

# CAROLINA CENTINEL.

VOLUME IV.

NEWBERN, N. C. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1822.

NUMBER 203.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY  
PASTEUR & WATSON,  
At \$3 per annum—half in advance.

## MEDICAL.

From the Baltimore American.

To the Citizens of the United States.

It has been stated to me, in a letter received from Dr. John F. Ward, of the village of Tarboro' in the State of North Carolina, dated Bertie County, Dec. 20th 1821.—That the vaccine matter sent to him from this Institution, about the first day of November last, had a different effect upon those he vaccinated than could have been expected!! Twelve persons he says, out of fifteen in whose vaccination he used this matter, had a crop of pustules. And I have since heard from other persons in Tarboro' that the disease which has been lately introduced there is the natural small pox."

I think it proper therefore to state this information publicly, as I have received it, without pretending to account satisfactorily for the accident which has happened. My most anxious desire is, that all concerned may be put as fully on their guard against the evil consequences of this occurrence, as the nature of the case will admit of.

The citizens of any part of North-Carolina, who may be exposed to danger from this accident, are invited to address the selves directly to me, through the Post-Office, and the means of securing them from the small pox will be forwarded to them immediately.

The following facts and observations will, I hope, assist those who are most concerned to investigate and arrive at just conclusions on the subject of this notice. But neither the personal abuse or liberal execrations that have been heaped upon me as the ostensible instrument of evil in this case, can answer any good purpose whatever.

Every fact that I can ascertain, having any bearing on the subject, shall be fully and freely made known to all concerned. And if I have committed any mistake either from ignorance or through carelessness, I shall not ask any indulgence or wish to be spared from the rod of correction. I will only add, on this subject, that if I should find it to be out of my power to preserve the vaccine matter in a pure state, I will cease to furnish that which I may have any reason to fear has become adulterated. I have derived my supply of matter, for the last six weeks, from places that are free from any epidemic disease; and I consider it to be as perfect and genuine as any I have ever used.

To prevent the petty impositions which I have been heretofore subject to from those who would willingly destroy this Institution by every artifice, which prejudice, ignorance, or interest can suggest, and on account of which I have been so frequently obliged to address memorials to the national and state legislatures, without receiving any proper or effectual assistance from them; I will not hereafter supply any citizen with the vaccine matter who does not first comply with the established and fair regulation of this Institution. Subscribers to this Institution are entitled to a supply of the vaccine matter and proper directions for its use on the terms offered to them.

By steadily persevering in the practice of vaccination for many years, we had completely banished the small pox from this city, and many began to imagine we would never again be visited by it. Our fancied security, however, served to create the same neglect of the kine pox, as is common in other places, until we had many subjects fit to be preyed upon by the variolous contagion—and in this situation we were found suddenly exposed to great danger by the arrival of the Palms, Captain Otis, on the 14th August, 59 days from Liverpool, with a few passengers having among them the small pox.

The following extract from our bills of mortality will serve to shew the progress which the disease has since made among us:

Deaths by small pox in Baltimore.  
In October, 2; in November, 2; December, 1st week, 6; 2d week, 2; 3d week, 4; 4th week, 9; January, 1st week, 6; 2d week 16—47 deaths.

But, from the beginning of these misfortunes, the current opinions, not only of the people here, but of many of our first physicians, have been much distracted by certain new and unexpected modifications of disease, which seem to have been introduced here along with these calamitous events.

Many persons who had been formerly subjects of the natural small pox, or who had been inoculated for it, as well as others who had been vaccinated with the greatest care, have all alike again become sufferers from this apparently new contagion. The disease produced by it in persons who had been previously vaccinated or inoculated, has invariably appeared in a more mitigated form than when it has attacked those who had not used these precautions. It has been called here, as well as in Europe, where it has lately excited considerable attention, the *varioloid disease*.—It is not easily distinguished from the small pox, and perhaps it may be truly entitled to the appellation of this contagious plague.

Of those who had been previously vaccinated here, some have suffered very severely from the varioloid eruption; but I have not perceived any good reason on this account to doubt the efficacy of vaccination as a sufficient and invaluable remedy against the small pox.

There are some physicians of great eminence here, nevertheless, who seem to have lost their confidence entirely in vaccination; & among these I am sorry to enumerate my distinguished friends—Dr. Davidge and Potter, Professors of Surgery and Anatomy and the theory and practice of Medicine in the University of Maryland.

