MATTERS & THINGS

WORTHY OF PUBLIC CONSIDERATION,

RESPECTING THE

THOMSONIAN
BOTANIC SYSTEM OF MEDICINE.

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"GIVE US BUT LIGHT."

The following "*Appeal to the public*," has already been published in all the Baltimore papers; but its importance to every class of the community, particularly, such as are not in circumstances to pay large doctors bills; or able to defray the expences of long journeys to celebrated watering places, or visits to the "south of France," or other genial climes, to recover their health, when "science and skill" has abandoned them to the grim tyrant, death,—to such, and to all who value life and health, and are opposed to a monopoly which *professes* to cure our maladies, by adminstering virulent poisons as remedies, we recommend its perusal and a hearty co-operation in obtaining the repeal of an unconstitutional and oppressive act to which it refers:—

AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC.

Though I feel no desire to become an agitator of the general political economy of the state of my nativity, nor to raise my voice against any particular law, the provisions of which may appear to have been based generally upon the just and unalienable rights of the people, yet when the legislature has been induced by any plea or representation whatever, to pass a law granting a monopoly to any class or order of men, it is the duty of every good citizen to raise his voice in demanding the repeal of such a law. I think the statute of 1798, incorporating the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, is a law of this character. A monopoly has been created by the general provisions of this law, more odious in its features, and more degrading to an intelligent people, than any government in the old world would at this time dare to impose.—We commenced the era of our political career in 1776: it was then declared "That all government, of right, originates from the people, is founded in compact only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole;" And "that monopolies are odious, contrary to the spirit of free government, and ought not to be suffered." These declarations were made too, under circumstances fully calculated to inspire the minds of our fathers with the importance of their political acts. Far, very far indeed must the idea have been from such spirits, that within the brief space of twenty three years from the time in which they uttered those thrilling words, and within the same walls too, that the consideration of such a project, or the establishment of such a law, could for one moment, be entertained. True, the law in question is introduced by expressions of great regard for the welfare of the people; but the enactments generally appear to be so totally at variance with the fundamental principles of free government, that it would really seem to augur unfavorably for our future liberties, that such a law should continue to be tolerated. As a law I believe it to be unequal, unjust, unconstitutional and degrading. It is unequal, because it endows the medical and chirurgical faculty with powers, privileges, immunities, and

is unjust, because the Legislature in granting those powers, privileges and immunities to the faculty, has altogether failed to provide or in any way to secure an equivalent for the grant to the people. It is unconstitutional because it creates a privileged order, an order against whom alone the offence of violating this law, exists. Fines for the infraction of laws made for the general benefit of the people are, after deducting the informer's moiety, appropriated for the public benefit; but according to this law, the violation of which consists merely in charging and receiving pay for medical services, and not in injuring the people by mal-practice the fines, after deducting the informer's portion, are assigned for the use of the Medical and Chirurgical faculty of Maryland. Thus we see that the people are not to receive even a part of the fine as an equivalent for those distinguished perpetual powers, privileges and immunities which the Legislature, in a most unguarded moment, conferred upon them. It is degrading. How must the dignity, of the mind of a man sink when he is told by any order or class of men that he posseses not the capacity of choosing what class of medical advisers he may employ, and that, whatever improvements may have been made in the art of curing the sick; the whole matter is placed in the care of the faculty forever.

If they chose to sanction improvements in the art made by any other person, of which the faculty alone may judge, they have the right to do so, but if they do not so choose, you must submit. It is an injurious imputation upon the intelligence of the people. It is too humiliating to be told by our neighbours of Virginia and Pennsylvania that we, whom the privileged order are pleased to call the common people, are not yet capable of judging for ourselves in so important a matter, and appeal to our statute book for proof of the fact. Can we who boast of our civil rights longer permit the cause of such disgrace to remain in our code? No—no, shall we not hear the decisive response from the lips of every patriot, every freeman reverberating from the Alleghanies to the shore of the Atlantic? and by firmly requiring the restoration of those rights of which the aristocratic provisions of this law have deprived us, deserve the title of

FREEMEN.

PREJUDICES SUBSIDING.

There is no question that many prejudices, which originated in ignorance of the Thomsonian practice, or grew out of the thousands of falsehoods which have been widely circulated against it, are rapidly subsiding.

The following article from the New York Evening Star, edited by *M. M. Noah*, who, though but a year ago he thought Thomsonianism a fit subject for ridicule, now considers it at least entitled to a respectful paragraph. In noticing a recent debate held by the Regulars and Thomsonians, in the Baltimore Lyceum, the editor says:—

"The whole matter in dispute was brought up in the usual form—science against quackery; Latin jargon and hieroglyphic symbols against nature and common sense; vegetable remedies against chemical minerals, &c.—Our country, by its free institutions, brings every question, as it ought, before the tribunal of public opinion, as the last and only legitimate appeal. Mansonry has submitted to it—Mormonism, Agrarianism, Abolitionism, must all come to this at last. There is certainly, on the part of the Thomsonians, this much to be said in favor of the doctrines they effect to profess: That *medicine*, like every useful science, should be thrown open to the observation and study of all. It should, in fact, like law and every other important practical science, be made a part of the primary education of the people. Hospitals, medical colleges, anatomical schools, chemical laboratories, should not be as they now are, close monopolies but made as in France, gratuitous and accessible to the public. We should at once explode the whole machinery of mystification and concealment—wigs, gold canes, and the gibberish of prescriptions—which serve but as a cloak to ignorance and legalized murder!

unaccountably ignorant of, the anatomy and construction of our own bodies, the nature and symptoms of disease, the virtues of medical remedies, and their true effects. But for the darkness which has shrouded this vital subject, and the feudal barbarism which created physicians into a particular *caste* or clique, masked under the antiquated costume of an unintelligible dialect, and a pompous mysterious deportment, as unworthy of so noble a science as the incantations of necromancy, the light of truth would have long since broken in upon it from all quarters, and its advances would have been commensurate with those of steam, of printing, or any other branch of Philosophy."

LECTURE ON THE

Thomsonian System & Practice of Medicine.

The following lecture of Dr. *Curtis*, is respectfully submitted to the public, and their attention is particularly invited to a frank consideration of the principles therein developed.

