useful of any we have ever had recourse to, for all the complaints to which my family has been subject.

ROWLAND POLLARD.

(No. 41.)

The subscriber certifies, that Dr. John Thomson has practiced a short time on his son Charles; whereby he received great benefit, and has enjoyed good health for more than six months. He had been out of health between two and three years, and had been attended by several gentlemen of the faculty, but received little or no benefit from any one, until Dr. Thomson began with his method of practice, which in my opinion is good.

GRAFTON GARDNER.

Nantucket, June 9th, 1823.

(No. 42.)

NANTUCKET, June 2d, 1823.

This is to inform all whom it may concern, through which I hope many may be benefitted, that Dr. John

Thomson has practiced in my family, to my perfect satisfaction, and to the very great advantage of his patients.— He has restored two of my family to health, one of whom had the *typhus fever*, and the other the *whooping cough*; whose lives were entirely despaired of by the physicians who were employed previous to Dr. Thomson.

JOHN G. COFFIN.

(No. 43.)

NANTUCKET, June 7th, 1823.

This is to certify, that I had a severe pain in my side for twelve months; and for three months, I was unable to do any kind of labour. I employed Docts. B. and M., who attended me for four months, but to no purpose, as I found no relief. I then applied to Dr. John Thomson, who made a perfect cure of me in one week. Knowing this complaint to be prevalent among sea-faring men, and other hard labouring people, I take the liberty to recommend his course of treatment to them, as the most sure guide to health, from such complaints as those which I have been afflicted with. I was also attacked with the *bilious fever*, and Dr. T. restored me to health in a very short time.

JOB TURNER.

(No. 44.)

NANTUCKET, June 3rd, 1823.

This may certify, that I was attacked with the *inflammatory rheumatism* through my back and hips, and employed Dr. M., who attended me for a while, but to no purpose. I then applied to Dr. Thomson, who came in the morning, and attended me through the day, and at night I could set up, and walk as well as ever I could, without pain, and the next day I went out. Before this attack, I had been subject to the rheumatism for several months, but have not had an attack since Dr. T. attended me. When he first came to see me, I had been confined to the house, (but not to the bed, in consequence of the extreme pain which I was in, which forbid my laying down,) for one week, and all the rest I got was setting in my chair. Dr. Thomson relieved me in 25 or 30 minutes, in so much that I went to sleep, which I had not been able to do in one week before.

PETER RAY.

(No. 45.)

NANTUCKET, June 3rd, 1823.

This may certify, that I was taken with the *rheumatism* in the legs, and so up to my hips, the pain of which was very severe. I applied to Dr. B., who attended me one week, but to no effect. It appeared to me that I could not continue long in this state, and wished for other assistance, and accordingly, employed Dr. S., who attended me four weeks, when I was much worse than I was when he commenced attending me. I then employed Dr. Thomson, who relieved me more in one half hour, than these other medical men did, during their whole attention of five weeks, and in two weeks was restored to health.

JOHN MURRAY.

(No. 46.)

NANTUCKET, June 5th, 1823.

This certifies, that myself and wife were both taken with the *cholera morbus* in one night; and to such a degree, that our strength was completely prostrated, from extreme distress, vomiting, purging, &c., when we sent for Dr. Thomson, who relieved us both in a very short time. I never heard of a person being relieved in as short a time as we were, who was as severely attacked.

ELISHA RAYMOND.

(No. 47.)

NANTUCKET, June 2d, 1823.

This may certify, that our little daughter Susan, at the age of two years, was taken very ill, and our family physician, Dr. G., was sent for, who observed that she had taken a great cold, which, in his opinion, would have its turn and wear off; but waiting for this much desired change for two days, the patient was nearly consumed.— We then sent for Dr. Thomson, who gave his medicine, and in five days the child was well and about the house; which medicine I believe to be most excellent.

ROBERT COGGESHALL.

(No. 48.)

NANTUCKET, June 13th, 1823.

This certifies, that I have had the *rheumatism* for about 30 years, at intervals, and have employed, during that time, Docts. G., M. and S., who attended me separately

for some length of time, but without any advantage. The disorder appeared to have its course, nor have I known of any relief for it, until this last winter, when I was severely attacked again, and then sent for Dr. Thomson, who relieved me immediately. Suffice it to say, that during the 30 years which I have had this complaint, I never was relieved so soon before; and I think all those who have this disorder, cannot find a more expeditious, certain and safe cure.

