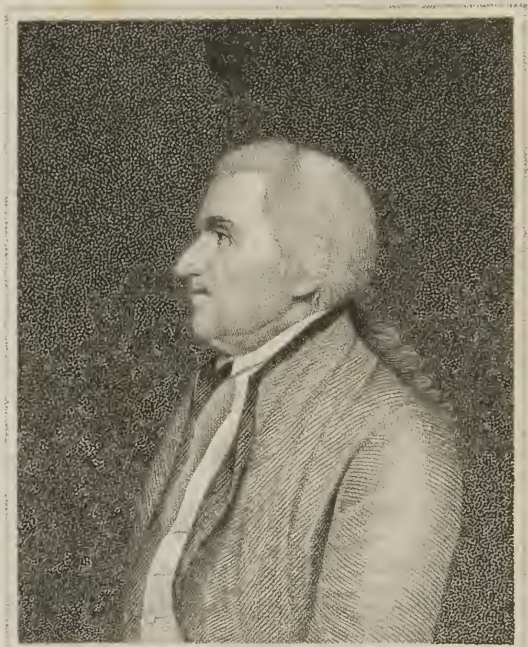




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DR. JOHN BARD.

A
L E T T E R
FROM
DR. J O H N B A R D,
PRESIDENT OF THE
MEDICAL SOCIETY,
OF THE
STATE OF NEW-YORK,
TO THE
AUTHOR OF THOUGHTS
ON THE
D I S P E N S A R Y.

Published some time past in the *Daily Advertiser*,
Signed A SUBSCRIBER.

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P R E F A C E.

THE following strictures upon a publication which appeared about three months ago in Mr. Childs's paper, were written and intended to be published soon after, with a view to counteract the malevolence and mischievous tendency of that production, but from an unwillingness to enter into a newspaper controversy, and a real belief that so trifling a performance, could make no impression on one liberal mind, was at that time laid aside. As I fear, however, from a late proposal of the Managers of the Dispensary, to take from the Medical Society the choice of the Physicians to that Institution, that the writer has not altogether missed of his aim, to lessen and depreciate in their estimation, the character of the Medical Society, I have thought it might not be at this time without its use in restoring the Members of that Institution, to their just rank in the confidence of their fellow Citizens.

JOHN BARD, *President of the Medical Society,*
to the Author of Thoughts on the Public Dis-
pensary.

Signed A Subscriber.

THE respect and honor I have always received from the Gentlemen of the Medical Society of the City of New-York, and more especially the generous and benevolent views, which to my certain knowledge have ever influenced their conduct, will not permit me to sit easy under the unjust and unprovoked misrepresentation you have made of them in your late publication, in which one of your aims seems plainly to have been to misrepresent and lessen the merit of this Society, particularly in the plan they originally formed for establishing the Dispensary.

This publication is now before me, I have read and considered it with that impartiality and temper, which is always necessary in a performance, in which Strictures are proposed to be made: and in this disposition proceed to examine it, which will afford you an opportunity of observing how your principles and sentiments appear under another pen.

You set out by saying, *It is of the greatest importance to every new institution whose end is public utility, that it should receive a good set off; and therefore that it should first be well considered--- Caution and deliberation ought to be particularly conspicuous in the structure of such Societies whose objects embrace the dearest interests of humanity.* The whole of this introduction it will readily be

granted is just and solid, but the true use or abuse of the general positions it contains, will depend upon the necessity and intention for which they are, on this particular occasion introduced. This intention and necessity will be the subject of this enquiry.-----You proceed---*The stability of every untried project depends on such a wise provision as will render the means employed at all times, adequate to the end proposed.* In which you are likewise right; and then you conclude this sentence in the following words---*If these few general positions be solid they will at least justify an attempt to set the parties concerned in the public Dispensary a thinking; those on the one hand who are to support the Charity; and on the other those who are to execute the duties of it.* And the word thinking, to render it more emphatical, you have put in italics. If these positions, and the inferences you have drawn from them, mean any thing, it must by the plainest rules of construction be, that the Medical Society formed the constitution of the Dispensary without any regard to the solid positions you have presented to us; and here, as well as throughout the whole of your publication, you evidently imply that the plan of the Dispensary, published by the Medical Society for the public inspection and approbation, contains such palpable defects and imperfections, as made it necessary for you to sound the alarm, and call upon those concerned in that institution to think what they were about. Now, Sir, if it shall appear that this plan was formed by the Medical Society, without ability, reflection, or a sedate and faithful deliberation, or on any other principles, than those of a pure and disinterested compassion, and that they sent it abroad charged with great and dangerous imperfections,

