

Boardman (B.)

# DECLARATION OF MEDICAL RIGHTS.

An Attempt to Monopolize the Treatment of the Sick.

BY BYRON BOARDMAN,

OF NORWICH, CONN.

Persistent efforts are being made throughout the country by a class of doctors of antiquated proclivities to subvert our medical liberties, and rob the people of their right in sickness to employ the physician of their choice. They are striving to instigate laws in their own interest, designed to suppress or tax out of existence, all new and more efficient modes of cure, and subject to heavy fines and imprisonment reform practitioners who venture to heal the sick without a "doctor's diploma." Evidently, the object is to establish a medical monopoly, and build up a professional oligarchy at the expense of human health and happiness: therefore it behooves the friends of freedom to be on their guard in order to thwart all such infamous designs.

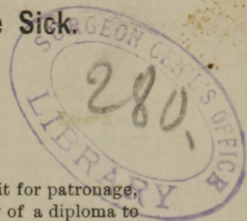
Perhaps it may not be generally known that self-seeking doctors are persistently dogging the General Assembly, through petition and lobby influence, to enact such a tyrannical law even in our own State. Do these arrogant assurers of medical authority imagine that the good citizens of this commonwealth are idiots and craven imbeciles, to be thus proscribed and imposed on in matters of such vital importance to their welfare? Or, rather, do they not know that the people have learned through costly and bitter experience, the pernicious effect of drug-dosing, and have found simpler, safer, surer and more effectual means of cure. And does not this fact explain the desperate efforts now being made by the profession, in many States of the Union, to suppress these more successful practitioners in order to bolster a false and failing practice?

I bear no personal ill-will towards any physician. In their ranks I number friends; and yet I am constrained to set forth these unpleasant facts, through sympathy in behalf of the sick and suffering. I am inclined to think that the more experienced and skilful physicians are not implicated in this plot; but rather the second and third class doctors, who

cannot rely on their own merit for patronage, but fall back on the authority of a diploma to sustain their reputation. I do not deprecate a thorough education, but believe that natural ability, or innate fitness, close application and common sense, are superior to book lore; that the grand progress of humanity is advanced more through natural-born genius, than through the parrotry of tutored egotists who can recite pages of thought evolved by other brains; hence most apt pupils often prove bungling practitioners. Many of the more eminent physicians have little faith even in their own school of practice. Listen to the testimony of an English physician—Dr. John Mason Good.

"The science of medicine is a barbarous jargon, and the effects of our medicine on the human system are in the highest degree uncertain, except, indeed, that they have destroyed more lives than war, pestilence and famine combined."

This assertion would appear incredible but for the fact that, while these calamities are transient and local, the great mass of confiding people are seldom secure from the danger of poisonous prescriptions. And yet while invalids are suffering through the baneful effects of professional dosing, or are dying for the want of proper treatment, members of this antiquated system have the impudence to invoke the vengeance of law upon the heads of reform doctors who interfere with their profits by curing their bedridden patrons. I have watched the progress of sickness under medical treatment and the result has not inspired confidence in the old style of practice. I am one of a family of nine healthful children. I have seen them, one by one, attacked by some simple disease, or physical derangement, and placed under a doctor's care. They were faithfully dosed with the doctor's drugs, and I have watched their wasting forms as the lamp of life burned low and at last succumbed to the disease, the medicine, or perhaps to the combined action of both. And now a group of little mounds,





beneath a juniper grove, silently pleads for medical reform. Alas! how many a medical mistake is hidden beneath the sod. Physically the weakest of that little circle, I counted on being the first to cross the silent stream. But the strange fatality often attending the old style of practice induced me to adopt modern modes of treatment. Years ago I was considered past recovery; had pined away until I could scarcely move my limbs in bed; could get no medical relief, until, at last, I sent for an old lady, whom, it was said, possessed some of the strange "gifts of Scriptural promise." She came in the evening, and in the morning gave me beefsteak for breakfast. She left a bottle of medicine prepared by her own hands, and in a few days I was at my place of business; a living evidence of her "undiplomated" skill.

I know a young man in a neighboring State—a farmer boy, with only a country school education—who, about two years ago acquired the gift of clairvoyance or "second sight." His fame spread abroad, and for a long time he has had all the practice he could possibly attend to. He has performed remarkable cures of the sick, many of whom I well know, even cases given up by the doctors to die. And yet he is threatened with prosecution should this law be passed.

The remarkable skill of the celebrated Sweet family of natural-born surgeons is too well known throughout the country to require the indorsement of my pen.