GEORGE POLLARD.

(No. 49.)

NANTUCKET, June 4th, 1823.

This will certify, that Dr. John Thomson has attended both my wife and self, and has proved himself more skilful in removing a very difficult complaint, especially in the former, than did Dr. B., who attended her several times previous to Dr. T's. being called. I would recommend his medicine, as being safe and salutary, from experience; and in vindication of which, I here place my signature.

ABRAM B. HOMER.

(No. 50.)

NANTUCKET, June 3rd, 1823.

This certifies, that in 1809 I was bound from here to the *Brazil Banks*, on a whaling voyage, when, from hard labour, I was attacked with a severe pain in my side. The distress was so severe, that I was off duty, at intervals, for the voyage. When we returned to Nantucket, I employed Doct. G., who attended me a while, but to no purpose. The pain increased so much, that I could do but very little labour; but having a family to support, I was obliged to go to sea again; and on my way the coast of Africa, on another whaling voyage, in the brig *Ocean*, when she was taken by the English, and carried into the cape of Good Hope, where I employed a celebrated English physician, of whom I had various prescriptions, and with great diligence did I attend to his directions, but all to no purpose. I was carried from there to England, and put on board of a prison ship, and from thence to Dartmoor prison; and in 1815 I was exchanged and returned to Nantucket, where I employed Doct. B., who attended me a while, and then applied to Doct. M., who attended me about two months. I then commenced with Doct. E., who recommended mercu-

rial plasters, drawing blisters, &c. This plan was followed up rigidly, until I was satisfied that I received no benefit; when I was obliged to relinquish the course, believing that I should never be any better. In the winter of 1822, I heard of Doct. Thomson, whom I employed. I had then been troubled with the pain for twelve years, and not a moment could I say that I was easy. The first medicine he gave me relieved me for one week entirely. He attended me twelve days, and I am now so far recovered, that I suffer no inconvenience from that difficulty.

VALENTINE COFFIN.

(No. 51.)

NANTUCKET, 6th mo. 2nd, 1823.

This may certify, that my wife, Lucretia Macy, had been complaining with weakly and nervous complaints for ten years, and was confined to her room and bed principally for that length of time. Her stomach was in such a state of acidity from indigestion, that every thing she took down soured immediately. Doctors G., B. & M. attended her separately, for the principal part of the time, but to little or no purpose. She at last gave up doctoring, believing that it was of no service to her. She had not been able to take the least quantity of animal food, or the juice thereof into her stomach, for a great length of time, without setting her into excruciating distress. When Dr. Thomson came among us, she thought, as his method of practice was new, she would try it; and in a very short time, his medicines put her stomach in such order, by removing the dyspeptic effections, that her food has not distressed her since; and she can now take as strong food as I can, and enjoys her health better than she has done before in nine years. It is now about thirty months since Dr. T. attended her; I can therefore recommend his medicines to such as have complaints similar to those of my wife, as safe and efficacious remedies.

PELEG MACY, JR.

(No. 52.)

NANTUCKET, June 9th, 1823.

In the year 1810, I was taken with a bad pain in my side, which brought on other weakly complaints. My difficulties were so severe, that I have not been able to do any thing of any consequence until this spring. In the first place I applied to Doct. G. who attended me in all about

two years. Doct. C. was next employed, who attended me about two months, but all to no purpose. I continued to grow worse, insomuch, that in 1818 I was seized with violent fits. It appears to me that human nature is not capable of enduring much more distress than I did with this shocking complaint. I then sent for Dr. S., who attended me four weeks, but without effect. I now began to be in despair as to ever being any better, until this last winter, when I heard of and employed Doct. Thomson, who attended me three months, which placed me in a better state of health than I have enjoyed before in twelve years. I suffer no inconvenience from the complaints which I had prior to his attendance.

When I think back on my past sad condition, and compare it with my present state of health, I can hardly realize that I am the same person. From not being able to do any kind of labour for twelve years, and three months attendance restore my bodily health, insomuch that I can do any thing that any person can, is something more than I could expect.

I think the people generally are not sufficiently acquainted with this invaluable system of practice, and as such shall take the liberty to recommend it to the public.

NANCY COLESWORTHY,
GEORGE C. COLESWORTHY.

(No. 53.)

NANTUCKET, Nov. 19th, 1822.