which as you intimate now exist, then your coming forward, exciting the public apprehensions, and so readily offering your helping hand to correct and amend them, will certainly intitle you to the grateful acknowledgements of all concerned. But remember that it is the evidence of this purity of intention and the justness of your opinion which ought to gain you this tribute of praise. And, it, on the other hand, it shall appear that the gentlemen of the Medical Society in forming this constitution, did proceed with caution and deliberation, and acted from the purest motives of compassion and pity, that after they had among themselves, formed this constitution, they sent it abroad for the inspection, deliberation, and approbation of their fellow citizens, that it met with their general approbation, and produced an immediate and hearty zeal in the inhabitants to protect and countenance this infant design, all which has been evidenced by a liberal and generous contribution; and, if, from the trial it has had, no real defects and imperfections have in the least impeded its growth and operations, or are likely to impede them, I say, if these things are so from experience and fact, I think in my turn I am justified in putting the Author of *thoughts on the Dispensary* a thinking, and bid him ask himself seriously what degree of merit he has a right to claim, or what share of just applause he is intitled to, for publishing such representations as have a natural tendency to raise unjust suspicions and jealousies in the minds of the Citizens, and, if any thing could, damp the ardour of the Subscribers.

It is upon this statement I shall proceed to consider the temper and spirit of your production, and see what solid arguments and positions it con-

sains, when stripped of its pageantry, misrepresentations, personal slander, and a greedy fondness you have discovered, in almost every paragraph, to impute base and selfish motives to the most disinterested generous designs and actions. And that I may execute this task even to your satisfaction, with justice and impartiality, I shall republish your composition, paragraph, by paragraph, and give some plain, and, I hope, just comments upon each.

You proceed: *The Rev. Dr. Rodgers, I am well informed was the first person who suggested the practicability of establishing a Public Dispensary in this city: The hint he first threw out at a meeting of the Humane Society where it was well received, it was from thence laid before the Medical Society, who soon after submitted a plan to their fellow Citizens, with an offer of their professional services, as soon as ways and means were provided to carry the same into effect.*

We all know and revere the Rev. Dr. Rodgers, and I can very readily suppose that in the benevolence of his mind, he might have expressed his wishes in the Humane Society that this institution might take place in this City; but it is as true that the idea of establishing a Dispensary was thought of and intended even before the Medical Society was formed, and was among the chief views which induced the first movers and promoters of that institution, to invite the gentlemen of the profession in this City, into a fraternity. At this time I obtained a copy of the institution of the Dispensary of Philadelphia; the design was never lost sight of, it was the frequent topic of our conversation, and ever intended to be carried into execution as soon as it could conveniently be done.

It is not very material indeed, from what foundation this useful institution is considered to have arisen, but if you had not been otherwise disposed, you might, with real justice, have given the Medical Society the first place, and not the second, in originating this Charity; intent, however, on taking this first, though slender, opportunity to lessen the merit of the Medical Society, you have so far forgot or neglected your first positions, that you have given us nothing hitherto which bears the least relation to them.

The Citizens of New-York, ever forward in advancing its reputation and promoting the interests of science and humanity, with a readiness and zeal that whilst it serves to illustrate their character, intitles them to the praise of every feeling heart, instantly seized the opportunity of opening a door of help to the unfortunate, and in a few days subscribed a sum equal to the end in view.

This is a just and handsome compliment to the generosity and humanity of the inhabitants of this City; and shows, when you please, you can be both just and complaisant to real merit: And it certainly would have been more to your credit as a writer, if the rest of your performance had been marked with the same regard to justice and candor.

The plan of the Dispensary, as it was published, proposed to provide the sick Poor of this City with Medicines, and with the advice and assistance of those skilled in every department of Medicine. This is a
 VERY IMPORTANT MATTER, AND THE CITIZENS SHOULD SEE THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH IT IS FOUNDED.

This paragraph contains a short, plain, and expressive description of the design of the Dispen-

fary, so clear that every reader must perceive it at first sight.