The *senior* faculty of Baltimore endeavoured; in the *first* discussion of Dr. *Thomson's* practice (and the only one in which they participated) to decry it as totally destitute of *system* and the *juniors*, after their *Pas* had abandoned the field, could sustain the depleting and blistering system of the regular school, by no other argument than ridicule and degrading ribaldry against the Botanic practice.

To those who have listened to their arguments and denunciations, and indeed to all who are desirous of making themselves acquainted with the *system*, as well as the *principles* upon which it is founded, we would merely say, *Read this lecture attentively—judge for yourselves*, and then decide as your judgment shall prompt.

SECOND LECTURE OF Dr. CURTIS,

Delivered at Baltimore, Md. Oct. 1834.

The Botanic System of Medical Practice is altogether the fruit of experience.—It had no part of its origin in hypothesis, nor has it ever been the least improved by mere abstract speculation.

In his youth, the author of this System Providentially discovered that a certain plant possessed the power to eject, in a short time, with very little pain or inconvenience, and with no evil consequence whatever, any foreign or morbid matter from the human stomach. He afterwards observed that, whenever this operation had been thoroughly performed, sickness at the stomach, headaches, vertigo, fever, pain over and in the eyes, morbid appetite, indigestion or dyspepsia, mental abberration, nightmare, and a host of other aches and ills that flesh is heir to, took a speedy departure from the fortunate patient. The experiment was continued on others who suffered under the same maladies, and the result was uniformly the same.

It was observed, however, that, in cases where the patient was cold or the stomach acid, the operation, though in character the same, was more tedious and less thorough. To obviate these difficulties, resort was had to those warming stimulants which experience, in their use for food &c., had abundantly proved to be calculated to generate heat in the stomach, and diffuse it over the body; and to the use of pearlash, whose well known property is to neutralize the acid. In the mean time, observation had disclosed the fact, that certain vegetable decoctions would detach the cold phlegm and morbid canker from the folds of the mucous membrane of the stomach, and thus greatly facilitate, as well as enhance the value of the operation. These same medicines were found to produce the same effect upon the bowels, whenever *they* were disordered.

Experience has ever taught that no man suffers under the influence of a scorch-

the most favorable situation to induce that condition of the body, is immersion in some kind of warm vapour. The boy that stows away the new made hay, or he that explores the tobacco sweat-house, always returns under the influence of a free perspiration. It only remained then for art to devise the most convenient and effectual means of imitating nature's own plan, of throwing morbid obstructions from the pores of the external surface, to complete the process of discharging morbid matter of every character and description, from every portion of the system.—The various modes by which steam, either simple or medicated, is applied to the surface of the body, sufficiently answer this purpose.

In cases where disease in improper medical treatment had debilitated the system it was observed that something more was necessary to complete a cure, than merely to rid the patient of the disease.

It was observed that the debilitated system was unable, without assistance, to maintain an amount of vital heat, sufficient to sustain a free circulation; and that the digestive organs needed the aid of tonics to regain their elasticity. For the former of these purposes, the most pure and wholesome stimulants were applied; and for the latter, bitters in various forms were added to the most nutricious diet and beverage.

So far as it regarded the removal of disease from the body, and the restoration of debilitated organs to a healthly state, experience had now completed her work. I purposely omit, in this place, any special notice of the branch of medical practice called surgery, though I shall do injustice to the process already disclosed, did I not state that, by expelling all morbid matter from every portion of the human system, it prevents the formation of those abscesses, tumors, &c. which, under other circumstances, afford the principal subjects for surgical operations.

It now remains only to explain, for the benefit of those who have not discovered them for themselves, the nature of the human system, the principle of life, the nature and character of the disease, the manner in which it invades the body, the proper mode and means of expelling it from the system, and of restoring to a healthy state the debilitated organs.

Then, correct observation will show that the human body is an organized structure, containing an outer and an inner surface, every portion of which is a network, composed of the *ends* or *mouths* of an innumerable multitude of tubes, whose main bodies and ramifications extend through every portion of the system, and whose office it is to absorb or discharge the various fluids that are received into, or formed in it. Into this body is implanted at its formation, a principle called *life*, a principle which, whatever be its nature, is accompanied with an amount or a degree of heat always considerably above that of the atmosphere in which the man is destined to dwell; and, with the power to bring all the digestive, absorbent and secretive organs into action upon the food that is received for the nourishment of the body. Experience shows that an obstruction lodged in one or more of these absorbent and secretive organs is a cause of disease, i. e. a hindrance to the full and free exercise of the principle of life, in its processes of digestion and nourishment. Should the stomach, the head and prince of all the digestive organs, be the seat of obstructions, the amount of vital heat is proportionally lessened at the fountain, and the extremities become cold, the whole system is languid and full of pain, and tormented with alternate chills and fevers, till the obstructions are removed and the heat regains its empire.

Whenever obstructions clog the operations of life at the fountain, the vital heat diminishes, the arteries and veins of the extremities become partially collapsed from want of heat in the blood to keep them expanded, a smaller quantity of blood than usual flows through them, and of course, the vibrations must become more frequent, to pass the whole through the heart in a given time. Another consequence is, an undue accumulation of blood and heat in the heart, lungs and brain, which heat presently finds its way to the contracted skin, where it accumulates, looks angry, and produces the peculiar effect denominated fever.

and moisture to the surface to relax the pores, and then excite to action the secretory vessels, by means of diffusive stimulants. When all the proper evacuations from the pores of the surface, the stomach &c. are affected; that is, when the obstructions are removed, the cause of the fever is gone, the arteries and veins being warmed and expanded, the blood returns through them in its usual quantity; the digestive organs being relieved, are enabled to resume their duty; there is no more occasion for fever; the man is well.

In regard to its porosity, and the fluids it contains, the human system very closely resembles a sponge saturated with water. Every one knows that an undue pressure upon any part of this sponge, collapses the pores in that part, and forces the water which was contained in it towards the centre of the sponge. To make room for this, that which is near some other portion of the surface must necessarily be discharged. It is evident that, if the pressure be increased and extended, the discharge will continue till no fluid remains. So of the human system. While there is no undue local pressure upon it, all the natural fluids remain in it, in hydrostatic equilibrium, till they have undergone their accustomed changes, and then are discharged through their proper channels, in the manner prescribed by the laws of healthy action. But whenever any undue pressure collapses the vessels of any one portion of the system, and extends itself towards other portions, the fluids are forced from these to the tenderest places of egress, where they rush with violence from the body.