We the subscribers having made use of Dr. Thomson's medicines, in our families, to our satisfaction, do not hesitate to recommend them as superior to any we have heretofore made use of; and we have not known of any person who has made a fair trial of the same, to disapprove of them. As Dr. B***** is solicitous to make it appear that the Lobelia is poison, we deem it our duty to counteract his attempt.

As we have made use of the plant to our thorough satisfaction, and know it to be perfectly safe, particularly when taken with Dr. T's. other medicine, and given by a skilful hand. We cordially recommended them to the public, as proper for complaints common to this climate.

NATHANIEL RAND,
GARDNER COFFIN,
GRAFTON GARDNER,
ZOPHAR HADEN,
ROB'T. COGGESHALL,

ALEXANDER COFFIN,
 REUBEN WEEKS,
 ABRAHAM POLLARD,
 DAVID WORTH,
 JOHN B. NICHOLSON,
 DAVID U. GILES,
 SILVANUS RUSSELL,
 GILES SANFORD,
 WILLIAM JOY,
 ZEBDIAL COFFIN,
 SAM'L. BURNELL,
 GEORGE MACY,
 CHRISTOPHER BURDICK,
 JOHN G. COFFIN,
 DAVID JOY, Jr.

Being acquainted with most of the signers of the preceding document, we certify that they are entitled to credit, as persons of respectability and moral probity.

STEPHEN BAILEY,
Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Nantucket.

SIMEON BALCH,
Preceptor of the Academy.

The following article was written by Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, and published in the Boston Statesman.

EMPIRICISM TRIUMPHANT!

Or Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON'S *Steaming Process*, practised by the "REGULARS," in Boston.

Mr. Editor,

In your paper of the 21st inst. I noticed, with pleasure, an advertisement of "*Medicated Vapour Baths*," as established in this city by *Dr. Reynolds*, and therein said to be "*a recent invention*" by *Mr. Charles Whitlaw, Botanist*, who has been patronized by the nobility and gentry in England in a remarkable liberal manner. This led me to turn to the second edition of *Samuel Thomson's narrative of his life and practice*, where I read as follows: (between pages 164 and 166.)

"It is a matter of much gratulation to me, and a balm for all my sufferings, that *my system of practice* is fast gain-

ing ground in all parts of the country. A number of gentlemen, eminent for their scientific researches and usefulness in society, have become advocates for the cause; and although they may not be perfectly converted, so as to give up all their former opinions, yet allow that the system is ingenuous and philosophical, and that the practice is NEW and useful. In introducing *my new mode of practice* to the people of this county, I have never sought *the patronage of the great*, and the success it has met, has been altogether owing to *its own merit*." A man by the name of *Whitlaw* has lately introduced what he calls "*his medicated vapour bath*."

"It seems that this *Mr. Whitlaw*, from what I can learn from his publications, about six years ago, went from this country to England, and there introduced a new system of practice, and became celebrated in curing all kinds of scrofulous diseases of the glands by means of his method of *applying steam*, and the use of decoctions from *American Vegetables*. How he got his knowledge, or what first induced him to fix upon this plan, I know not; but it seems, as far as I can understand him, that *he has adopted my system of practice*, as far as he has been able to get a knowledge of it. He says something about gaining his knowledge from an *Indian* in this country; but this is too stale to require any notice."

"One of the great principles upon which my system is founded, is, that all disease originates in obstructions in the glands, (obviously, to include the capillary system,) and if not removed, becomes scrofulous; and that the only remedy is to remove the obstructions, by *steam and other hot medicines*. And in all my practice, for nearly forty years, there has been nothing I have succeeded more completely in, than in the cure of *scrofulous complaints*."

"It appears that *Mr. Whitlaw* has met with great success in England, and that he has had the *support and patronage* of many of the first men in the kingdom, (and among them the DUKE OF YORK,) who have liberally contributed to the support of an *asylum* for the cure of the poor, and that his success has given universal satisfaction. And it also appears that he has met with abuse from the medical faculty, both there and in this country. This was to be expected, and is the best evidence of its utility."

"I feel no enmity towards those who are benefitting others by my discoveries; and it gives me much pleasure to think that I have been instrumental in introducing a *new system of medical practice*, by which I feel confident so

much benefit will be derived, by diminishing, in a great measure, the sum of human misery. But I think those gentlemen who have gained any knowledge of my practice, for which I have suffered so much for introducing, (see his narrative and JUDGE PARSON'S report, in *Tying's collection*,) ought, in justice, to allow me some credit for the discovery."

