

COMMUNICATION.

FOR THE JOURNAL.

Messrs. Editors: I write to defend the new fangled steam system, remarkable for its frankness and miraculous for its success in the cure of diseases, against the underhand machinations of hypocrisy: I write to defend that system, which has been slandered without measure and without mercy; I write to defend the "Saving Angel" whom a kind Providence has sent to our assistance, with the grand instrument of curing all diseases in two hours, and "prolonging life to an indefinite time," which kind act of benevolence, instead of receiving the applause of the world, has incurred the indignation of the enlightened part of the community, and caused the intelligent members of the profession to regard the undisciplined practitioners of that system, as a motley squad of impious empirics composed of silenced preachers, shoemakers, butchers, tavern-keepers, constables, horse surgeons and negroes, all of whom are in successful practice—overrunning the polite world like a deluge, with their tea-kettles of steaming vapors, teapots of scalding liquors, and cream-pots of astrigent roots, counteracting nature in her course, and restoring dying men to life, by means of magic and incantations, in which the multitude are delighted, and are embracing with eagerness, and which has so completely panic-struck the envious members of the profession as to induce them to seize with uncommon alacrity the weapon of slander to relieve themselves from their humiliating situation, and to tower over the heads of their envious brethren; and I think I can venture to say that was the sole object of the production of the envious "Viator." Whether they were justifiable or not, I am not able to decide; but an exposition of facts relative to the theory and practice of the late revival in medicine will enable the public to form a correct decision.

Thompson, the Hippocrates of the late revolution in medicine, was born in Fincastle, in the year 1776, under the monarchical government.—His mother was by birth a Jew and by nature a Gentile. She flourished in the great French revolution under the title of a Steam Surgeon, and for her unrivalled success in the treatment of wounds with steam, she acquired great fame. But as she grew old she became completely saturated with steam, and so tinged with empiricism as to believe that religious ceremonies were more efficacious in removing maladies than remedies of medical skill, and in this fit of enraged passion she diabolically died without the benefit of a clergy, leaving behind the only child, Thompson, who according to one of the ordinances of that government, entailed the profession by inheritance; and by common consent the community bestowed on him the enviable title of Patent Steam-Doctor. But Thompson being a boy destitute of a liberal range of thought, and his whole figure exhibiting truly a perfect model of a steam-pot, it had the pernicious tendency of crippling his genius in its infancy, and precluding all farther growth or advancement; and what operated still more against his prosperity, was the taste and spirit for science cultivated by the illiterate clergy & the wisdom of their grand-mothers, which had undergone a great revolution and become in a certain degree a perfect science, that revolted at the idea of a steam pot: Thompson being thus admirably situated to sympathize with terror, his unpleasant feelings were enhanced by his really imagining himself nobody; and under this immoderate excitement of the brain, he indignantly left his native country, crossed the wide waters of the Atlantic and landed in the American world in the city of Bristol, under the title of Patent Steam-Doctor. On the day previous to his arrival in Bristol, there had been a negro man executed for stealing a steam-pot, which had created great dissatisfaction among his fellow creatures, and Thompson being a man of nice feelings, his sympathies were raised to that degree which involuntarily forced him to declare to the African race, that if the body of the deceased friend could be made accessible he would restore him to life in two hours by the watch, which proposition being immediately acceded to, the deceased became visible, and with three hard steamings and one gentle rubbing he was restored to a perfect state of activity, which at once immortalized him in that section of country; but not being contented with a moderate share of fame, he commissioned one Lingo to cross the Potomac and diffuse the "magnum donum dei" among the inhabitants of the South. Lingo while rambling through Carolina—near one of its small villages—he accidentally came in contact with old Nimrod, a tall gaunt man, of pleasing address and ready talent, as well as considerable, but unimproved genius for saving souls, though his face expressed miracles, which presented a long nose, that supported a pair of silver spectacles through which peeped a moderately pair of interesting eyes, which had the power of overcoming the most perverse obstinacy; and in addition to his other titles, he was supremely skilled in the Egyptian languages and a great mediator on death. Lingo observing with what neatness old Nimrod mastered subjects—that he took a delight in conversing with him on different points; but the one which was particularly agitated was the "late revival of medicine." Lingo stated to the old saint that he had been inspired with the grand instrument of restoring dead men, and for the sum of \$20 he was authorized by a power of attorney to reveal the secret. Nimrod eagerly snatched the offer and swallowed down the immortal steam. Now thought the old saint, I will take the advantage of the moment, and the beautiful ornaments of distinction shall be mine. And on the same evening of his being