This is the true cause of all hemorrhages, and every other unnatural and excessive discharge. To illustrate:—A patient was threatened with hemorrhage; a Botanic Physician was immediately called, the process of raising the heat, relieving the local pressure, and discharging the obstructions was strictly followed, and no hemorrhage occurred. A second person was threatened with the same disease from the same cause. A learned Physician of the old school was called; he prescribed ice to be eaten, (and applied to the body if necessary,) and a quantity of pills of acetate of lead, sulphate of morphia, with other minor articles one to be taken every six hours, till a dozen should be taken; promising the patient that there would be some check to the hemorrhage after the reception of the third pill. The pills were taken and the ice eaten, as directed; but, instead of diminishing, the hemorrhage increased to an alarming extent. After twenty-four hours, a Botanic Physician was called. He used heat instead of ice, and relaxing fluids instead of astringent metals. In fifteen minutes the hemorrhage was evidently controlled, and in ninety minutes it entirely disappeared, no more to return. In a few days the patient was as well as usual. A third patient was threatened with the same disease, from the same cause; the regular practice was pursued under the direction of several eminent physicians, and in three weeks the patient was—dead!

The first patient followed the new practice from the beginning, and no bad consequences ensued. The second commenced with the old practice, grew worse, resorted to the new, and was soon cured. The third took the old course from first to last, when death closed the scene! We leave you to comment.

Another patient was laboring under an unnatural discharge of a different fluid. The prescriptions of the physician, for three weeks, seemed only to aggravate the disease. A Botanic Physician stepped in one evening, raised the heat, threw off the pressure, discharged the obstructions, and left the patient entirely free from trouble.

We do not pretend to any skill in surgery, but let us take a bird's eye view of blood-letting, the extraction of tumors from the flesh, the discharge of abscesses and of morbid matter from the deep recesses of the body; (the reduction of calculi, &c.) It has already been proved that bleeding is not required in any kind of fevers; it being necessary in these cases only to warm and expand the collapsed veins and arteries, and remove the undue pressure.

A young man was thrown from his horse and taken up senseless. He was carried into a house, where he immediately fainted. A surgeon would undoubtedly [illegible] from his recovery from syncope, but a Botanic Physician entered

the instant he fainted, and poured into his mouth some very hot medicine; he instantly revived, complained of cold, and was laid upon a sofa and covered with blankets. The hot medicine was repeated, a chill succeeded, the man talked at random for about half an hour, when a free perspiration broke out, his reason returned, and all was right. In another half hour he rose and walked a mile to his lodgings, as though nothing had happened.

A young lady fell from a carriage upon her face, where she lay speechless for ten minutes. A Botanic Doctor poured into her mouth a strong heat and an emetic—she immediately opened her eyes, and her mouth (which had been set,) and asked what he was doing? He assisted her into the carriage, drove three miles, giving occasionally, as she appeared to droop, a little more of the medicine, and when she was carried into a house, she vomited, and, in a few minutes, became rational; she was carried three miles further, where she passed the night, and where her friends strongly insisted that she should be bled by a surgeon present. The Botanist objected, and she was well the next day.

Tumors.—Mr. W. had a rising just below his knee, of more than twelve months growth. A surgeon made an incision one inch and a half long, and down to the bone; but nothing was discharged save a little blood. A Botanist was called. He cleansed the general system, applied poultices to the tumor, and, in less than a week the surgeon's incision was entirely healed, while a natural opening was made about an inch below, which discharged a large quantity of pus—and from which, in a few days, he drew a white core an inch long and half an inch thick.

A gentleman had the rheumatism, and it settled in his leg and made it very painful.—A Physician poulticed it and gave him medicine till he became tired of the process, and quitted the patient, saying that the flesh must be laid open and the bone scraped. Not much liking the scraping, he applied to a Botanic Doctor, who soon restored his general health, drove out his rheumatic pains, and, in a few months entirely healed the sore leg, *without any scraping.*

Abscess.—A young man had an abscess formed on the lungs. After a few courses of medicine, a half pint or more of morbid matter was voluntarily discharged, the sore soon healed, and the pain in the breast that had been endured for years, departed.

Calculi.—Two gentlemen were much afflicted with calculi: One went to Dr. Physick, and underwent the operation of lithotomy. The other had been confined to his bed many months, and was told by his physicians he could never be cured. He called a Botanic Doctor who cured him in a single evening.—His teas had the power to dissolve the calculi, and carry off the solution.

Reduction of Dislocations.—Experience has abundantly tested the fact, that dislocations may be easily reduced after the relaxation that may be produced by a judicious use of steam and lobelia, &c., and fractured limbs, after being splintered up, are easily preserved from mortification and soreness, and healed in a very short time by a course of treatment which every one who understands the Botanic principles can easily apply.

But, let us not be satisfied with the arguments and testimony of friends only, especially as we can find the the best authority for almost all we believe and teach, among the writings of the most eminent for learning and experience in the old-school theory and practice.

In the first place, it was the opinion of the celebrated medico-electrician, Dr. Graham of London; of Dr. Brown of Edinburgh, and of Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia, as well as of Dr. Thomson, that disease is a *unit.*

2nd. The most important writers on the medical properties of the herb called Lobelia Inflata, are Drs. Thatcher, of Massachusetts, and Barton and Eberle, of Philadelphia. Dr. Thatcher highly recommends Lobelia for croup, whooping-cough and hydrophobia. Dr. Barton recommends it in croup, instead of the antimonials, on account of its more certain action; and Dr. Eberle speaks of its excellence in croup, hernia, &c. It is true these physicians caution us against the empirical use of the article, telling us that, in unskilful hands, and, in over doses,

it has been *supposed* to have produced alarming and even fatal effects. But, in every case in which *they used it themselves*, they declare that it produced the *desired* effect. Their only objection to it, drawn from their own experience, was its speedy and violent action. We have no objection to its speedy and violent action, because experience has assured us that this action is altogether in favor of life. Dr. Barton states, that "the United States do not contain a plant of more unequivocal action on the system." Unequivocal, that is, uniformly the same on the same persons at different times, and different persons at the same time. In this high commendation of Dr. Barton, we can cordially unite. It is surprising with what accuracy an experienced practitioner will predict the time and mode of operation of lobelia, in a given case. I have known them, before they began, to predict the time within from three to five minutes; when a full course should be completed.