It must be very satisfactory to our unassuming countryman, Thomson, to see his practice, with the improvements which *Whitlaw* has made in the *snug mode of conveying the steam*, spreading far and wide in England, and now establishing in Boston, after receiving the British fiat. Mr. Thomson used *hot stones* to raise his steam, as they could be easily obtained, and at no expense; whereas a steaming apparatus would have been both costly and inconvenient in our remote country towns. But what will the *regular physicians* say to their brother *Reynolds*, in degrading the dignity of the profession, in adopting the practice of *QUACK Whitlaw*, who took the practice from *QUACK Thomson*, who was tried for his life, sixteen years ago, at *Salem*, for the very practice now cried up in *London*, and reflected back to Boston with no small eclat, and while his *poisonous plant LOBELIA*, is sold by the Apothecaries, in powder and in tincture, which they ignorantly call "*Indian tobacco*." How will the learned MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY get over this?

From all things, and from what we have just seen in the *Eastport Sentinel*, respecting the "*ischiatric notch*" in the *Massachusetts General Hospital*, it would seem that *Doctor craft*, alias *Surgeon craft*, alias *bone-setting craft*, is in some danger. *Witch craft* has long since been shaken loose, and carried down the stream of time, into the ocean of oblivion; and *Medical craft*, unless it hold on with all its claws, will go down there likewise.

PHILO-ECCLECTIC.

The report of the honourable the committee, Messrs. Dickson, Hammond and Buckman, came to hand too late to receive its proper place in this book; but the desire I had for the insertion of so able a document, has induced me to enlarge the work 12 pages beyond its contemplated size. Messrs. Hammond and Buckman will receive my thanks for the impartial manner in which they conducted their investigation of the Botanic system of practice, in the city of Albany; also, for furnishing me with their written opinion.

Feb., 1830.

J. THOMSON.

OPINION OF MESSRS. HAMMOND & BUCKMAN.

ALBANY, Feb. 7th, 1830.

DOCT. JOHN THOMSON,

Sir,—Being the majority of a committee appointed by the Assembly of the state of New-York, to whom was referred the petitions and documents relative to the practice of Botanic Physicians, with power to examine the effects of said practice on community, we, agreeable to the authority vested in us, accompanied you, in the city of Albany, on the 25th ult., when we heard the verbal testimony of the persons whose signatures appear attached to the following certificates, commencing on the 18th page of this book, viz: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29 and 33, and to our surprise, not only found the statements made in their respective certificates fully supported by each and every individual, but many particulars in relation to their diseases were also related to us by the patients, which, in our opinion, would have added much to the importance and striking features of those certificates, had they been embodied in the formation of the documents. The persons thus examined, appeared *respectable, intelligent and candid*. We therefore have the strongest evidence to believe, that your practice has been of *inestimable service* in rescuing from the grave, numbers of persons who had been pronounced by the regular physicians incurable. We also saw several persons whose friends had died while under your care; and who gave you much credit, for having made them more comfortable while they lived, than could be done by other physicians who attended prior to you. In conclusion, it is our opinion, as well

as the opinions of the committees* who have preceded us, that if any person deserves to be protected by law, you are one.

EPHRAIM HAMMOND,
A. BUCKMAN.

—
No. 110.

IN ASSEMBLY,

February 6, 1830.

REPORT

*Of the Select Committee, on the petitions in favour of
Botanic Physicians.*

THE Select Committee to whom were referred several petitions of many of the citizens of this state, some of them praying that botanic physicians may be allowed to practise medicine and receive a reasonable compensation for services rendered; others praying that John Thomson and David Tower, may, by a special act of the Legislature, be licensed to practise as botanic physicians, beg leave respectfully to

REPORT:

That, in the revision of the laws in the year 1813, the Legislature, in revising the act to incorporate medical societies, for the purpose of regulating the practice of physic and surgery in this state, declared that nothing in that act contained, should be construed to extend to debar any person from using or applying, for the benefit of any sick person, any roots, barks or herbs, the growth or produce of the United States; thereby leaving those usually termed botanic physicians, at liberty to practise and receive a reasonable compensation for their services. And thus the law remained until the adoption of title seventh of chapter fourteenth of the first part of the present Revised Statutes, (vol. 1. p. 451,) by which it is provided, that no person shall practice physic or surgery, unless he shall have received a license or diploma from one of the incorporated medical societies of this state, or the degree of doctor of medicine from the regents of the university, or have been duly authorised to practise by the laws, or received a diploma from some incorporated college of medicine or legally incorporated medical society of some