made wise, he called his brethren to their usual place of devotion, and addressed them in the following manner: "My beloved brethren, the object of this incidental meeting was not for the purpose of administering to the souls, because, fellow-creatures, I have been inspired with the grand instrument, which never can be rivalled, but by one equally inspired from above, of preserving the material part of man, which will preclude the necessity of further enquiry concerning that mysterious part of man which is too transcendental for human reason;" which awful disobedience to the divine commands, uttered with an air of dignity by old Nimrod, passed through the congregation like an "electric shock." But the same old saint continued thus: I venture to assert and stake my credibility on the assertion, without the least fear of being contradicted by fact or reason, that the great mortality of man is owing to a radical defect in those enlightened institutions, which are so extremely pernicious in principle and practice, as to place the cause of disease in inflammation, and the removal of disease under the power of the lancet and the despotic government of "Calomel." Now, fellow-citizens, to illustrate the unpardonable ignorance of those well organized and disciplined institutions, reflect for a moment, that life consists in blood and death in cold; it therefore must be reasonable to suppose that man has no blood to lose; but gentlemen, remark the consequences if a man does lose blood; if you bleed a man, so much of that man is dead; if you take half of his blood he is half dead, and if you take all he is totally defunct—"logically enough." Fellow creatures, I am sorry to find that the whole kingdom has been suffering for so many years, from a system so pernicious in principle and in practice. But, brethren, thank the wise and the great, I have the means in my power, inspired by the "Saving Angel," to take from that learned and scientific monopoly and place in your hands for the small sum of \$20, the grand instrument of curing all diseases in two hours, and the pleasure of fixing your own time, when to make your eternal elopements without interruption.

Having thus, gentlemen, gone through the principal object of our meeting, I believe little further will be wanted than to encourage the backward to take patents, and the zealous to persevere in their undertakings.

With this last injunction, all those that had \$20 bought patents; and those that had not, gave all they had, and their notes for the balance—thus each man leaving their place of devotion armed with the infallible nostrum, which was so admirably calculated to vulgarize the medical profession, and brutalize the human frame; which an expose of certain facts relative to a case treated by one of that squad, in a sickly section of this district, will sufficiently illustrate. Diley, a woman of color, who had been laboring under local inflammation for several days, but without exciting the apprehensions of her master, until a steam-doctor insinuated himself into his house without an invitation, and took the liberty to remark to the gentleman that if Diley was not cured in 24 hours, she must certainly die; and that he could cure her in two hours, by the watch. The old gentleman being astonished, but worse scared, reluctantly submitted to the doctor's proposition. The doctor being governed by the first precept laid down,—cold is disease, and heat is health,—with this principle in view he went to work; but being a young engineer, and unacquainted with the power of steam, and the great danger arising from applying it to the system when cold,—while in this state the body being suddenly heated by steam on the outside, only the stratum of particles immediately affected expands, while that on the inside, not being heated, undergoes no concomitant change, hence a separation usually follows. He had raised the steam to that point which induced him to believe that the boiler would burst, and in order to put the family on their guard against an accident, very ingeniously remarked to the spectators that a couple of splittings would be a favorable symptom; but, unfortunately for poor Diley, one splitting blew her to atoms.

The next case I shall mention, is one of an interesting nature. Bob, a native of this district, was a whig in the revolution; his height, as he himself has informed us, was seven feet and a half, and to the length of his limbs he attributed his being such a good swimmer. But when a small boy he got his right eye punched out, which had never created any inconvenience until a recent conversation he had with a steam-doctor, who remarked to him that he could put him in a good eye in two hours, by the watch. Bob, being elated at the idea of having two eyes, immediately submitted to the operation. The doctor put his steam-works going, and retired in his lot to a dog which he steamed to death the day before, for killing sheep, and pulled out his eye; this he dexterously fixed in old Bob's socket, gave him three hard steamings, and the word. Bob leaped from his chair and put off with the fury of a maniac up a long road, which led into an old field where a large flock of sheep were feeding, which Bob's new eye immediately discovered, and the close connection between the eye and brain, inspired Bob with a desire for mutton, and the same ambition possessed by the dog previous to his undergoing the steam operation. Bob put off after the sheep with the fury of a hungry wolf, killing without eating, until he had destroyed 14, notwithstanding the howling pieces which had been discharged at him; and in the act of killing the fifteenth, there came, fortunately for the poor sheep, a keen flash of lightning, which knocked out his new eye, and chased him round the field three times, over the bars and into the stable.