3d. In the Edinburgh Dispensatory, we are told that Capsicum Annuum is the purest stimulant known, and in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, it is stated that there is no other single article equal to it for the suppression of hemorrhage.

4th. In Dr. Barton's Medical Botany, the *Hydrastis Canadensis*, or Bitter Golden Seal of the Botanic System, is pronounced one of the very best of all the vegetable tonics.—Myrrh is considered, by medical writers, a valuable antiseptic and sundry other articles, very important articles in the System, we expect will be as highly commended whenever their value shall become known to the Faculty.

5. *A word of commendation for steam.*—An eminent medical writer remarks—"It has been generally thought that one constant effect of the warm bath is, to relax and debilitate the body, but this idea is now admitted to be founded in mistake. It is an error to suppose that persons who have been immersed in the warm bath, are more liable to take cold; for the body is better able to resist cold after warm and vapor bathing, than at any other time."—"The vapor bath used in this country [England] is simple in construction and effectual in application. It is an apparatus to which the steam of boiling water, either simple or medicated, is conveyed through pipes from a common steam boiler. In this apparatus, the stimulant power of heat is tempered and modified by the moisture diffused through the air, and as the elastic vapor, like air, is a less powerful conductor of heat than a watery fluid, the effect of vapor in raising the temperature of the body, is much less than that of the hot bath. Its heating effects are also further diminished by the copious perspiration which ensues; so that, on every account, the vapor bath is safer, in most cases more effectual, than the hot water bath, and may be employed with success, when the latter would be attended with danger. It may be applied also to the whole, or to any part of the body. To effect this, the steam is conveyed into a wagon-roof frame, under a blanket or other covering, to confine the steam. The temperature of the vapor bath is from one hundred and ten to one hundred and twenty degrees; and, though from ten to fifteen minutes is generally sufficient, there may be cases where an hour may be necessary.

Whenever the cold bath is deemed proper, the warm bath should first be used as a preparative. The bather should always go into to the cold bath when warm, and seldom exceed one plunge, which produces a glowing and healthful appearance of the countenance, and an additional flow of spirits. "After the body is properly dried and rubbed, the cool air is grateful and perfectly safe. There is no danger whatever from cold—we are less liable to take cold after warm and vapor bathing, than at any other time. When the bath is used for cleanliness, refreshment, or as a luxury, the above rule admits of no exceptions."

"The vapor bath is to be used in all cases of fever, when perspiration is particularly desirable. The more immediate and general effects of this bath in fever, are, that it disposes to a calm and sound sleep, and regulates the discharge from the skin: the increase of the symptoms is lessened, if not prevented; the head is prevented from delirium, and the symptoms are moderated till the disease terminates. It has also been found beneficial in inflammation of the bowels, complaints of the liver, dropsy, water in the head, glandular swellings of the neck, calculus complaints, gout, len-

or then gives a long list of diseases, in which he says the cold bath is injurious, and adds—"On the other hand, the warm and vapor bath, properly regulated, will be found principal agents in curing most of the foregoing disorders."

"In eruptions of every kind, in edematous (dough like) swellings of the limbs; in stiffness and contraction of the joints; in all those diseases called nervous; in every case requiring a course of mercury, [I should rather say, that has had a course of mercury—I know of none that requires it;] in early infancy; in the decline of life to the last stage of existence, the warm and vapor bath may be used with advantage and safety."

Let it be remembered that, by our author, steam is considered the principal agent in curing not only the diseases enumerated, but nobody knows how many others, represented by the significant &c. and that the Thomsonians use internal remedies so much more active against disease, and in favor of life, as to throw steam, valuable as it is, into the character of a mere auxiliary—a faithful nurse only that waits on the doctor. If steam alone, then, merits the high commendations I have quoted, what should be the meed of praise awarded to a full Thomsonian course. Could even the author of the Botanic System himself, have desired a more particular or accurate description of his steam-bath, or a more commendatory account of its usefulness and safety, than what is given in the above quotations? How completely does this author sweep away the objections of "weakening," "rendering liable to take cold," "causing inflammations," "congestions," "delirium," "engorgements," "hemorrhages," and a thousand other bugbear evils?

But, it may be said, this is only his opinion; he does not give the proof. Very well—let us draw the proof from other testimony.

"*Facts.*—Dr. Willich says, [Domestic Encyclopedia, vol. I, page 160.]—The sweating or vapor bath is used in Russia, by persons of every rank and age, in almost every disorder, before and after a journey, hard work, &c. These are frequented at least once a week, or as often as possible, whether in a state of health or sickness.

The extraordinary degree of heat produced by the evaporation of water thrown upon red hot stones, in a close room, raises the thermometer to 146 or 168 degrees—a degree of heat considerably above that which melts wax, and only twelve degrees below that for boiling spirit of wine. In such a bath the Russians lie naked on a bench, notwithstanding a profuse perspiration, sometimes for two hours occasionally pouring hot water over their bodies, and at length plunge over head into a large tub of water. Many rush out almost dissolved in sweat, and either throw themselves into the adjoining river, or roll themselves in snow during the most piercing cold, without suffering any inconvenience, and probably with advantage; for we understand that rheumatisms are scarcely known in Russia, and there is great reason to attribute this exemption to the vapor bath." Dr. Charleton, who used the warm bath freely, says:—"Of 996 paralytics, most of whom had resisted the power of medicine, 813 were benefitted by the proper application of the warm bath."—Ib. In his views of the Russian Empire, the Rev. W. Tooke says: "It is not to be doubted that the Russians owe their longevity, their robust state of health, their little disposition to certain mortal diseases, and their happy, cheerful temper, mostly to their baths. This remedy of nature's own invention, was employed with so much success that, for five hundred years, Rome had no other physicians." M. Sanay, in his letters on Egypt, says: "The Egyptians employ the vapor bath, for the purpose of procuring delightful sensations, and removing that irksomeness and apathy which is the concomitant of an idle and sensual life," &c.