* See from page 15 to 18.

other state or country; and such physician from any other state or country, not entitled to practise, unless he has filed a copy of his diploma with the clerk of the county where he resides, and exhibited to the medical society of that county, satisfactory evidence that he has regularly studied physic and surgery according to the requisitions of the ninth section of said title seventh; and that the president of every county medical society shall give notice, in writing, to every physician and surgeon within the county not already admitted to the society, directing him, within sixty days after the service of such notice, to apply for and receive a certificate of admission; and if he shall neglect to apply for such certificate within the time prescribed, his license shall be deemed forfeited, and he shall be liable to all the provisions and penalties of the laws of this state in relation to unlicensed physicians. And by the twenty-second section of said title seventh, it is provided, that every person not authorised by law, who, for any fee or reward, shall practice physic or surgery within this state, shall be incapable of recovering, by suit, any debts arising from such practice; *and shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, in the discretion of the court by which he shall be convicted.*

Botanic physicians, who use or apply for the benefit of any sick person, even any roots, barks, or herbs, the growth or produce of the United States, are, therefore, by the existing statutes not only deprived of the aid of the law in the collection of debts arising from their practice, but are liable to be both fined and imprisoned; such fine resting wholly in the arbitrary discretion of the court, and such imprisonment may be in the county jail for any term not exceeding three years. Such statutes are deemed by the petitioners harsh and severe, and they pray a repeal or modification thereof. Your committee are of opinion that this house would never consent to act as a board of censors, to license individuals to practice medicine; and that, therefore, the only important question presented, is, whether any alterations in the provisions of the said seventh title can consistently be made, with a due regard to the best interests of the public. The decision of this question will depend on the dangers and evils to be apprehended, or the benefit to be derived, from the practice of unlicensed physicians. The most skilful and the most deserving of the botanic physicians have been termed charletans and empirics, and represented as too ignorant to be employed in the cure of diseases. It must be admitted, that the physician eminent in science, who has studied

with diligence and with care, anatomy, physiology, pathology, botany, and chemistry, and all the sciences connected with his profession, and who has analyzed the mineral and the vegetable kingdoms, and who has reduced his learning and acquirements to practice, must ever be considered a much abler proficient in the healing art, than the unlettered empiric who has acquired his knowledge from observation and practice only. Yet, as there are many gradations in knowledge, and great diversity in the talents and acquirements of licensed physicians, there is, in the minds of your committee, great doubt whether much greater dangers are not to be apprehended from the practice of the least informed of them, than from the practice of the botanic physicians. Man has always been subject to pain and disease, and in the infancy of the world, for alleviation or for cure, must have looked to the medicinal virtues of the vegetable kingdom; and his own necessities must have rendered him curious and observing, and his curiosity and observation must have rendered him knowing and learned in the healing qualities of roots and plants. Every man was then an empiric, and his own physician.

In the progress of time, one would become more observing and learned than his neighbors, and be called on to act as their botanic physician. And it is a well-known fact which we learn from natural history, that the plants are as various as the diseases of the different climates; and that every country contains roots and plants which yield a remedy for almost every disease incident to that country. We learn, that in the early days of Egypt, and in the heroic ages of Greece, there were men celebrated for the cure of diseases; and we read in Homer, of the heroes on the field of battle, staunching the bleeding wounds of their companions with a bitter root.

Hippocrates, the father of medicine and the idol of his time, was an empiric: his only instructors were observation and experience, and the only book in which he read was the "great book of nature." In the language of an eminent professor of medicine, "air, earth and water, man and his kindred, vegetables, disease and death, and all casualties and concomitants of humanity were the pages he studied. Every thing that surrounds and nourishes, were the objects of his attention and study." Rome and other ancient states and empires, had their physicians, eminent in the healing art, and endeared to all who knew them: yet to these eminent physicians, anatomy was comparatively unknown. They were unacquainted with the

circulation of the blood, and ignorant of the science of chemistry; and if now living, would be wholly incompetent to pass an examination before one of our boards of censors. They would, consequently, be treated as empirics, and visited with all the pains and penalties inflicted on unlicensed physicians. And yet, are we prepared to say that all those eminent physicians who flourished for a succession of centuries, the pride and idols of their times, only added to the pains, the maladies and the miseries of man, and were worthy to be punished with fines and a dungeon?