What then can you mean by holding out this simple aphorism to the inhabitants, as containing very important matter and principles, which have been concealed from their minds, and which you tell them it is so necessary they should be acquainted with----What, but to misrepresent the motives that influenced the Medical Society in promoting and establishing this Charity---accordingly you go on.

For my own part, being an enemy to mystery and a friend to free communication, I feel no difficulty in considering the Dispensary as a reputable bargain between the Citizens and Faculty, suggested in the first instance by humanity and formed on principles of equity, between the contracting parties, as far as the nature of the concern would allow. I have often heard several of the Physicians in this City complain (and not I believe without reason,) that their profession subjected them to great expence of medicines as well as loss of time for poor persons who had no means of rewarding their services. On the other hand I know it has long been lamented by many humane Citizens that there was no established resort for medical relief, save the poor house, for a great variety of poor persons, who by different occupations are exposed to sickness and casualties. To mutual complaint of this sort, it is not unreasonable to ascribe the appearance of a Public Dispensary. Hence then the public motives of forming the institution appear to be so far developed: Other causes might indeed be found operating to hurry it into existence, but as they are irrelative to the public design, and turn upon personal considerations, it is unnecessary to form any speculations concerning them.

The whole of this paragraph is founded in misrepresentation; the physicians, on their part, had no bargain to make, or interest to gain; they were prompted only by a generous, and totally disinterested compassion, and successfully endeavoured to obtain the aid of our Citizens whose circumstances enabled them, and whose benevolent dispositions inclined them, to carry this laudable plan into effect.

This has been easily and happily accomplished. Neither the Physicians on the one part, nor the generous Subscribers on the other, had any bargain to drive. It is a narrow, and degrading idea, which you have thrown out, and has done an injury to the design. With the same views you conclude this paragraph, by imputing fordid and selfish motives to the Medical Society, which you derive from some casual complaints you say you have in conversation heard from some of the profession, and some of the inhabitants, when you knew, or ought to have known, those inducements had no share with them in this pious design. For my part I declare I never heard in their whole proceedings this principle introduced; and, at least, with a great majority, do not hesitate to assert, they have been actuated only by the most pure and disinterested motives of real humanity and charity. I once, and but once, heard a gentleman in the society say, that the Dispensary would be a saving to the practitioners in this particular; but it was after the plan was formed and published; and mentioned only accidentally as a consequence. But I again aver, that it was never brought into view in the Society in my hearing as a motive, it was founded on a much more liberal and generous

basis, which you do not seem willing to acknowledge, or able to comprehend.

That the benevolence, however, of the Citizens may not be disappointed on the one hand, and that the Physicians may enter upon the duties of the Dispensary with alacrity and chearfulness on the other, I APPREHEND the following remark to be worthy the notice of both, viz. *That the liberality and munificence of the Citizens, sufficiently manifested by their Subscriptions, must remain inoperative, but through the exertions of the faculty.*

Why really, Sir, this is an intimation extremely worthy the notice of both Physicians and Citizens. Suppose you had told us with the same air of solemnity and importance, that a coach would prove *inoperative* without its wheels.

And further, that it behoves the medical gentlemen seriously to reflect that the existence of the institution sprang from their unsolicited offer, and that its continuance will intirely depend on the public opinion, respecting their endeavors to render it worthy a generous patronage.

This too, is certainly a sage admonition, and it is to be hoped the Physicians will pay so great a regard to it, as to mind their business, and do their duty faithfully.

Here TWO VERY IMPORTANT circumstances press into view, and demand serious consideration. Here again our expectations are set on tiptoe.

The first with respect to thè extent of the funds, and the second with respect to the extent of the action of the Public Dispensary and little solicitous about precise

arrangement, I shall in few words consider them in the order of cause and effect. First then, with respect to the funds of the Dispensary---THESE COME DIRECTLY FROM THE POCKETS OF THE CITIZENS, and in the main, I have no doubt issue from the purest motives;

It is remarkable that you introduce your paragraphs with a pompous and self-important air, and I raise an expectation in your readers that some useful instruction or information is to follow; but hitherto you have only set the mountain in labor.

Still, however, a certain proportion ought to be calculated as proceeding from motives, whose nature will not allow the hope of a permanent subscription.

It is true that a considerable number have already given their names for its support---Satisfied with the INTENT of the thing, they have not given themselves the trouble to think much about it---a much greater number, however, and perhaps equally well disposed, keep back until they see, (to use their own phrase) HOW IT WILL WORK.