Remark.—The Turks, Egyptians and Russians bathe; the Persians and Hindoos champoon: The Russians plunge from the steam-room into rivers, or wallow in snow, and all for "pleasure," "luxury," "delightful sensations," &c. And shall we be told that a Thomsonian steam-bath, with all its concomitant circumstances,

is almost as much to be dreaded as death itself? Be assured, my friends, that they who speak any evil of such a bath, are either *very* ignorant themselves, or else they presume on an ignorance in you, that is, to say the least of it, disgraceful to a free and enlightened community. Dr. Cooper, of South Carolina, recommends a steam apparatus much like those used by Botanic Practitioners, and says he has often used it with a happy effect. Can the steam that is sanative and luxurious in South Carolina and Russia, that procures delightful sensations and a beautiful glow in the countenance in Egypt, Turkey and Persia, destroy all the health and beauty of the robust sons and fair daughters of this enlightened city? For myself, I can safely declare that, in all my observations of the practice on persons of all ages, of both sexes, in a great variety of conditions and diseases, I have never known steam to do the least harm. On the contrary, I agree most cordially with the authors quoted, "that, when properly regulated, the steam bath will always be attended with advantage and safety."

Here, perhaps, I ought to close. But the simplicity, efficacy, and value of the new mode of treating diseases, appear so much more evident, when contrasted with the old, that I feel it my duty to present a sketch of what a young man has to do, before he is prepared to exercise the healing art in what is called the regular mode.—First---He must learn the situation, figure and proportion of---according to some authors, 210; according to others, 248 bones in the human system. To this knowledge he must add a similar acquaintance with —— pairs and —— separate muscles, a vast number and variety of arteries and veins; of nerves and their ramifications; and last, but not least, he must become thoroughly acquainted with the structure, uses, position, &c.; of the organs of respiration, of digestion, absorption and secretion. These being all tangible objects, time, patience and diligence, may enable the student to fasten their images on his mind. But his labor is but just begun. He has now to learn the classes, orders, genera and species of diseases, with a compound definition to each, especially the latter, which amount, according to different nosologists, to from eighteen to twenty-five hundred. In one work he will find different species of disease ranged under the same genus, while in another, these species will not be deemed worthy of a place in the same class, and in a third, they will be considered anomalous, and thrown into an appendix, as unworthy of a place in any particular class.

An eminent medical writer remarks, that the acquisition and retention of the specific descriptions of diseases is utterly impossible even to the most tenacious mind, and Doctor Rush, in the exercise of the same feeling, scattered all nosologies to the four winds of heaven, directing his followers to notice only whether the symptoms were atonic or tentonic, and to stimulate or deplete accordingly. But there are yet to be learned the history, description and properties of 20,000 remedies, and their association with the several diseases which they are supposed to counteract. And, lastly, he must learn his lesson in Toxicology, that is, how to counteract the influence of these medicines, when they act as poisons instead of remedies! Thus caparisoned, he offers his services as a practitioner of medicine. But, just, before he is called to a violent case of fever, he takes up a book, entitled "The Application of the Principles of Philosophical Investigation to the Theory and Practice of Medicine."—By John Abercrombie, M. D. F. R. S. and First Physician to his Majesty in Scotland, and reads as follows:

"A writer of high eminence has even hazarded the assertion that those persons are most confident in regard to the characters of disease, whose knowledge is most limited; and that extended observation generally leads to doubt. When in the practice of medicine, we apply to new cases the knowledge acquired from others which we believe to have been of the same nature, the difficulties are so great, that it is doubtful whether, in any case, we can be said to act upon experience, as we do in other departments of science.---For we have not the means of determining with certainty that the condition of the disease, the habit of the patient, and all the circumstances which enter into the character of the affection, are, in any two cases,

act from experience, but only from analogy. The difficulties and sources of uncertainty which meet us at every stage of such investigations, are in fact so numerous and great, that those who have had the most extensive opportunities for observation, will be the first to acknowledge that our pretended experience must, *in general*, sink into analogy, and even our analogy too often into conjecture."

"But," continues our author, "even after we have ascertained the true relations and tendencies of things, we are constantly liable to disappointment in medicine, when we endeavor to produce certain results by bringing these tendencies into action. This arises from the silent operation of a new order of causes, by which the phenomena of diseases are varied and modified, and by which the action of external agents is aided, modified or counter-acted, in a manner which altogether eludes our researches. The causes which thus operate are, certain powers in the living body itself, the action of which is entirely beyond our control; and others arising out of the peculiarities of age, sex, temperament of body or mind, and mental emotions; constituting a class of agents of a most powerful kind, of which it is impossible to estimate the combined operation. It is farther to be kept in view, that these various agents may be acting together, or in opposition to each other, or under a variety of combinations; and that, in reference to our attempts to act upon the body by remedies, they may be operating in concert with, or in opposition to, those attempts. Hence arises a most extensive source of uncertainty, in all our investigations, of which it is impossible to calculate the effect or the extent —Hence arises also that apparent want of uniformity in the phenomena of disease, by which we are so much impeded in our researches, and in the action of remedies, by which our efforts in their use are so often frustrated."—Indeed, "why one medicine acted upon the stomach, another upon the bowels, a third upon the kidneys, a fourth upon the skin, we have not the smallest conception. We know only the uniformity of the facts." In his Dispensatory, he reads—Of the modus operandi of mercury, we know nothing. It seemed to subvert diseased action, by substituting its own peculiar action for that of the disease." Well, then, says the student, what is the peculiar action of this remedy? He turns to his manual of Toxicology, and is there informed that mercury is a poison, which if the constitution of the patient should be unable to shake it off, as the Apostle did the viper, "without injury, "acts through the medium of this circulation, promotes salivation, rots the gums, loosens and destroys the teeth, and often the bones of the face, produces stiff and uncurvated limbs, edematous swelling, with loss of appetite, till death in a few years, with a friendly stroke, puts a period to their sufferings."