If we believe they alleviated pain, and by contributing to health, added to the stock of human happiness, may we not suppose that the empirics of our day, the botanic physician, who, though not deeply read in books, has studied much the book of nature, the nutritious and the poisonous qualities of the vegetable kingdom, may do something for his species? may alleviate pain and cure disease?

And may not the unlettered as well as the lettered man, upon beholding the plants of the garden and the field exclaim in the language of the poet, who had never read Linnæus or studied medicine,

“Within the infant rind of this small flower,
Poison hath residence, and medicine power?”

It is a remark of an eminent and learned physician of our commercial metropolis, that “the Flora of North America is astonishingly rich in remedies. There is no doubt in my mind,” says he, “that in more diseases than are generally acknowledged, vegetable simples are the preferable remedies.”

Two of your committee have visited many of the patients of Mr. John Thomson, one of the persons named in said petitions, being respectable citizens of the city of Albany, and conversed with them in relation to his prescriptions and practice, and are assured and convinced, that his practice has been productive of much benefit, and eminently successful, in many instances, in the cure of diseases.

It has been said, that “any alteration of the law, would bear with great injustice on the licensed physicians, who had spent their time and money in the pursuit of medical science.”

This your committee submit, is a severe reflection on the intelligence of the public. For if the physician is distinguished by his superior intellect; his superior virtue and attainments in medical science; a discerning people will discover it, and he will receive the rewards of an extensive and successful practice, which he would never obtain

by binding and imprisoning his humble opponent. The strife of the professional man, ennobled by genius and talent, and exalted by virtue, is generous and noble, and he seldom fails of his reward, and he needs not, he asks not, the aid of severe laws to ensure it.

It has been said that the botanic physicians "ought not to be licensed, to trifle with the lives of their fellow creatures." Your committee submit, that it is not expedient to attempt, by legislative enactment, to add to nature, and increase the attachment to life, and render stronger that natural affection, implanted by God himself in the bosom of the parent towards his offspring, which is often stronger than even the attachment to life itself. The free unbiased selection of his physician, either for himself or family, is deemed one of the dearest privileges man enjoys. And if by harsh and severe laws, he is deprived of the services of a physician whom he prefers, and is thereby led to believe, that by the loss of such services, his own life is with greater rapidity hastening to its close, or that he has been deprived of a child he dearly loved, with what feelings will he turn over the statutes, and with what horror will he behold the members of that profession, by whose agency perhaps, and in whose favor, such a law of exclusion, of privilege and severity, was passed.

It has been said, there "ought to be more severe enactments for the protection of the community, against these bold and heartless depredators," the botanic physicians.—Your committee have searched, with some industry and care, and can find no statute of Great Britain, or any other state or country, of equal severity, with the last clause of the said twenty-second section, of said title seventh.—The only law which they can find bearing any resemblance to it, is a statute of Virginia, by which any slave, free negro, or mullatto, is forbidden to administer medicine, under pain of death: *Provided*, That if such medicine is administered without any ill intent, or is not attended with any bad consequences, such slave to be acquitted on the trial, and not extending to any *slave* administering such medicine, with the consent of the owner of the slave, and the consent of the master or mistress of the family; nor to any free negro or mullatto administering such medicine in any family, with the consent of the master or mistress thereof. But our statute punishes the unlicensed physician, where his intention was good; where the medicine was administered at the request, and with the consent of the patient; where it produced no bad consequences, and effected the intended and expected cure. It not

only punishes the unlettered empiric and the botanic physician, but the man of learning and science in his profession. He may have obtained diplomas from the medical school of Leyden and Edinburgh, and from every medical college, and every legally incorporated medical society in the old and the new world, beyond the limits of this state; he may stand the very first in the first rank of his profession, and if he becomes a practising physician of one of the counties of this state, and neglects for sixty days after notice, to unite himself with the medical society of the county, his license is forfeited, he is in some respects, deemed an outlaw, may be convicted of a misdemeanor, fined and sentenced to a dungeon. So that our free white male citizens, learned and unlearned, are treated with greater severity by our statute, than are the free negroes, or even the slaves of Virginia, by the laws of that state.