The first mentioned of these professors has not only declared the kine pox to be of no use, but he has again recommended and is now practising the old inoculation for the small pox. Dr. Potter acknowledges the prophylactic powers of vaccination, but he is of opinion that we have not yet attained any method of determining, with certainty, whether those who are vaccinated do really obtain security thereby from the small pox, or not, until they are exposed to its contagion, by inoculation or otherwise.

Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, of Boston, "the Jenner of America," has given it as his opinion, "that not more than one in thirty-five of the vaccine crusts will produce the genuine kine pox, upon which alone our dependence should be placed as an ever-during shield against the small pox."

But Jenner himself, the illustrious discoverer of vaccination, has more seriously defamed the kine pox than any other author. I have read on this subject.—He states that a single serious blotch upon the body, existing during the progress of the vaccine vesicle on the arms, may occasion such irregularity and deviation from correctness, that vaccination, under such circumstances, cannot be depended on.—Slight abrasions of the skin, behind the ears and upon many other parts where the cuticle is thin, he adds, will produce the same effect." Now if any such difficulties and nice distinctions as these did really exist, we should certainly be obliged to abandon vaccination very soon, or the chief part of our population would, ere long, be found to be fit subjects for the small pox. But it is more than fortunate for mankind that the efficacy of the kine pox, as a preventive of the small pox, does not depend upon the skill or opinion of any man, or set of men. It has come to us from the *Giver of every good gift*, sufficiently perfect for the end that is to be accomplished by it, viz: TO SECURE US FROM THE SMALL POX. But if we would obtain this security without having to regret any exceptions to the general rule, it is essentially necessary that not only a few individuals here and there should use the kine pox, but the people generally should subject themselves to vaccination at a seasonable age, and as universally as the nature of this remedy will admit of, without injury or inconvenience to society.

Whether the disease which has been introduced into the village of Tarboro' be really the true small pox or not, I am am not prepared to declare, with any positive degree of certainty. The directions which I sent with the matter were, as is too frequently the case, entirely neglected. If Dr. Ward had used the matter I sent him in proper time, and attended to sending me the crusts which it produced, I would have been able to have answered all his queries, and would likewise have prevented all the mischief which I fear has happened. I do not state this to cast any blame on Dr. Ward, but to shew to others how necessary it is for them, if they would hold any intercourse with this institution, to attend to the rules under which I have offered to correspond with them.

I can only state to the public, then, at this time, that the evidence which I have received from Tarboro' is neither full nor satisfactory to me, as to the nature of the disease produced by the vaccine matter which I sent to Dr. Ward. I am inclined, however, to believe, that the small pox contagion did really accompany the virus

put up here, and was transmitted to him by me. My reasons for supposing this to be the fact, apart from Dr. Ward's statements, are these:

1. I have been unavoidably engaged in attending to persons diseased by the small pox here. I daily visit, handle, and administer medicine to them; and although I have always taken every precaution that I knew was necessary to prevent this contagion adhering to my person, still it is possible that such an accident may have occurred.

2. The genuine kine pox is in itself so nearly allied to the small pox, that when this plague become epidemic in any place, it intermixes with the vaccine matter by a natural and unavoidable process, and in a manner that may possibly elude the utmost care and vigilance of any person to prevent it.

3. The same persons or subjects from whom the vaccine matter must be taken, (for it cannot be otherwise procured than from persons who are fit subjects for it,) may be the bearers of the genuine kine pox and of the true small pox at the same time.

4. The same identical kine pox vesicle, under such circumstances as we are now unhappily involved in, that will one day furnish the most pure and genuine vaccine matter, is susceptible of a change in its natural properties, and within a few days afterwards, will furnish a different matter, capable of generating the most destructive small pox.

There are but few practitioners of vaccination who have any idea that in the selection of the vaccine matter they may be exposed to so much danger, from causes of this description; and no one has as yet pretended to account for them.

As these causes of defect in the vaccine matter, however, (and others will be hereafter enumerated) are of serious import to the public, I have stated them plainly, that all concerned may be put fully on their guard, not only against my own mistakes, but against the mistakes of others who may possess even greater skill in this business than myself. I do not state these difficulties to excite any foolish alarm about them, but I hope they will have the effect, at least to appease the outrageous wrath that has been so unreasonably excited against me.