To a benevolent heart, such as we delight to accord to every student of medicine, already bounding with the desire, and high in the extacy of the hope of soon being able to relieve the suffering of its fellow creatures, the perusal of such paragraphs as I have just now quoted must prove what in common language would be styled a real damper. And so it appears to our young friend. What says he, dropping the book on the table, and leisurely raising his spectacles from his eyes, after all my labour and expense, am I now to be assured that I cannot determine with certainty, the character of the most common diseases, and whether I can or not, are my exertions to cure them, limited to the use of those means which if they should fail to produce the desired effect will most certainly undermine and ruin the constitution of my patient? For he had just now read as follows:—"The action of exterial agents on the body demands our attention in two respects—as causes of disease and as remedies, in both which respects their action is fraught with the highest degree of uncertainty," Ah! says he, medicines are to be considered both our poison and our antidote; our bane and blessing! I almost wish I had never put up my sign. "Doctor, cries a messenger at the door, "Mr. A. is very sick and requests your presence immediately." Though he would gladly be excused, yet for consistency's sake he must go. He musters his lancet, his opium and calomel, and waits on his patient. Here is a sick man to be sure, but the symptoms do not enable him to determine to which of all the 2500 descriptions of disease in his Nosology he

Abercrombie's work which he had just read. It being impossible to determine the exact state of the case, he determines to treat it on general principles. The fever rages---he bleeds---the head is delirious, opium is administered. The tongue is rough and the skin sallow---so, though with much reluctance, and many misgivings, yet because no substitute is known, down goes a dose of calomel, with orders to clear it out with a cathartic as speedily as possible, and the physician departs with a trembling step and a heavy heart.

With what different views and feelings the Botanic Physician approaches a similar case, they only can tell who have enjoyed them. He enters the room---ho! my friend you have a fever. I am glad of that. It shows that you have some life in you. We have only to add a little more to it, and you will soon be able to put your disease to flight. He feels none of the responsibility of destroying the constitution of the patient, for he intends to give him nothing that would hurt him if well. He does not fear being unable to reduce the inflammatory action, because he knows that all such effects are produced from obstructions, and that the remedies he uses, in the language of Dr. Barton, "act most unequivocally on the system," and if given in sufficient quantities, under proper circumstances, will infallibly disengage the obstructions, expand the arteries and veins, and restore regularity to the action of the blood and heat. In the course of three hours all this work is completed, and a few after tonics, with nutricious diet, restore the patient to his wonted health and activity.

In addition to the testimony of Dr. Abercrombie and others adduced, I may state that instances not a few, have come under my own observation, in which experienced physicians have totally misunderstood the character of the diseases and practised improperly according to their own principles. In not a few of these cases after the physicians had exhausted their skill, the Botanist speedily restored the patient to health. My time forbids me to relate the particulars.

Finally, friends, I have given you a history of the Botanic remedies, and of the arrangement into a system of the principles they developed. I have given you the most flattering testimony of the most eminent medical men, to the correctness of the system and the value of the principal remedies.

I have contrasted the simplicity of this system, the ease and expedition with which it may be acquired, and the safety and success with which it may be practised by any man or woman of common sense and decent education, with the vast labour, expense, time, &c. of acquiring even a moderate acquaintance with the regular practice, and the great danger and uncertainty in its exhibition when acquired. I hope therefore, I shall not be criticised harshly, or judged uncharitably, if I conclude this address by stating that, for simplicity of theory, facility of attainment, certainty, safety and efficacy of remedial action, and last, but not least, the accommodation of the practice to the capacity of the heads of every family, thus enabling them to afford instant relief often, when, if they were obliged to send for a physician the disease would accomplish the work of death before he could arrive, the Botanical System of Medical Practice, in the opinion of your humble speaker, *is worthy of all* acceptation.

The Botanic Practice.

Deep-rooted as have been the prejudices against this system of Medicine, in which its venerable founder, Dr. *Samuel Thomson*, has successfully persevered for nearly half a century, in despite of various combinations against him and his followers, a better and a brighter day is at length about to dawn upon it. Every hour opens a new leaf in the volume of enquiry into its merits, and the salutary influence of a cheap, expeditious, and innocent method of treating and curing disease, has attracted public attention and led to a discussion of its utility, when compared with the mineral practice of a regular and law *protected* faculty.

The friends of Botanic practice cannot fail to be gainers whenever they come into contact with those who depend upon minersal and vegetable poisons, as remedial agents in curing our maladies. It is true our opponents proclaim that we are destitute of any thing like a *system*, and wish to induce the public to believe, that, because they are truly *systematic* in bleeding, blistering, purging, and salivating (and that too for the most simple malady, which our grandmas would have cured with a cup or two of sage or pennyroyal tea,) *they* have a *system*, on which the people ought to rely, whenever disease threatens or endangers their lives. There are thousands, however, who have woefully experienced, either in their own persons, or in that if some of their families or friends that, if poisonous substances are introduced into the human stomach, and a present disease is thereby eradicated, a more distressing one is frequently implanted; which, unfortunately for the patient, releases its fatal grasp, only when life becomes extinct. And upon this *system of medicine* there is now in operation, in the public mind, a scrutiny so rigid, conducted with a zeal commensurate with the vast importance of the subject, as presages an entire revolution in medical practice, within a shorter space of time than has been allotted by the faculty for the overthrow or extinction of Thomsonianism.

THE PEOPLE, *as a grand inquest*, have instituted an enquiry into the merits of the two systems of practice. It is not only in our Lyceums that the subject is canvassed, from time to time, but it has engaged the attention of numerous and heretofore prejudiced families, and become a favourite topic at the cheerful fireside of our long and dreary winter evenings. And why should it not? Is it not of equal importance that our wives and daughters should be as capable of preparing and administering medicine to cure the diseases of their families, as to prepare food to nourish the body and sustain life? Certainly it is!—and the one requires no more *science* or *skill* than the other.

That the regular faculty generally should tenaciously adhere to their *book taught* system, which, as a *science*, or *truth*, repudiates all discoveries not made by the faculty themselves, is not to be wondered at, when it is considered that it is a profession which they prosecute for a livelihood, and is dignified with the appellation of a *learned* profession—and a science. Yet with all its pretentions to that character, it has been openly confessed, by men of real worth and acknowledged eminence in the profession, that no science was so uncertain as that of medicine.

Professor *Rush* of Philadelphia, (whose name is entitled to some weight,) remarked to his class, that "dissections daily convince us of our ignorance of the seats of disease, and cause us to blush at our prescription. What mischief have we done under the belief of false facts and false theories;—we have assisted in multiplying diseases; we have done more—*we have increased their mortality!*"—What a commentary upon the *scientific* practice of medicine!