It is certain that the institution is altogether of a promissory nature, and has nothing compulsory in it; ---subscribers may, whenever they are inclined, without offering reasons, withdraw their subscriptions:---hence it is evident that its foundation rests solidly, in so far only, as sentiments of real beneficence actuate the donors---but loosely and uncertainly where motives springing out of personal influences, may be supposed to obtain, especially where these are tinged with vanity and caprice ---What an unjust, ungrateful, and frosty description is this of the conduct of a set of humane and generous

gentlemen, who have come forward with an ardor and liberality that exceeded even the most sanguine expectations of the first movers, and well wishers of this good design. Permit me, Sir, here to ask upon what authority you have assumed the office of a public censor? and measuring other men's minds by the standard of your own; have presumed to ascribe this generous and liberal conduct, to loose and interested motives; surely, when a man, acquainted with the intention and design of the Dispensary, subscribes his name, and pays his subscription for its support, it is evidence enough, with any well natured man, of the generosity and goodness of his heart; and cavilling and fishing for meaner incitements, has too much the aspect of envy and detraction——

From this view it will be obvious, that it will very much depend on the faculty, to preserve such a favorable public sentiment respecting it, as will induce the citizens at large to support an efficient and reputable execution of the plan.

Pray, Sir, let me here ask you, what reason have the Physicians given you to doubt and question their attention and care in the exercise of their department in this business, that you do so often reiterate your warnings and cautions to them, to do what their inclination, and duty necessarily prompt them to?

And this leads me to a consideration of its extent--- here the constitution appears vague and undefined, both as to distance of action, and the characters whom it shall embrace. It is notwithstanding, published as a plan for relieving the sick poor of this city, and therefore, I trust, that the spirit of the society will not allow IDEAL LINES, OR IMAGINARY

DIFFICULTIES TO PRECLUDE REAL OBJECTS, FROM THE RELIEF INTENDED THEM BY THE INSTITUTION: *To do this would at once be disgusting to the generous donors, and disparaging to the medical gentleman, who have so handsomely, and it is to be presumed, not unadvisedly volunteered their professional services. Here it seems proper to remark that the citizens give their money freely, and the only equivalent they expect, is that the sick poor of the city be taken care of; and this necessarily includes ALL the sick poor.*

This paragraph, like most of the others, is calculated to puzzle a plain subject, and raise ideas of discontent and ill-founded jealousies without the least foundation, and the spirit of it has already gone forth, and created a great deal of unnecessary and troublesome altercation: it respects the lines which were to limit the services of the Physicians; and a moment's reflection might convince even you, that these, as well as the objects they were to embrace, could only be settled subsequent to the constitution, and after the election of the Managers, and were the proper subjects of a by-law, founded on an agreement between the Managers and the Medical Society.--- It belonged, in the first instance, to the Physicians to divide the compact parts of the City into such districts as would render their personal labor as equal as possible; and to contrive such a mode and such expedients, as would do strict justice to the paupers who lived in the environs of the town, without imposing an intolerable drudgery and loss of time upon the persons to whose lot it should fall, to attend those at the greatest distances. ----The whole of this was a plain and simple business; and, in my humble opinion, might have

been settled in the most just and convenient manner, in a short, easy, and temperate way.---The Physicians formed the division of the compact part of the town in a satisfactory manner, and with a ready agreement; but some of them differed in opinion with respect to the location of the line to the north, which was to limit the bounds of the most settled part of the City, and bound the northern district to the south.---Three gentlemen of the Medical Society, proposed three different locations of this line, and were respectively heard in support of their opinions; and by a very great majority it was decreed, that the southern line was the best adapted to do the most justice to the paupers and the attending Physicians, so far as related to the compact parts of the town: And taking into their consideration the extent of the northern district, which was to extend from the above-mentioned line to the two mile stone, and to stretch between these objects from river to river;---they modestly suggested to the board of Managers the expediency of the support of an horse out of the Dispensary funds, to aid and assist the labor of the Physician, or Physicians, who should attend this remote and wide extending district;* on which terms a Physician of real merit and learning offered at this time to perform this particular service.