Now, gentlemen, from the miracles wrought by the patent steam-doctor, I cannot denounce; but I have a sort of a hankering after that old Nimrod, who has had the assurance publicly to decry and abuse the theory and practice of the first medical men in the country, and has contemptuously placed them beneath his herd of undisciplined practitioners, his tavern-keepers, constables, and negroes. Philanthropic dreamers may say what they please; they may tell us that we are all men, and all made by the same Almighty hand; but we see that this Almighty hand has made some white and others black, and until these two colors shall appear the same to our sight, we shall never believe that whites and negroes were intended to live upon an equality with each other. Amongst the numerous evils produced by Nimrod, that of joining to the profession chimney-sweepers is the most degrading; thus exhibiting an impious resemblance between the most vile, and sacred functions, for he is still dressed in black, whether in his clerical or his lay character; and he still obeys the injunction to cry aloud and spare not, whether he peeps from the pulpit or from the chimney, and whether his vociferations are directed against Calomel or against soot.

Sept. 10, 1831.

SALAMANDER.

From the Charleston Courier.

THE FRESH.—[Extracts of Letters.]

Camden, Aug. 30.—We have been visited by a freshet never before equalled here. Our river was about three feet higher than it was ever known before. Two thirds of our Bridge is entirely swept away, which almost amounts to a total loss of it, as it will be long I expect before it will be rebuilt. A great many of our Planters have suffered a total loss of their crops, men who one week ago could boast of making from two to five hundred bales Cotton and three to four thousand bushels Corn, will now scarcely make a bale of Cotton or save a bushel of Corn.

Among those who have lost their entire crops, are Wm. Lang, Thos. Lang, John M'Rae, Mr. M'Rae, Major McWille, Est. Canteley, Est. Champlin, E. Cureton, Col. Jas. S. Deas, about 400 bags, and no doubt five times as many others, who have lost from one half to three fourths of their crops. Perkins, Ciples, Adamson, and all the Boykins, have also suffered immensely, tho' I believe not a total loss. The Cheraw Bridge is entirely carried away, and the loss of the Planters on that river are no doubt equal to those on this. Much sickness is now anticipated, especially on the plantations. We have already a good deal here.

Columbia, Aug. 30.—In different parts of the country the damage done is incalculable. From Hampton's plantation down, every thing is gone on the river. He loses about half. On the Wateree they are worse off if possible. Every thing under water from Camden down, and most of the river lands in the up country are also swept. The loss will be greater than in 1824.

Great Freshet at Augusta.—The late rains have (says the Augusta Chronicle of the 27th Aug.) swelled the Savannah River to an extreme height—the wharves and lofty platforms are completely overflowed—the water passes through the steam-boiler office windows—and at 7 o'clock last evening it had in some places nearly reached the upper part of Broad street, and the water was spreading rapidly around the city—and it was rising at the rate of one and a quarter inches. Should it continue to rise 18 inches more, we may expect to witness another Yazoo fresh!—Hamburg, opposite this city, is completely surrounded with water. The bridge stands the rapid current very well, notwithstanding the extreme difficulty encountered in clearing the flogs from the mass of flood-wood that lodges against the buttments which support the Bridge. To show the depth of water, we have been politely furnished with a survey made yesterday by a gentleman of this city, which is as follows:—The River, at a quarter past 5 o'clock, P. M. was exactly 19 inches below the centre, at the intersection of Broad and Washington streets;—the rise of the water by the town gauge at the Bridge, 31½ feet above low water mark.

Extract of a letter.—"Since my last we have had one of the highest freshets that has been known for thirty-six years—the river commenced rising on Sunday and kept rising till this morning. I am sorry to inform you that all our friends on Beach Island have lost all their crops, not only the crop now growing, but all the old corn they had in their cribs. The loss sustained on the river is very great, if I was to say 200,000 bushels of corn has been swept away, I do believe I would not be out of the way.—Their situation is indeed distressing, they have nearly lost all the mules, horses and stock they had on their plantations."