There are even now in our city, graduates of the university of Maryland, distinguished for their abilities and their zeal in the study of this boasted *science*, who have been highly complimented by all the professors, and who have since abandoned the practice, solely from a consciousness of the high responsibility attached to the character of a physician, and a *knowledge of the uncertainty of the present regular practice*. These facts are susceptible of verification, if it should be rendered necessary; and are fully corroborated by the following extracts from "Inquiries concerning the intellectual powers and the investigation of truth on the *uncertainty of medicine*; by John Abercrombie, M. D. F. R. S. Fellow of the royal college of physicians in Edinburg, &c. and first physician to his Majesty in Scotland."

"There has been much difference of opinion among philosophers in regard to the place which medicine is entitled to hold among the physical sciences; for while one has maintained that it "rests upon an eternal basis, and has within it the power of rising to perfection," it has been distinctly asserted by another, that "almost the only resource of medicine *is the art of conjecturing*." "The following apologue,"

very well the state of that science." "Nature," says he, "is fighting with disease; a blind man armed with a club, (that is, the physician,) comes to settle the difference. He first tries to make peace; when he cannot accomplish this, he lifts his club and strikes at random; if he strikes the disease, he kills the disease; if he strikes nature, he kills nature. An eminent physician," says the same writer, "renouncing a practice which he had exercised for thirty years, said "*I am wearied of guessing.*"

"The uncertainty of medicine, which is thus a theme both for the philosopher and humorist, is deeply felt by the practical physician in the daily exercise of his art. It becomes, therefore, an inquiry of the utmost importance,—what the sources of this uncertainty are,—what that point is in our researches at which its influence begins,—and, when we arrive at this point, what the means are by which it may be diminished.

"The perfect uniformity of all the phenomena of nature, we have seen to be the foundation of the certainty of results in physical science. For when the order and relations of these phenomena have once been ascertained, we calculate with confidence that they will continue to observe the same order. Proceeding upon this confidence, in relations which have been observed regarding the heavenly bodies, the astronomer foretells their positions even at very distant periods. In the same manner, the chymist, having ascertained the actions which take place when certain substances are brought into contact, and the new combinations which follow, decides with confidence that, in every instance in which these agents are brought together, the same actions will take place, and will be followed by the same combinations. This confidence, which lies at the foundation of all science, we have seen to be an original or instinctive principle, and not the result of experience; but it is the province of experience to ascertain the particular sequences to which it may be applied; in other words, to distinguish casual relations and sequences from those which we are entitled to consider as uniform.

"The uncertainty of medicine resolves itself chiefly into an apparent want of that uniformity of phenomena, which is so remarkable in other branches of physical science. There are, in particular, two departments of our inquiries, in which we feel continually the effect of this want of uniformity,—the characters and the progress of disease, and the action of eternal agents upon the body.

"Since medicine was first cultivated as a science, a leading object of attention has ever been to ascertain the characters or symptoms by which particular internal diseases are indicated, and by which they are distinguished from other diseases which resemble them. But, with the accumulated experience of ages bearing upon this important subject, our extended observation has only served to convince us how deficient we are in this department, and how often, even in the first step in our progress, *we are left to conjecture*. A writer of high eminence has even hazarded the assertion that those persons are most confident in regard to the characters of disease whose knowledge is most limited, and that extended observation generally leads to doubt. After showing the uncertainty of the symptoms which are usually supposed to indicate effusion in the thorax, Morgagni adds the remarkable assertion to which I here allude: "qui enim plura corpora inspexerunt, hi saltem, cum illi nil dubitant, epsi dubitare didicerunt." If such uncertainty hangs over our knowledge of the characters of disease, it will not be denied that at least an equal degree of uncertainty attends its progress. We have learned, for example, the various modes by which internal inflammation terminates,—as resolution, suppuration, gangrene, adhesion, and effusion; but, in regard to particular case of inflammation which is before us, how little notion can we form of what will be its progress, or how it will terminate.

"An equal or even a more remarkable uncertainty attends all our researches on the second head to which I have referred, namely, the action of external agents upon the body. These engage our attention in two respects,—as causes of disease and as remedies; and in both the

of disease, we may take a single example in the effects of cold. Of six individuals who have been exposed to cold in the same degree, and, so far as we can judge, under the same circumstances, one may be seized with inflammation of the lungs, one with diarrhœa, and one with rheumatism, while three may escape without any injury. Not less remarkable is the uncertainty in regard to the action of remedies. One case appears to yield with readiness to the remedies that are employed; on another, which we have every reason to believe to be of the same nature, no effect is produced in arresting its fatal progress; while a third, which threatened to be equally formidable, appears to cease without the operaton of any remedy at all.

"With these complicated sources of uncertainty, which meet us at every step in our medical inquiries, it is almost unnecessary to contrast the perfect uniformity of phenomena, or a confidence in which we proceed in other departments of science. When we mix together pieces of zinc, sulphuric acid, and water, we pronounce with perfect confidence, that the water will be decomposed, hydrogen evolved, the metal oxydated, the oxyd dissolved, and sulphate of zinc produced; we pronounce with equal confidence on all the properties, mechanical and chymical, of the new compound which is thus to be formed, and in no case have we the smallest doubt of the exact occurrence of every step in this complicated process. With what feelings we contemplate, in its commencement, a case of dangerous internal disease,—its probable progress and termination, and the effect which our remedies are likely to produce in arresting it,—those best can tell who have most experienced them.

"The certainty of a science, as was formerly stated, depends upon two circumstances; namely, the facility with which we ascertain the true relations and tendencies of things, or trace effects to their true causes, and causes to their true effects; and the confidence with which we rely on the actions, dependent on these relations; continuing to occur in all cases with perfect uniformity. This confidence we easily attain in those sciences in which we have to deal only with inanimate matter. We do so by means of experiments, in which, by placing the substances in various circumstances towards each other, we come to ascertain their true tendencies with perfect certainty, and to separate them from the influence of all associations which are only casual and incidental. Having thus discovered their tendencies or actions, we rely with confidence on these continuing to be uniform; and should we in any instance be disappointed in the action which we wish to produce, we are able to trace the cause by which the expected result has been prevented, and to obviate the effect of its interference.

"In both these respects we find in medicine a degree of uncertainty which marks a striking distinction between it and the purely physical sciences.