And though this expedient was certainly the least expensive of any other, every way the rea-

* If to the consideration of the distance and extent of the northern district, be added, the severity of our climate, the shortness of our winter days, the ground for the most part during the winter season deeply covered with snow, and on the breaking up of winter, muddy and painful walking, together with the growing increase of this service, it will probably strengthen the reason for this application.

dicst and most convenient, and without which the necessary attendance and aid to the paupers living within this circle was utterly impracticable, and in this view became as necessary for their assistance as the providing Medicines, a house, or the salary to the Apothecary; yet, even this most reasonable, unexceptionable and necessary expedient met with opposition and labored altercation; on this occasion the board of Managers, desirous to obtain proper information, did, in the most respectful manner, propose a conference with the Medical Society, and favoured them twice with a personal interview; and, at their last meeting, every thing seemed to be settled to the mutual satisfaction of both Societies; the Medical Society came to a resolution to establish the southern line, which had before been decreed by them, and to which at this time they gave their unanimous voice, and agreed to solicit the provision of an horse to aid the service of the Northern district, and on this occasion, all the members of the Medical Society waited on the board of managers in return for the same respectful complaisance they had received from them, and confirmed by their personal appearance, the resolution, which their Secretary had been requested to read on their behalf. The Board of Managers, satisfied with the justice and reasonableness of this resolve, granted it in its full extent with the dissent of two gentlemen only, and caused this assent to be entered on their minutes, an extract of which they furnished me with, which was likewise entered upon the minutes of the Medical Society.

The relation which the Medical Society bears to the Dispensary, makes it necessary they should go hand in hand with the directors of this institu-

tion; on this principle I felt rejoiced at that mutual interchange of respectful complaisance and confidence that appeared in this night's negotiation between them, and it was and ever will be my wish, and I think I may add it will ever be the wish of far the greater part of the Medical Society to preserve a perfect harmony and confidence between both communities, in which the success and utility of the Dispensary must be materially concerned: From this disposition I flattered myself that this compact, formed between two respectable Societies, and on a useful and important occasion, would have remained permanent and lasting, but to my astonishment and real mortification, a very small number of the Medical Society only, who had been allotted to perform the first tour of Dispensary duty, in violation of this solemn compact, and contrary to the sentiments and opinions of at least three fourths of the Society, and even contrary to their own acts, introduced an innovation in the space of a few days, and disturbed the order of this agreement, and by this ex-party business, placed the greatest part of their Medical brethren in a troublesome and awkward situation, and as far as they could effect it, lessened the Medical Society in the confidence and esteem of the Board of Directors. As I cannot divine any possible, or justifiable reason for this conduct, I shall not indulge a conjecture, or enter upon any inquiry about it, but leave the gentlemen who have been the agents in this business, in the full and undisturbed possession of their own motives.

In answering your last paragraph Mr. Subscriber, so full of misrepresentation, I could not so clearly and effectually refute them, and do full

justice to the conduct and upright views of the Medical Society, which I profess to be my principle design in this address, as by publishing at large, the above plain and circumstantial narrative, it has drawn me into a considerable length, but I consider the subject as a public one, and of real consequence, and hope this may be my apology.

What a baneful thing is party-zeal, how intruding! which could not be kept out of so small a fraternity of Physicians, and on a subject of public and disinterested benevolence, A fraternity formed for the best purposes, to cultivate a spirit of harmony, candour, and good will among its members, to afford frequent opportunity for a social communication of Medical remarks and observations, in which the public is not uninterested, and to check and restrain a spirit of faction and discord, which had, at the time of their commencement, too much disgraced the profession.

The Medical men on the other hand, give a portion of their time, and talents to the public charity, and the only equivalent they expect, is a considerable exemption from the expence of medicines given to paupers, and that degree of honest reputation which each of them may share by proper attention to their duty.

In contemplating the nature of this disinterested, generous, and diffusive system of charity, has your mind never carried you higher in judging of the inducements of the *Medical Men*, as you familiarly stile them, who were the first framers and promoters of it, than the little poultry, saving of the expence of Medicines, which they, in the general course of their practice, dispensed to their poorer patients? Can you not suppose that commu-

nicating health, relief and comfort to unfortunate objects, labouring under the complicated miseries of disease, pain, and poverty, will afford a much greater gratification to a humane mind? It you cannot, your mind is not a very enviable one, and it is the less to be wondered at, that you are so fond of imputing base motives and little, selfish inducements to others; rest satisfied, therefore with your own feelings and incitements, and do not measure them out to others; this is the second time you have taken the liberty in the course of your piece, to characterize the motives of the gentlemen of the Medical Society, by this unjust and degrading scale.