Extract of another letter of Saturday last.—"We have had a remarkable fresh in the river, the water coming within 17 inches of the level at the intersection of Broad and Washington streets—it was much above any fresh since the celebrated "Yazoo"—the river is now falling. Immense injury has been sustained by the planters on the flat and marginal lands, especially in loss of provisions, crops, and it is apprehended there will be a considerable loss of stock and perhaps negroes."

[Savannah Georgian.]

[The Augusta Courier of the 29th ult. states that "a great deal of stock has been

lost, and we hear of a good many human lives that have been lost." The river was covered with lumber, mill-works, parts of houses, &c. In the opinion of many persons, the body of water which descended was not greater than the celebrated "Yazoo Fresh." In short, adds the Courier, "this, as a friend observed to us, has been a real Nullification Flood."

The Freshet.—We have copied from other papers, some account of the destructive effects of the late extraordinary freshet in the States of South-Carolina and Georgia. Our own State has come in for its share of the losses, though not to such a disastrous extent as her neighbors. We learn that Haw River, the northern branch of the Cape Fear, has been very high, and that much damage has been done to Mill Dams, and low grounds. We have not heard particulars, except that Judge Ruffin's dam, (formerly Judge Murphey's) is entirely swept away.

The low grounds in Bladen, where we anticipated much mischief, have, we are happy to learn, escaped material injury.

A letter from a friend in the upper part of Richmond county, informs us that the Pee Dee has swept away Mills, Crops, &c. in that neighborhood, to an extent surpassing the recollection of the oldest inhabitants.—"Farmers who were in the very act of gathering in their year's labor, had the mortification of seeing the whole of their dependence blasted in one day's time. Owing to the situation of the corn, which was just ripening, and the water lying over it several days, will cause it, when the sun shines out, to rot. Not only crops, but hogs, cattle, sheep, and horses, were drowned; the farmers not suspecting such a freshet, took no pains to secure them."

The same letter informs us of the melancholy death, by drowning, of Mr. William Randall, son of Mr. Wiat Randall, of Montgomery county, a young man of very respectable connections, who had been married only three months before, and who had fair to become a valuable member of society.—He was drowned while endeavoring to drive the Stock on his farm to a place of security. [Fayetteville Observer.]

From the Richmond Enquirer.

THE INSURRECTION.

A fanatic preacher by the name of Nat. Turner (Gen. Nat. Turner) who had been taught to read and write, and permitted to go about preaching in the country, was at the bottom of this infernal brigandage. He was artful, impudent and vindictive, without any cause or provocation, that could be assigned. He was the slave of Mr. Travis. He had another slave of Mr. T. a young fellow, by the name of Moore, were two of the leaders. Three or four others were first concerned and most active. They had 15 others to join them. And by opportunity or threats they prevailed upon 20 others to co-operate in the scheme of massacre. We cannot say how long they were organizing themselves—but they turned out on last Monday morning early (the 23d) upon their nefarious expedition. They began with the house of Mrs. Whitehead, where they put to death every white person on the premises. They then attacked Mr. Travis' house, where the slaughter was equally indiscriminate. They were now led, to the number of 40 or 50; and with knives and axes—knocking on the head, or cutting the throats of their victims. They had few fire-arms among them—and scarcely one, if one, that was fit for use. Their being mounted enabled them to perpetrate the lamentable mischief, which so small a force could execute in so small a circuit (in the neighborhood of the Cross Keys) a very few miles from Jerusalem, and on the opposite side of the Nottaway river. But as they went from house to house, they drank ardent spirits—and it is supposed, that in consequence of their being intoxicated, or from mere fatigue, they paused in their murderous career about 12 o'clock on Monday.

A fact or two, before we continue our narrative. These wretches are now estimated to have committed sixty-one murders! Not a white person escaped, at all the houses they visited, except two! One was a little child at Mrs. Wallar's, about 7 or 8 years of age, who had sagacity enough to creep up a chimney; and the other was Mrs. Barrow, whose husband was murdered in the cotton patch, though he had received some notice in the course of the morning of the murderous deeds that were going on; but had placed no confidence in the story, and fell a victim to his incredulity. His wife hid herself between the weather boarding of the room, and the unplastered lathing, and escaped, the wretches not taking time to hunt her out. It was believed, that one of the brigands had taken up a spite against Mr. Barrow, because he had refused him one of his female slaves for a wife.