But, to conclude, if there is any person who can account for the difficulties which have presented themselves, and the new combinations of disease which have taken place, and threaten to extend their influence so far around us, let him come forward to lend his aid, and to settle these differences of opinion which now distract the learned as well as the unlearned on the subject of vaccination. He who can accomplish this task, will merit a reward from mankind even greater than he received who first transferred the Vaccine virus from the cow to the human species.

JAMES SMITH,  
U. S. Agent of Vac.

Vaccine Institution, Baltimore, Jan. 24, 1822.

FROM THE RALEIGH STAR.

We publish, this day, the Circular of Dr. Smith, the vaccine agent at Baltimore, in regard to the unfortunate introduction of the small pox at Tarborough by matter received from him by Dr. Ward for vaccine matter.

We are really at a loss to say whether it be the intention of Dr. Smith, in this address, to acknowledge and apologize for an unhappy mistake, to which all men are liable, or to advocate and uphold his conduct in this affair, as free from blame or censure. He remarks, in one part of his circular, that he has derived his supply of matter, (vaccine,) for the last six weeks, from places that are free from any epidemic disease, and that he considers it to be as genuine and perfect as any he has ever used; and, in a subsequent part, he remarks, "I am inclined, however, to believe that the small pox contagion did really accompany the virus put up here, and was transmitted to him (Dr. Ward) by me," and goes on to explain it by saying that his frequent visits to patients laboring under small pox might have impregnated his clothes or fingers with the matter of that disease, and this might have been communicated to the vaccine matter sent to Dr. Ward. This, to say the least of it, seems to be a far-fetched explanation, and such an one as we cannot think probable. We are inclined to believe, from what we have seen and heard, that even if the matter of the two diseases (small pox and cow pox) were mixed together, and used by inoculation, that the vaccine disease, by its more rapid progress to maturity, would precede and prevent entirely the occurrence of small pox. In regard to the occurrence of any new disease, as mentioned by Dr. Smith under the term varioloid,

we are entirely ignorant, and should be glad to receive further information; and if there be any forms or modifications of vaccine disease, which would render it inefficacious in shielding the constitution against the invasion of small pox, we think it behoves all in possession of such information to make it public, for the benefit of mankind.

We had entertained the flattering hope, that a mild and efficacious remedy had been discovered against one of the greatest scourges of the human race; and if any man of common sense will compare the rare occurrence of small pox at the present day with its deluging destruction of whole cities before the discovery of the preventive powers of the vaccine disease, so far from doubting its efficacy, he will have every reason to thank the Giver of all good, that such a discovery has been effected through the agency of Dr. Jenner.

We will only add, that we think the present occasion highly demands full discussion and investigation of the merits of the vaccine disease, that the confidence hitherto reposed in it, if erroneous may be withdrawn, and, if correct more firmly riveted upon the minds of men.

We do not hesitate to declare our entire confidence in its preventive powers; and we think a doubt on this subject comes very illly from Dr. Smith, when we know that, within the last year or two, he has had his agents travelling through the United States, to collect subscriptions for the support of an institution, highly beneficial, it is true, to the public, but at the same time highly advantageous in a pecuniary point of view to himself.

It is understood that a strong remonstrance will soon be forwarded to the President of the United States against Dr. Smith. Indeed, such is the want of confidence against the Doctor, in this part of the country, that, although the alarm through the country is very great, yet several of our most eminent physicians, who are subscribers for the vaccine matter, and who have received it lately, have instantly committed it to the flames. The voice of the public loudly calls for another agent, in whom they may have confidence.

We are sorry to learn that several cases of small pox have occurred in several counties adjoining Edgecombe.

## CONGRESS.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, JAN. 21.

The Speaker laid before the House the following letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, viz:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, }  
19th January, 1822. }  
SIR—I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the House of Representatives, an estimate of appropriations proposed for the service of the year 1822, amounting to \$8,891,285 48.

For the Civil List	\$ 868,603 42
For Miscellaneous Expenses	456,375 60
For Foreign Intercourse	148,000
For Military Department, including pensions, arming militia, Indian Department and arrearages	5,165,896 19
Naval Establishment, including the Marine Corps	2,252,410 27
	\$ 8,891,285 48

The funds from which the appropriations for the year 1822 may be discharged, are the following, viz:

1st. The sum of six hundred thousand dollars, annually reserved by the act of the 4th of August, 1790, out of the duties and customs, towards the expenses of government.