For the future prosperity of the establishment, therefore, I sincerely hope, that liberal scope may be given to the exercise of Medical aid, and that no individual, will so far misapply his influence as to CIRCUMSCRIBE ITS MERCIFUL DESIGNS especially since by FIXING AN UNGRACIOUS LIMIT, he could only enjoy the MISERABLE TRIUMPH OF CARRYING A FAVOURITE POINT, and that too at the EXPENCE OF EXCLUDING A CONSIDERABLE PART OF THE POOR, who dwell in the out skirts of the city.

Why really Mr. Subscriber, this is a very civil, insinuating charge indeed; let us see how it will bear the test of plain truth and reason.

The recommendation of this Southern line of partition, which a very moderate share of common candor, would have attributed to an honest belief, at least, of its being the best suited to answer the end in view, which line, after due consideration and discussion, has been approved, by and received the sanction of both Societies, and yet this plain and reasonable recommendation, has been

the whole and only source, from whence you have with so much pains, fabricated this illiberal slander. Review these personal insinuations, in the order you have contrived, and marshal'd them, in this very ingenuous paragraph, and try if you can reconcile them to the justice and spirit, even of your own mind. And further consider if you please, what relation they bear, to the apprehensions you raised in us, by your first solid positions, and how far they justify an attempt, as you phrase it, to set the parties concerned in the management of the public Dispensary *a thinking*: -- It is true indeed, least this very modest attempt should be disregarded, you have kindly condescended to think for them.

With all deference to the framers of the Dispensary plan, I would suggest that the tenth rule is particularly objectionable to many respectable citizens. They remark on it with great reason that if hired servants are denied the benefit of the Dispensary, when taken sick at their masters houses, one great motive with the heads of families for becoming subscribers is taken away. Hired servants when in sickness, are as deservedly objects of compassion, as any others, but it cannot reasonably be expected their masters will be at the expence of a physician tho' they might allow them comfortable house room and such other family advantages as would greatly contribute to the restoration of their health.

It is certainly the right of every individual in the community, freely to suggest any proper hint to those immediately concerned in the management and direction of the Dispensary, which he may have collected in the course of his correspond-

ence and conversation abroad ; especially when it is delivered as this is, in moderate terms.

On this occasion however had you made a proper inquiry, or wished information, you might have known, that from the first, it was never meant to exclude hired servants from the benefits of the Dispensary, and that a mode, which has since been adopted, was early devised to extend this charity to them in a more agreeable way, than compelling gentlemen to visit the servants of families in which they had no acquaintance with the Masters or Mistresses. Even this intelligence, if it had been necessary, might have been conveyed in a more private and respectful manner.

The amount then of these indigested remarks which more time might have rendered much more perfect is this----That the managers chosen by the citizens and the Medical Society, take up the constitution of the Dispensary---examine it well and weigh its probable operation; let them converse together freely, and at last if they think proper re-commit it to a joint committee of managers and physicians---the citizens are in no extravagant haste for its operation, and I am persuaded that the interests of the institution will not be injured by a weeks delay.

In the very preamble to your piece, you tell your readers, you hear that there is to be a meeting between the Managers of the Public Dispensary and the Medical Society to-morrow, &c. Why, then, Sir, could you not have waited till you knew the result of their joint deliberations? Why was you in such extravagant haste to appear in print, and publish your crude and indigested notions with the old stale apology, *want of time?* Why did you not take *more time* to digest a subject

of so much importance and public concern? And why was you so forward in giving your advice to those respectable communities to do, what you acknowledge you had just heard they were to do, on the morrow? Have you been so vain to yourself, and so disrespectful to them, as to imagine they were not competent to this business without your directions, even to the mode in which they were to conduct it, and that too, through the channel of a public news-paper? Surely there was more decency and respect due to the characters of those gentlemen who had been elected by the Subscribers for the management and direction of this Charity; and on whose judgment and sagacity, in conjunction with the Medical Society, you might have with confidence relied.