I have had considerable experience in connection with the remarkable talent of a well-known clairvoyant lady, or natural physician of this place, in the diagnosis and cure of disease, and in predictions as to the result of sickness. I can instance cases of medical examination, by means of a lock of hair, of invalids whom she had never seen, but through clairvoyant sight, without a question or word of information, was enabled to give a most thorough diagnosis, minutely describe the condition of the internal organs, explain the cause of the disease and prescribe the proper remedy for a cure. I have known her to diagnose cases under other treatment, and, although differing from the doctors, yet the result proved her position correct.

These medical seers are privately consulted by some of the most successful doctors, unknown to the patient, in order to thus obtain reliable information regarding the disease, and its proper treatment.

In my experience with clairvoyants, and other natural physicians, I never knew a patient injured by the treatment, while very many have been cured, and even rescued from the brink of the grave. Then, in the name of suffering humanity, why should the afflicted be denied the benefit of their services? Instead of robbing the sick of their

right to such aid, why not, rather, protect them from the wholesale drugging of an antiquated medical regime? Why should natural-born physicians, who, as is well known, often perform the most remarkable cures, be fined and imprisoned, while these dangerous dispensers of drugs are allowed to run at large?

It is well known that Pharisees of the Old School—the great high priests of physic—bitterly oppose all medical heresies, and stigmatize every physician as a quack who dares heal the sick except through the fossilized formulas of their own system; hence medical improvements usually come through heterodox practitioners, or reform doctors outside of the regular craft. Says Dr. Adam Smith:

"After denouncing Paracelsus as a quack, the regular medical profession stole his 'quack-silver' (mercury). After calling Jenner an impostor, it adopted his discovery of vaccination. After dubbing Harvey a humbug, it was forced to swallow his theory of the circulation of the blood."

Listen to the testimony of another eminent physician, Dr. Eliphalet Kimball of New Hampshire:

"Physicians have slain more than war. As instruments of death in their hands, bleeding, calomel and other medicines have done more than powder and ball. The public would be infinitely better off without professed physicians. \* \* It is shocking to think how many soldiers in the late war were killed, or their constitutions ruined by army doctors. The irrational use of medicine by physicians sweeps off the people as fast as war could. \* \* Immense numbers of children have been killed by the 'regular' or scientific doctors, of whom I am one."

Now New Hampshire is one of the craft-ridden States that have enacted the "doctors' law," and turned their hapless citizens over to the tender care of these diplomated dispensers of drugs. Under this outrageous law, natural physicians, who were successfully curing the sick, even invalids given over by the regulars to die, have been convicted for doctoring without a diploma. Shame on men, who, flaunting a medical certificate of learned error, have the impudence to stand before a legislative committee, and, in view of these facts, testify that "The law works well wherever it has been tried." Works well for whom, let me ask: for the despoiled patient, or for the doctors? It is high time for the people to know in whose interest these laws are concocted, and why we are to be thus deprived of our inalienable right to life, health and the pursuit of happiness.

If diplomated doctors must have legislative bolterering, instead of stamping out the successful practice of clairvoyants and other natural physicians, in order to rid themselves of troublesome competition, instead of betraying the sick into their hands by special legislation, would it not be economy to subsidize or pension the profession? for, says Dr. Abernethy, the famous London physician (I quote from memory):

"If every drug-shop was turned into the sea, and every doctor otherwise employed, the human race would be infinitely the gainer."

If the medical profession, like its noble twin



sisters, dentistry and surgery, would rely on real merit and successful practice—the only diploma of any value—for a reputation, it would at least gain credit for honesty. That there are doctors who really believe in the antiquated formulas of their medical recipe books, I do not question; neither would I assert that the reform practice is free from charlatans who make great claim to natural powers which facts do not sustain. All trades are burdened with such baggage, but exceptions do not disprove general facts. I am surprised that certain homeopathic and eclectic doctors should join this conspiracy against medical progress. While in infantine weakness they were struggling with the old professional dragon that sought “to destroy the young child as soon as it was born,” I looked upon them as noble champions of medical reform. Considering the war of extermination waged against them by the regulars, and in view of the bitter recriminations and charges of malpractice of each by the other, the startling fact that these opposing elements are joining hands in the medical crusade to crush beneath the iron heel of the law other “Good Samaritans,” is ominous of danger to the sick. It is evident that the improved methods of cure which they have combined to suppress is robbing them of practice by curing their drug-dosed patrons; hence this unnatural alliance, this ruthless conspiracy against the sick to deprive them of such means of relief. Were it not for the fact that their medical craft is in danger from the innovation of more successful practitioners, or had the new practice brought death and suffering to the afflicted, instead of restored health and happiness, these medical fogies would not have required legislative protection. But thanks to the increase of common sense, the people have disarmed the profession of its blood-stained lancet, and are forcing a modification of medical practice by refusing to swallow many of the more deadly drugs. This desperate struggle of a decaying profession for a new lease of life through legal bolstering, evidences approaching dissolution.

