

**A PRACTICAL APPEAL TO THE
PUBLIC, THROUGH A SERIES
OF LETTERS, IN DEFENCE OF
THE NEW SYSTEM OF PHYSIC**

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A Practical Appeal to the Public, Through a Series of Letters, in Defence of the New System of
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JOHN BORTHWICK GILCHRIST

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VITA BREVIS ARS LONGA.

At the distance of many hundred miles from London, I was engaged in writing the contents of the subsequent sheets, while still a convalescent, and unable to study attentively the few homœopathic books procurable at Vevey: my ardour in the sacred cause of Humanity nevertheless induced me to commence a Series of Letters, of which the following pages comprise the projected contents of the First and Second Numbers, that no time might be lost in communicating to the public all the knowledge I then possessed on this important subject; which it struck me might, in the interim, have been embraced by persons better qualified than me to do ample justice to a benevolent enterprise fraught with so much advantage to mankind.

I started, therefore, in the humble capacity rather of a grateful patient, preaching from the bosom of the snow-covered Alps of Helvetia the probable and speedy appearance of some gifted British proselyte to the great physician HAHNEMANN'S doctrines, than as an initiated homœopathist in my own person; and have hitherto purposely avoided every thing except a mere reference to books, individuals, and places, where ample information was procurable, until I could undertake something on secure grounds myself. Having had the pleasure, two days ago, of an interview with Dr. QUIN,

whose name alone will confer credit on the New Science of Medicine, he being already one of Hahnemann's most-distinguished and successful disciples, it delights me to announce, that he has not only already commenced practice homœopathically in the metropolis with éclat, but, moreover, intends to publish, in the course of this year, a complete view of Hahnemann's system, translated from the German into English; which will emancipate the British empire from the disgrace of having yet done nothing worthy of a name in that department, while our intelligent competitors, the French, Swiss, Italians, &c. are busy as so many bees, for the production of useful homœopathic versions in their respective languages. It is not my intention to be altogether idle during the short stay I can make in London; where it will be in my power, by a variety of intermediate hints from the French works in my possession, so far to pave the way for the quintessence of Hahnemann's *Organum* &c. in an English dress, by the celebrated homœopathist whom I have mentioned above, and the latchet of whose shoes, in that capacity, it hardly becomes me, as a mere patient, to tie.

The courteous reader will remark, that this notification is dated the 23d of March, and the Manuscript two months ago, when I had no idea of being obliged to reach London with all possible speed, on urgent private business, which forced me to leave Vevey at a few hours' warning, though hardly strong enough to perform so long a journey at this season.

Fatigue, and the inability to procure a place in the public diligences, occasionally obliged me to halt six

days at various stations on the road, which alone required a whole week to traverse; and I not only walked several miles daily, when the weather was favourable, but after leaving the sledges at the bottom of the *JURA*, I ascended to the top on foot, through snow and ice the whole way, with rather more risk and labour than expected when I first attempted this task, which was voluntarily imposed by myself.

The annexed Pamphlet of 100 pages contains the First and Second Letters of the promised Series, which shall be immediately followed by the Third and last; wherein I intend to insert some communications from Dr. CH. G. PISCHER, of Geneva; and one, should it reach me in time, from the venerable HAHNEMANN's self.

J. B. G.

LONDON, March 23, 1833.

TO THE GREAT AND GOOD
FOUNDER OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC SCHOOL
OF THE
HEALING ART,

THUS DESERVEDLY ELEVATED BY HIM ALONE TO "THE SCIENCE OF PSYCHIC,"
WHENCE ITS THEORY AND PRACTICE WILL IN FUTURE BE PERFECTLY CONSISTENT
WITH NATURE, SOUND LOGIC, AND COMMON SENSE :

ALSO,

TO ALL THE PROSELYTES OR ADMIRERS OF HAHNEMANN'S
ADMIRABLE METHOD OF TREATING THE CHOLERA MORBUS, AND OTHER EQUALLY
MALIGNANT COMPLAINTS, WITH UNEXAMPLED SUCCESS :