Unquestionably it has had too hasty a birth, and I will hazard a prophecy that unless it is more matured and rendered more agreeable to the great mass of citizens, it will prove neither more or less than an abortion---

All this, Mr. Subscriber, with your dreary and foreboding prophecy of its abortion, rests only upon your assertion.----My walks and conversations are not very much confined, and I never heard any citizen complain that it has had too hasty a birth; for my part I wish it had come into existence much sooner; and it seems to be the opinion of the most respectable of the inhabitants, I have had an opportunity of conversing with, that its utility should be felt as soon as it conveniently could.-----It is an observation I have met with some where, that those who take upon them to prophecy, have a wish to see their predictions fulfilled, whether good or bad.

Skilful and experienced Physicians know, that the ignorant and officious, by their ill-timed and ill-directed methods, bring about abortions, which the lenient hand of nature, and judicious aids of art, would generally have prevented. So it happens, when conceited and officious politicians interfere with the judicious designs and useful plans of wise and generous statemen.

I will now, Mr. Subscriber, take the liberty to offer my opinion on this subject: That this happy offspring of the Medical Society has been originally well formed, and has all the marks of a healthy good constitution; that under these advantages it has been sent into the world, and has been there well received and cherished; that it manifests already, though in its infancy, natural beauty and infant strength, and is now committed to the fostering care of able and vigilant guardians, and is free from all danger of abortion; and now in my turn, I will venture a prophecy, that under the support of its present protectors, it will continue to grow in beauty, health, and vigor, and continue to dispense with increasing bounty, relief, health, and comfort, not only to present objects, but to thousands yet unborn; that it will in the strong and elegant language of JOB, be “Eyes to the blind, feet to the lame, will deliver the poor that cry, and the fatherless, and him that hath none to help him, will give relief to those who are ready to perish, and cause the widow’s heart to sing for joy.”

For the sake of humanity, therefore it is to be hoped that this excellent institution will not be set to sleep with others which were created a few years ago

by the BUZZ OF A FEW VISIONARIES, MORE TO SERVE PERSONAL THAN PUBLIC PURPOSES, and are now as if they had never been.

One would have imagined, that the strange and indigested remarks you have dealt out to us, respecting the Medical Society and the Dispensary, would have satisfied you, without calling from its long sleep a foreign subject, you do not tell us what, further to feed your appetite for personal invective.

And thus you end, with the same censorious and dogmatizing disposition you at first set out with, and which is so remarkably conspicuous, throughout your whole publication.

And now, Sir, as you have so frequently obtruded your advice and opinions upon gentlemen of more importance than you or me, and as I think, with an unbecoming freedom, through the channel of a public news-paper---I shall take leave to conclude this address with two or three plain admonitions.-----

First, I would advise you when you sit down to write, especially for the public eye, to test your heart by the plain rules of justice and candor; then, under this safe director, your talents, which are sprightly enough, may be employed to useful purposes; it will at least save you from debasing yourself, or abusing others.

What harm would it do you, Mr. Subscriber, to abate a little of your dictatorial humour; I believe it is a just observation, that those who are best qualified to dictate and give advice are generally most cautious and sparing of both----- and it is as true that generally men of the

most profound learning and erudition, in all ages and countries have been as remarkable for their modesty, and unassuming manners, as the vast extent of their minds; among these numerous worthies, the illustrious names of BOYLE, NEWTON and LOCK, of PENN, WOLLASTON and FRANKLIN, are striking instances (if I may use the expression) of this sublime humility; Mr. WOLLASTON in particular, with equal modesty and truth, has told us that after the utmost stretch, and deepest researches of the human mind, *our Philosophy dwells only upon the surface of nature*; an acknowledgment so humble and so true, from so great a character, ought at once to check and abash the first risings of human vanity, and presumption----Let these great examples persuade you, that true and real merit, like a virgins blushes, always becomes more conspicuous, the more it strives to be concealed.

And lastly Sir, which if well understood and properly regarded, will perhaps contain every necessary advice, let me recommend to your serious consideration the Philosophers first lesson---
KNOW YOURSELF.

FAREWELL.

Book taken apart, leaves deacidified with magnesium bicarbonate. Folds reinforced, resewed on linen cords. New all-rag end paper signatures, unbleached linen hinges, hand sewed headbands. Rebound in quarter Russell's oasis morocoo, hand marbled paper sides, vellum corners. Leather treated with potassium lactate & neat's foot oil & lanolin. September 1975.

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