It is but a question of time when the old medical dogmas must give place to reform practice; when the murderous minerals now so freely dispensed will be dispensed with, and people will adopt the new, harmless and more effectual means of cure. Then will our modern medical Saviors no longer be persecuted and treated as felons, as at present, nor hung, as was a woman on Boston Common in 1648, for curing some of her neighbors with “simple remedies.” We would not infringe on the right of any who desire to swallow your antiquated book-recipes; but, gentlemen of the lancet, hands off, if you please, from our clairvoyants and other natural-born physicians; for they are doing a noble work that your boasted “diplomatic skill” has failed to

accomplish, and we insist on our right to the benefit of their services.

#### THE ITINERANT ACT.

Through the persistent effort of the doctors a bill has passed our Legislature requiring a license fee of \$20 per day of “Itinerant” practitioners from other States, with a fine of \$25 dollars for every day they should heal the sick, by whatever means, without a license. Is life and health so cheap that the importation thereof must be checked by a prohibitory tariff?

How fortunate for the great Physician of Nazareth that His advent was made A. D. 1, instead of 1881, and in Judea instead of this so-called “land of steady habits,” for under this law He with His little band of “Itinerant” healers would be taxed \$260 per day, or arrested and fined \$325 for every day they should dare to cure the sick without a license.

I have witnessed treatments by so-called Apostolic doctors who obey the Christian injunction to “Go forth and heal the sick,” and have myself been permanently cured of a painful sprain of the back of several weeks’ standing, by a single treatment. I have seen a large stock of ear-horns, eye-glasses and goggles abandoned by patients as no longer needed, also canes and crutches of invalids who “had suffered many things of many physicians and had spent all they had and were nothing bettered but rather grew worse.” (Mark : V-25.) and who after “the laying on of hands” had gone on their way rejoicing. Some were cured, many greatly benefited while none were injured.

I neither deny nor justify the fact that there are “Itinerant” as well as localized charlatans who thrive on the afflicted, and most of whom, no doubt, boast of diplomas; and yet I do not see how these medical tares can be extirpated without “rooting up the wheat also.” If the law against malpractice is defective let it be so amended as to hold every doctor strictly responsible for medical abuses; but let Sovereign Citizens be free to employ the physician of their choice. Suppose it is conceded that transient humbugs excel local frauds in robbing the sick and manufacturing patients through death-dealing doses, have our lawmakers a right to commission, for a fee, such medical monsters to carry on a work of death in our midst?

Listen to the scheme for the danger lies in this fact: that the doctors for a long time, have been trying to instigate laws to prohibit all reformed practice, and make it a penal offense for our natural physicians to cure the sick. Such an act would virtually strike the professional fang into the heart of the commonwealth and enable the doctor-craft to sap the very life-blood of the people. But the friends of medical freedom have fought the measure step by step, and thus stripped the bill of its worst features, while the Judiciary Committee refused to indorse any act that would legislate our lives into the doctors hands; hence the present modified bill to be used as an entering wedge, hoping at a favorable time to get the matter before a less scrupulous Committee and perfect the plot through future amendments.

Let the people beware for this is the very scheme the craft has successfully carried out in other States until it has now got the people at its medical mercy. This is the professional “wolf in sheep’s clothing” that seeks to thrive on the fat of the human flock. But its claws and ear-marks are exposed through the



woolly mask, and its impertinent growlings before our legislative shepherds have revealed its carnivorous teeth.

I will now quote Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Prof. of Anatomy in the Medical School of Harvard University.

"The disgrace of medicine has been that colossal system of self-deception, in obedience to which mines have been emptied of their cankered minerals, the entrails of animals taxed for their impurities, the poison bags of reptiles drained of their venom, and all the inconceivable abominations thus obtained thrust down the throats of human beings suffering from some fault of organization, nourishment or vital stimulation."

In view of these fearful facts the old saying that: "Doctors seldom take their own medicine" is very significant. And yet this clique brands as a "quack" every physician who cures the sick by new and harmless means, and is so solicitous for the medical welfare of the people that it would press its own pestiferous poison cup to the parched lips of the sick, rather than see them cured by natural, or non-professional means. I have known doctors to lead on the sick by false hope of recovery, until the last, thus preventing the patient from seeking relief outside of the profession.