"There is great difficulty in medicine in tracing effects to their true causes, and causes to their true effects. This difficulty has already been illustrated by the same cause appearing to produce in different instances different diseases, or no disease at all; and by a disease seeming to subside under the use of a remedy which, in a similar case, fails to produce the smallest benefit. When we find our researches thus encumbered with uncertainty, we cannot, as in other sciences, clear them from the influence of casual relations, by means of direct experiment; but are obliged to trust chiefly to the slow course of observation, as the relations happen to be presented to us. Hence, just conclusions are arrived at slowly, and we may be obliged to go on through a long course of observations, before we arrive at any results which we feel to be worthy of confidence. Hence also arises the great temptation to grasp at partial and premature conclusions, from which medical science has suffered so much injury. For when such conclusions are brought forward with confidence, as long a course of observation may be required for exposing their fallacy as might have been sufficient for ascertaining the truth. In this respect we see the remarkable difference between medicine and the purely physical sciences; as in the latter, a single experiment may often be sufficient to [illegible] hypothesis, or to establish one which has been pro-

"Even after we have ascertained the true relations and tendencies of things, we are constantly liable to disappointment in medicine, when we endeavor to produce certain results by bringing these tendencies into action. This arises from the silent operation of a new order of causes, by which the phenomena of disease are varied and modified; and by which the action of external agents is aided, modified, or counteracted in a manner which altogether eludes our researches. The causes which thus operate are certain powers in the living body itself, the action of which is entirely beyond our control; and others arising out of the peculiarities of age, sex, temperament of body and mind, and mental emotions; constituting a class of agents of a most powerful kind; of which it is impossible to estimate the combined operation. It is farther to be kept in view, that these various agents may be acting together, or in opposition to each other, or under a variety of combinations; and that, in reference to our attempts to act upon the body by remedies, they may be operating in concert with, or in opposition to these attempts. Hence arises a most extensive source of uncertainty in all our investigations, of which it is impossible to calculate the effect, or the extent. Hence also arises that apparent want of uniformity in the phenomena of disease, by which we are so much impeded in our researches; and that want of uniformity in the action of remedies, by which our efforts in medicine are so often disappointed.

"Another source of uncertainty in the practical art of medicine is the difficulty which we find in applying to new cases the knowledge which we have acquired from observation. This application is made upon the principle either of experience or analogy. We are said to proceed upon experience when the circumstances in the new case are the same as in those cases from which our knowledge was derived. When the circumstances are not the same, but similar, we proceed upon analogy; and our confidence in the result is weaker than when we proceed upon experience. The more numerous the points of resemblance are, the greater is our confidence, because it approaches the more nearly to that which we derive from experience; and the fewer the points of resemblance, our confidence is more and more diminished. When in the practice of medicine, we apply to new cases the knowledge acquired from others which we believe to have been of the same nature, the difficulties are so great, that it is doubtful whether in any case we can properly be said to act upon experience, as we do in other departments of science. For we have not the means of determining with certainty, that the condition of the disease, the habit of the patient, and all the circumstances which enter into the character of the affection, are in any two cases precisely the same: and if they differ in any one particular, we cannot be said to act from experience, but only from analogy. The difficulties and sources of uncertainty which meet us at every stage of such investigations are, in fact, so great and numerous, *that those who have had the most extensive opportunities of observation will be the first to acknowledge that our pretended experience must, in general, sink into analogy, and even our analogy too often into conjecture.*

In a science encumbered *with so many difficulties and encompassed by so many sources of error*, it is obvious what cause we have for proceedingwith the utmost caution, and for advancing from step to step with the greatest circumspection.

"Why one medicine acts upon the stomach, another on th bowels, a third on the skin, we have not the smallest conception; we know only the uniformity of the facts.' —

And now fellow citizens, we have only to ask, can any picture be drawn more humiliating to the science of medicine (so called) than this; can you possibly get into worse hands; will you still prefer the prescriptions of those, who, according to their own acknowledgments, conjecture every thing, and are sure of nothing except that they mistake disease, are disappointed in the effects of remedies, and lose, not to say kill, their patients. Will you not rather turn your eyes to the system of Thomson, as your only hope, coming as it does, not based upon a few notions or fanciful theories, but

have no other motive or interest in it which is not common to every member of the community.

THOMSONIANS.

In passing over volumes of calumnies of the regular faculty against the venerable founder of the Botanic system, and its advocates, whose personal interest, it is to foster and sustain the universal delusion, it is refreshing occasionally to find in their ranks an individual who possesses sufficient honesty and independence to acknowledge that Dr. Thomson "studied nature instead of the books of man;" and that his novel practice has been beneficial to many.

Extract of a letter from Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, formerly Lecturer on the theory and practice of Physic, in Cambridge University, to the late Samuel L. Mitchell, of New York.

Cambridge, December 19, 1825.

My Dear Sir,

Mr. alias Doct. Samuel Thomson, who has the honor of introducing the valuable *Lobelia* into 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 diplomatized physician; 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 *sui generis*, 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 Samuel Thomson been thrown into the same society and associations as John Hunter, he would in my opinion, have been his equal, with probably a wider range of thought! but both men of talents, and originality of thought.

BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE.

The subscribers respectfully inform their friends and the public that as the duly authorized agents of Dr. Samuel Thomson, for the state of Maryland, they continue to dispose of family rights, embracing a full view of the highly important discoveries made by that pupil of nature in speedily removing all curable disease to which humanity is subject.

It is scarcely requisite in the present advanced and rapidly spreading state of the Thomsonian Botanical practice, to the promotion of which, Dr. Thomson's whole life has been ardently and unceasingly devoted, to add that nothing of a deliterious nature, either mineral or vegetable is used, or permitted by those who are the true disciples of that great friend of humanity; and they consider it their duty to remark that the specious improvement recently introduced, are not embraced in the Thomsonian System, so that the public may award to either the merit of praise which they may respectively claim from their salutary effects in curing diseases.

Application made to any of the subscribers for family rights, will be promptly attended to, and such verbal information as may be essential, and qualify all persons possessed of good capacity to relieve themselves and families will be cheerfully given.

GODFREY MEYER, Pratt st. near the Bridge.
THOS. MORGAN, 44 Pitt st.
SHIPLEY LESTER, Conway st. west of Eutaw.
E. STANSBURY, Jr. corner of Albemarle and Fawn st.
JOHN M. WILLIAMS, 21 North Gay st. between Front and High.
WARD SEARS, Calvert st. corner of Water.
ABNER POPE 32, west Pratt st.
MAULDEN PERINE, corner of Lexington and Pine sts.