2d. The surplus which may remain, of the customs and arrearages of Internal duties and direct taxes, after satisfying the sums for which they are pledged and appropriated.

3d. Any other unappropriated money which may come into the Treasury during the year 1822.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD.

The Hon. the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

On motion of Mr. Sergeant, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill to establish an uniform system of Bankruptcy, Mr. Taylor in the chair.

The first section of the bill being under consideration—

Mr. Sergeant said, that the whole of the civilized world, so far as it was commercial, had adopted, with some modification or other, a bankrupt law; and that whatever modification those nations had provided, two principal points were re-

garded, viz: security to the creditor and relief to the debtor. He did not mean to be understood that there were no specific differences among those laws between the several nations. In respect to the administration of those laws, the differences were considerable—but, after all, the conclusion seemed to be fixed, and that by the common consent of nations, that, where there was commerce, there a bankrupt law must be—not only as a necessary, but as a salutary measure.— This consideration was fortified by the fact, that the framers of the Constitution of the United States, foreseeing the destinies of our country, made this special provision—believing as they doubtless did, that such a provision would be found essential as the commercial resources of the nation should be developed and expanded. In this country there seemed to be a peculiar necessity and propriety in adopting such a law. Commerce, so far from being disreputable, was considered as an honorable employment. It was useful, and favored by the government.— But the profession was exposed to hazards. There were accidents and disasters which human sagacity could not foresee, and against which human prudence could not guard. If there was no redemption, therefore, by public law, the merchant might be deemed perpetually liable to ruin, in its most extended sense. Nor are himself and family only involved in it. It may extend to all these to whom he is indebted. Whoever has often seen mercantile failures, knows that there is a sort of blindness or infatuation that seems to affect them. The insolvent is unwilling to penetrate his situation, or to bemoan it as hopeless as it really is; and hence he lingers with some chimerical, undefined hope, till his affairs have become more deeply involved, and his embarrassments utterly irremediable. He is, perhaps the very worst person that could be selected to judge of his own affairs. He is led by the delusion to keep up his credit, as long as he possibly can; and yet, to him is confided the uncontrolled power of disposing of his estate. He may waste it, destroy it; or put it beyond the reach of his creditors; and when he comes to the final step of an assignment, he has then the power to make his preferences, and to provide for the circle of his friends, while this distant creditor, perhaps equally meritorious, is left without redress or hope of payment.

Some there are who say, that a debtor ought never to be discharged, but with the assent of all his creditors—that once a debt should be always a debt, unless with the assent of the creditor. It is were simply a question, Mr. S. said, between debtor and creditor, and no other person were concerned, this argument would go a greater length than it now does. But society has an interest in it, inasmuch as it is the interest of society that every man be able to maintain himself and his family, &c. Could it be possible that any one would seriously maintain, that under no circumstances would it be competent or proper for the government to interfere between creditor and debtor, and, when a certain state of things shall have arrived to discharge the debtor? Every advantage is given to the creditor of arresting the person and laying hands on the property of the debtor. But when it has become evident that the debtor has given up every thing in his power; that in the condition in which he is placed, he can neither be serviceable to himself or to others, and may, indeed, be dangerous to society, whilst, in different circumstances, he might be a valuable member of the community, but would gentlemen, Mr. S. asked, contend that the creditor should have it in his power to hold him in durance, &c. &c. To prevent this was one of the great objects of a proper system of bankruptcy.—What can the bankrupt do, under these circumstances? He is indebted to a large amount. He has no discharge—no exemption.— If he rises it is but to fall. If his friends assist—their advances and his own earnings are swept away, before he is able to repair his fallen misfortunes. He struggles to extricate himself, he sinks under the load; and retires broken hearted and solorn, without even the comforts of hope to sustain him. If this alternative of wretchedness is not experienced, there is another that inevitably follows, if possible, still more to be deplored. This is the covering of property under the names of others. Gentlemen from the eastward must often have seen on the stores of merchants, signs with the name of a merchant, and "A. B. agent." The agent is in reality the principal, while the professed principal has no real interest in the concern. But we are told that debtors will not be oppressed, and that creditors are benevolent. Mr. S. would admit there was as much benevolence among the creditors in this country as any