TO THE
MANY GENEROUS FOLLOWERS OF THE OLD SCHOOL,
WHO, DURING THE TEDIOUS LAPSE OF SIX YEARS,
LABOURED ASSIDUOUSLY, BUT IN VAIN, TO ALLEVIATE MY MISERIES, WITH
PATIENCE AND SYMPATHY WHICH DID GREAT HONOUR TO THEIR HEADS AND HEARTS ;
BUT, ACTING ON ALLOPATHIC PRINCIPLES, THE WHOLE OF THEIR BENEVOLENT
EXERTIONS ONLY EXPOSED ME TO LINGER ON, FROM BAD TO WORSE,
WITHOUT THE LEAST PROSPECT OF ULTIMATE RELIEF :

LIKEWISE,

TO MY NUMEROUS FELLOW-SUFFERERS, AND GASTRITE FRIENDS,
WHO INVARIABLY PERFORMED EVERY THING IN THEIR POWER
WHICH THEY CONCEIVED COULD
IN ANY WAY TEND TO ASSUAGE THE FOIGMANCY OF MY CEASELESS DISTRESS,
IN VARIOUS PLACES AT HOME AND ABROAD, WHERE WE MET :

THIS CRUDE PERFORMANCE,

WRITTEN, CURRENTE CALAMO, FROM MOTIVES OF GRATITUDE AND HUMANITY,
IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,
BY THEIR GRATEFUL FRIEND AND WELL-WISHER,

JOHN BORTHWICK GILCHRIST, LL.D.

VEVEY, Jan. 23, 1853.



WHEN a plain old man, like the writer of the present Appeal to the Public, attempts to make his appearance before that awful tribunal, he should at least endeavour to put his best foot foremost; and in this spirit of deference to the judgment of his readers, they will readily perceive he is ushered into their presence by a liberal-minded Clergyman of the Church of England, who may so far be considered as the Law and the Gospel testimony to the truth of the following desultory narrative and remarks.

TO J. BORTHWICK GILCHRIST, ESQ.

MY DEAR SIR,

It is a trite remark, that the genius of our English nation is not generally inventive. We are rather a plodding, imitative race, who nicely scan the actions and schemes of others, and adopt them as our own with advantage and improvement. A Genoese discovered another Hemisphere; and Great Britain has derived more benefit than his employers from the adventure. The art of Spinning was contrived in Italy; and England, *stealing the secret*, has surpassed and almost supplanted her mistress in the manufacture of silk and cotton. We have spirit, enterprise, and perseverance, but not originality; for, with the exception of the BACONS, HARVEY, NAPIER, NEWTON, and WATT, I am not aware of any British philosophers who have contributed to supply grand primitive ideas or heretofore-unexplored helps to the commonwealth of European knowledge. These six names are, doubtless, a host, as far as so small a number goes; though they cannot detract from the

accuracy of the axiom with which I began. Yet it is praise, rather than a slur on our mental properties: for to engraft into our own stock whatever we see of good in the trees of our neighbours, and to share in their respective excellencies, surely is preferable to being confined to the production of our native crab, though it may belong exclusively to ourselves. It was not a Briton who first exposed the crying abuses of the Romish Church—the shackles which its cunning policy imposed upon the human mind and upon personal freedom; and yet, which of the early Protestants against these abominations has gained so large a portion of rational liberty, or can boast of such widely-spread illumination among all its classes, since the Monk of Wittenburg commenced his inroad upon spiritual privileges? It seems as if we were laudably zealous to embrace any doctrine or system that promised progression in science or social happiness.

It is therefore not without surprise I contemplate the neglect with which one of the most sweeping innovations that has ever been attempted in this our nether world is disregarded in England; viz. the alteration, fundamental and entire, recommended and practised with such wonderful talent by DR. HAHNEMANN, in the cure of all sorts of mortal ailments. I know it is no easy matter to contend with long-established customs and preconceived opinions, however wrong, in any line whatever. GALILEO was imprisoned by ignorant ecclesiastics for asserting that this our Earth turned round! The same obsolete jargon is still retained in our Courts of Law at this hour that was *orthodox* in the times of our Norman conquerors; for a man who has given a box on the ear is still arraigned as though he was a stabber and a murderer: and none can understand the terms of an indictment, or even of a simple contract, who have not served an apprenticeship to the bar, or an attorney! It is the same in the other learned profession, of Physic. Prescriptions are written in cabalistical or hieroglyphic characters; potions and pills are compounded of twenty various ingredients; and patients are tortured by their counteracting and conflicting