Early on Tuesday morning, they attempted to renew their bloody work. They made an attack upon Mr. Blunt, a gentleman who was very unwell with the gout, and who instead of flying, determined to brave them out. He had several pieces of fire-arms, perhaps seven or eight, and he put them into the hands of his own slaves, who nobly and gallantly stood by him.—They repelled the brigands—killed one, wounded and took prisoner [Gen. Moore,] and we believe took a third, who was not wounded at all.

We understand that 15 of these brigands

New Road.—We are informed by a gentleman from Burke County, that the corps of U. S. Engineers, under the direction of Col. Long, have already made the survey of the proposed road, from Sandy River, in Kentucky, through Estilville in Virginia, thence through the Moccasin Gap, across the Yellow Mountain, Linville Mountain, to Morganton, where they arrived during the storm, on the first part of last week; and left that place on Saturday 27th ult., for the Pleasant Gardens; when they took a new route back to Moccasin Gap, by passing up Buck Creek to the Gap of the Blue Ridge, called Deep Gap, thence to correspond with the route already surveyed from Moccasin Gap to the head of Steamboat Navigation on Sandy River. The immense importance of this road is becoming more and more apparent in the estimation of all who have for a moment reflected on the advantages which would be derived from it. Col. Long is said to be most favorably impressed with its importance and practicability. The object of the projectors of this road seems to be to cross the Mountains at a point which would strike the central market of the South, viz. Columbia, from whence it may diverge to the two others, viz. Fayetteville and Augusta—Charleston being in a Southern direction from Columbia, would of course have the deepest interest in its success.—Hon. S. P. Carson and Col. I. T. Avery, we understand, will attend the Convention to be held at Estilville on the 11th inst., to represent the interests of this region, when the Engineers will make their report, and further measures be taken to accomplish the enterprise.—Rutherfordton Spectator.

Rotary Pump.—Messrs. Hale, Crane & Co. of the city of Hartford, Connecticut, have obtained a patent for, and established a manufactory of, a new rotary pump, which promises to be a decided and valuable improvement. Two wheels are enclosed in a casing which corresponds with them in size, and which fits closely upon their sides. One of the wheels has, on its periphery floats or wings, three in number, at equal distance apart—somewhat like cogs;—the other wheels has cavities into which the cogs or floats may fall, both wheels being so placed in their casing as to revolve together, and their peripheries forming a water-joint. Through the ends or heads of the casing pass the shafts which support and turn the wheels.

There are two apertures in the casing, through one of which the water is drawn up by the suction produced by the motion of the floats, as they recede from the wheel containing the cavities, and through the other the water is discharged by the approach of the floats towards it. The pump may be put in motion by the hand, or other power. One fourteen inches in diameter, with the application of the power of two men, will raise and discharge 150 gallons per minute. A pump of this size is already in successful operation at the Simsbury mines in this State; and orders for others have been received from several States in the Union.—N. E. Review.

We have just been presented with a Wooden Bucket, turned from solid timber, by Messrs. HALL, MALLARY & RICH, of this place. The gentlemen named carry on an extensive manufactory of hollow wooden ware, of all descriptions, such as buckets, churns, washing tubs, &c. So far as we are able to judge, we are decidedly of opinion that ware, turned from solid timber, is vastly superior to that made in the usual manner. The vessels are all iron bound, and well painted, inside and out. They are very light—and there is every reason to believe that one bucket of this description, will last longer than two tin buckets. We consider this species of manufacture of almost incalculable importance to the western country. There is scarcely a family but purchases one or more tin buckets every year. This, when we take into view the vast population of the western country, every one will perceive must amount to an enormous sum annually; and this sum is taken out of the country, to purchase an article of absolute necessity. Now a better article is furnished, the principle part of which is the spontaneous production of our forests. We hope that our fellow-citizens will be led to consider their interest aright, and award to the manufacturers that encouragement which their enterprise really merits.—Richmond Pallad.

Traveller's direction.—A friend who has travelled relates the following as a literal direction given to him by an inhabitant of a remote New England town, in reply to his inquiry for the direct road to — meeting house:

"Well, ah, stranger, you go right straight ahead till you come to a large oak tree, then you take that tree on your right shoulder, and go on until you come to the brick school house—then take the brick school house on your left shoulder, and keep straight on till you come to Squire Wingates, and then you take the Squire's house right on your back, and you can't miss the way."

Southern Patriot.

When we look at a field of wheat, we find that those stocks which raise their heads the highest are the emptiest. The same is the case with men—those who assume the greatest consequence have generally the least share of judgment and ability.