#### AN APPEAL.

Friends of Freedom: Are you ready to have the precious lives of your loved ones betrayed into the hands of medical usurers, who, according to the most eminent professional authority, have proved themselves manufacturers of invalids, and agents of death? Are you ready to have poured into their afflicted stomachs the dregs of venom, while relief by nature's own physicians, has been legislated beyond their reach? I could enumerate cases until the heart would sicken, where persons suffering from some temporary ailment which manipulation, or other simple remedy, might have relieved, were dosed with calomel, or other corrosive minerals, until their mouths became cankered, the teeth decayed and loosened from their sockets, and the confounding patients made wretched invalids.

Are you ready in order to teach some incipient "M. D." the noxious nature of his medicine, to swallow these potent poisons? I will name a few, consider them well and be wise: Corrosive sublimate, calomel, arsenic, aconite, prussic acid, morphine, strychnine and other deadly drugs smuggled into the patient in the false guise of a fair Latin alias.

Examine the doctor's receipt book—the *materia medica* of the regular faculty—note the strange similarity of the deadly compounds prescribed for some sixty different diseases, and learn that you must be dosed from the same list of cankered minerals for the simplest ailment, as well as for the most fatal malady. You will then no longer be surprised by the startling statement of an aged physician: "If doctors were never employed the death-rate of the sick would be reduced more than one-half."

Are you ready in sickness to be bled and blistered, piled and powdered in a manner that would be death to a healthy man, or render him a living sepulchre of disease? When I see the drug maimed cripple hobbling on the street, or stand by the couch of a "medicated" invalid who once was healthful and happy but now is racked by chronic pains and vain regrets, with no hope of relief but through the iron gates of death; and when I

realize that the stricken one was laid low, not by disease or mishap, but by mercurial, or other poison prescribed by the regular doctors; a chill of horror creeps through my veins, and I wonder how long such medical outrages must be endured.

Are you ready, after running the gauntlet of the doctors' doses, to submit to the brutal assault of a lancet? Alas! I have seen the precious life blood flowing from the shriveled veins of the shrinking, fainting invalid, drawn by that death-dealing dagger. That cruel weapon was wielded by a pompous profession that is now threatening to throttle your medical freedom.

Are you ready to allow this scheming craft to cut off every avenue of escape, and force you in sickness, either to feed on its own slow poison, or wait until you can die a natural death? Armed with such weapons, and equipped with a "diploma" or sheep skin mask to cover malpractice, and conceal medical stupidity, what wonder that disease and death holds high carnival throughout the land.

Are you ready when it is judicially decided what class of M. D's., shall have the exclusive privilege of drugging your bodies, to have our Hon. Legislature decide what school of D. D's., shall have the monopoly of doctoring your souls? If you have no right to select your doctor of physic for time, how much less your doctor of divinity for eternity?

Sovereign Citizens: "First of all beware ye of the leaven of the (medical) Pharisees," and send no legislator to make laws who would rob you of the right to employ the physician of your choice. Let not these blind doctors of physic instigate laws to crush out our clear-seeing clairvoyants who have the natural gift of discerning disease, and, through simple remedies, of curing the sick. Let not those self-seeking dispensers of drugs drive from the bedside of your stricken loved ones natures own physician who holds in hand the magnetic life forces—the divine commission to "go forth and heal the sick." Let us tolerate no medical monopoly; let every mode of treatment stand or fall on its own merit; let the diplomatic doctor as well as the natural physician, be held strictly responsible for medical abuses, and I have no fear for the result. "Survival of the fittest" is the divine order of nature. Let the clamps of humanity assert their rights and check this professional vampire that would thrive on the misfortunes of the sick, and make merchandise of their afflictions; let them see to it that no medical hydra be allowed to fasten its deadly fangs in the body politic.

Let the people awake to their danger, and forget not the price of liberty: "Eternal vigilance." Let them maintain their right to medical as well as to mental and political liberty, and submit to the dictation of no intriguing craft. Let us inscribe on our battle banner the manly motto: "Invalid's Rights and Medical Freedom," for in view of the diplomatized ignorance of a bigoted profession regarding therapeutics, and the science of health; in view of its learned errors, in relation to the nature of disease and the causes thereof as revealed by the light of medical inspiration, and reformed practice; and considering the efforts put forth to foist upon the people the cankered minerals of its own false practice, well may the sick and suffering cry "Give us medical liberty or give us death."