Your committee fully believe, that an attachment to life and a reverence for letters and science, can never be increased by pains, penalties and imprisonments; and they are unanimously of opinion, that the said seventh title requires some modification, and they see no reason why the botanic physicians should not be placed in the same situation that they were by the revised laws, of the year 1813, and they particularly recommend the repeal of the last clause of the twenty-second section, of the seventh title, of the fourteenth chapter, of the first part of the Revised Statutes, and have instructed their chairman to bring in a bill accordingly.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN DICKSON,

Chairman.

Feb. 6th, 1830.

LETTERS AND EXTRACTS.

Copy of a letter from the celebrated Dr. Waterhouse, formerly Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Physic, in Cambridge University, to Samuel L. Mitchill, M.D. & L. L. D.

CAMBRIDGE, Dec. 19th, 1825.

My Dear Sir:

Mr., alias Dr., Samuel Thomson, who has the honor of introducing the valuable *Lobelia* to use, and fully proved its efficacy and safety, will deliver you this. He has cured and relieved many of disorders, which others could not, without being a regular diplomated physician, and dared

to be a republican in a hot bed of federalism; for which he has been shamefully ill-treated, even to persecution.

I have aided and assisted Thomson, from a firm belief that his novel practice has been beneficial to numbers, and that it may be placed among improvements. If he be a quack, he is a quack *suigeneris*, for he proclaims his mode and means. Had John Hunter, whom I well knew, been born and bred where Samuel Thomson was, he would have been just such another man; and had S. T. been thrown into the same society and associations as J. H., he would, in my opinion, been his equal, with probably a wider range of thought; but both men of talents, and originality of thought.

I am, indeed, so disgusted with learned quackery, that I take some interest in honest, humane and strong-minded empiricism; for it has done more for our art, in all ages and in all countries, than all the universities since the time of Charlemagne. Where, for goodness sake, did Hippocrates study?—air, earth, and water—man, and his kindred vegetables—disease and death, and all casualties and concomitants of humanity, were the pages he studied—every thing that surrounds and nourishes us, were the objects of his attention and study. In a word, he read diligently and sagaciously the *Great Book of Nature*, as Thomson has, instead of the little books of man.

How came your Legislature to pass so unconstitutional an act as that called the *a ti-quack* law?—such as the Parliament of England would hardly have ventured on?—for *who will define quackery?* Were I sufficiently acquainted with your excellent Governor Clinton, I would write to him on the subject. You New-Yorkers are half a century behind us in *theological science*, and your quack bill looks as if you halted also in physic.

By what I have seen and learnt of Mr. Thomson, I wish him success, and the notice of the eminent and the liberal in the profession, and with this view I give him this rapidly written letter to Dr. Mitchill, and am with an high degree of esteem and respect his

Steady friend,
BEN^J. WATERHOUSE.

To Dr. John Thomson.

NEW-YORK, 18th Dec. 1824.

Sir—

I remember very well, that about the 5th of November you called upon me, in company with Dr. Everett, and

presented me a copy of your father's "*New Guide to Health*," with a narrative of his life and discoveries.

I consider biography as one of the most entertaining and instructive branches of history; and that of Dr. Samuel Thomson especially worthy of being read by medical men. I congratulate him on his escape from the trials and difficulties in which he has been involved, and on retaining the animated front and features, exhibited in Mr. Williams' portrait of him. I hope that he may long continue to enjoy the rewards of good service, the *quæ tum meruit*, and the *mens sibi conscia recti*.

The Flora of North America is astonishingly rich in remedies. There is no doubt in my mind, that in more diseases than is generally acknowledged, vegetable simples are the preferable remedies. Who knows, but in time, these native productions of the field and forest, will so enlarge and confirm their dominion, as to supercede the employments of other medicines.

Be kind enough to accept the assurance of my esteem and regard; and when you write to Dr. W. Ingalls, to present him my compliments.

SAMUEL L. MITCHELL.

COLUMBUS, (O.) 4th Month 23d, 1827.

DR. JOHN THOMSON.

Respected Friend.

THOU art no doubt, by this time, informed, that I have yielded to the solicitations of thy father, to take an unlimited agency of his business, in diffusing the knowledge of his system of the practice of physic.

I have studied and practiced physic from early life, as a neighbour and friend, without ever receiving or wishing to receive, (that I recollect,) to the value of a cent; excepting the satisfaction of having frequently relieved my fellow-creatures in distress. I have been much solicited by my friends of the faculty and others, to devote my time principally to the practice of physic: But the more I have become acquainted with the most celebrated physicians, the more I have been assured that they have wandered, generally, from the true ground, in quest of medicines to prevent and cure diseases. I have long believed that a bountiful providence had furnished, in every country, which seems to have been designed for the habitation of men, (or from whence he can draw his support,) with the most natural and suitable medicines, in the forests, the fields, or gardens, &c. The nature of the medicines which the faculty, generally, as well as myself, have placed most

reliance on, I have long known to be so deleterious in their nature, that I have considered them as a kind of necessary evil, (if I may so speak,) seemingly necessary, because we have known nothing better; and that the practice of the ablest physicians of the faculty, has been like wandering in a labyrinth, or dark and gloomy maze!—I have always most heartily despised every thing like quackery, whether ignorant or learned—have always been in the habit of communicating, freely and cheerfully, all the useful knowledge I possessed—have frequently, in a friendly manner, called the most eminent physicians, quacks, to their faces; and have long believed, that in every country they are very oppressive, especially on the poor. I had frequently heard of steam doctors, and some accounts of the mischief they had done in New-England, New-York, &c. and thought it might be well if they were all confined in some penitentiary. I intend publishing, for the satisfaction of my numerous friends and acquaintance, a particular account of my conversion to the Thomsonian practice—a practice which from principle I was zealously propagating, fearlessly, so soon as I had proved its value; long before I had any intention or wish to have any agency in it, in a pecuniary point of view: because I had no doubt that it was incomparably better than any thing else known to the ablest physicians in any country. It was with much reluctance that I agreed to take the agency; and should not have yielded to all the solicitations of thy father and my friends, but from the consideration that my large acquaintance in the United States, might and probably would enable me to diffuse the knowledge of this *beautiful and excellent system*, more extensively, and render it a much greater blessing, in much less time than it probably could be by any other person who would, under existing circumstances, be induced to take it.

When I first knew the value of the practice, I thought it a pity that there should be any restriction on it, and that Congress should purchase the right and make it public. But observation, reflection and experience soon convinced me, (long before I consented to take the agency,) that under such circumstances the medical faculty, aided by the prejudices of others, would soon prevent the people from being very materially benefitted by it; for they are generally too idle to practice successfully in this way. Most of them would use it in some instances privately, with but little success, whilst they would rail against and defame the practice. I have no doubt its benefits would be lost to the world. I am well assured that unless we can and

do make it an object for *respectable persons*, to go from neighbourhood to neighbourhood, from state to state and from country to country, and demonstrate to the satisfaction of the public that it is *immensely valuable*, and attended with no danger; its benefits and blessings will be lost to the world, and the medical faculty will continue as they long have done, in every country, perhaps for ages yet to come, to grind down and oppress the poorer, and those who are in moderate circumstances—that many of them will continue to be a curse instead of a blessing. There are indeed honourable exceptions amongst the regular-bred doctors; and two of them, Doctor Platt of Columbus, (when we are doing almost the whole of the business, as our neighbours tell us,) and Doctor Hand whom with my consent, our governor, Allen Trimble, has been made acquainted with the practice. Both Platt and Hand, men of much science, liberal minded, much celebrated, and both by example and precept, in good faith, recommending the practice. It will be pleasing to thee to learn, no doubt, that our amiable governor, by the assistance of the books and medicines and instructions which thy father and myself gave him, when we were together, has, without having seen any demonstration from any of our practitioners, cured his wife, whose life had long been despaired of, was given over as incurable by several eminent physicians, who had for six years been striving in vain to cure. This he assured me himself; and that with his little lot of medicines we gave him, his wife and her mother had cured two other females of dangerous disorders, which the doctors could not cure. I am thy assured friend,

HORTON HOWARD.

N. B Through the instrumentality of a particular friend of mine in Baltimore, who is well acquainted with President Boyer, and who is a particular friend and favourite of Boyer's, I am making arrangements to diffuse the knowledge of the Thomsonian System in Hayti, under the patronage of its President as aforesaid, and to procure as soon as may be, a supply of the best medicine from him, that the Haytian republic affords. I am preparing a Dutch and French translation of our system, as soon as I can spare funds for the purpose.

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