

PUBLISHED
BY THOMAS WATSON

TERMS.
Three dollars per annum, payable in advance.

[From a late London paper.]

Confessions of a Quack Doctor.

Nec prosum domino, que prosum omnibus, artes.—Ossed.

My days, my very hours are numbered; the cold hand of death presses heavily and painfully upon me; I feel that this bed will be the last, save an earthly one, on which the proprietor of the Balsam of Bethesda will ever lay. I shall be far beyond the reach of the indignation and censure of man; and it will ease my parting moments and be a last atonement, if I lay before the public certain particulars wherein I have played a conspicuous though deceitful part. At the same time I must beg the reader to have the candor to bear in mind this remark: that what I have done has been merely for the sake of gain, and not out of malice or ill-will to my fellow creatures as a body, or to any individual in particular.

I shall commence with a short sketch of my early life. My father, Reuben Killman, was a brewer, in a small market-town. He married, for his fourth wife the daughter of the principal apothecary of the place. The issue of that marriage was the author of the present memoir. A short time before I was born, my poor mother had been reading the poems of the Poet Laureat, which made so great an impression on her, that she insisted on my being christened by the name of Thalaba.

That dear parent was so fondly attached to her only offspring, that during her life she never would allow my tender frame to be exposed to the cruelty of a birch-bearing brute, as she feelingly styled that awful monster, the schoolmaster. On the contrary, she determined to educate me herself; and, in order that she might direct my talents, of which she had the highest opinion, in the proper channel, she seized the opportunity of taking me, at the age of eight years, to be examined by a celebrated phrenologist, who had announced that he should enlighten the town by a few lectures on his subtle science. I well remember the laying on of hands of that slender gentleman. After duly examining the outward signs of my inward powers, he informed my mother that my developments were so interesting and complicate, that he would take time for reflection, and send her a written opinion. The good lady, gratified by the pains and attention he was paying her favorite, slipped half a guinea into his learned palm, and went home to wait for the promised particulars.

The next day she received the following note.

"Madam,—The real cause of my not announcing your son's organs yesterday, was, that I was anxious not to expose him before other parties; but the sacred obligation of truth compels me to state, that I find the organs of acquisitiveness and destructiveness so strong, that I can have little doubt he will be led on from robbery to murder, and finally, end his days at the gallows, unless you take great pains in cultivating his organs of veneration, &c. as explained in my little work, price 11s 6d.

Your obedient servant,

"MANUEL PALMER."

My mother's rage at this epistle may be conceived. She instantly set off on a crusade against the phrenologist, and called on every neighbor and gossip in the place, denouncing the man's ignorance, and proving it by his letter, and the well-known amiable qualities of her interesting child. I believe the lectures were, after all, as well attended as ever. My father was angry with my mother for exposing the faults of his child, and told her she ought to have hushed up the business. The poor lady retorted, and a quarrel ensued. It was however made up; and the reconciliation was evidently sincere on my father's part, as he advised my mother the following day to leave off brandy and water, which they always had been in the habit of drinking, as he thought ale would be better for her. Although she did as he recommended, my father lost his wife, and I, my kind parent in less than three months from that time.

I wished to put my mother's tortoise-shell cat into mourning on the occasion, and as she tore the clothes I made for her, I resolved to blacken those which nature had given her with ink. I had just begun the operation, and had placed the unfeeling animal-head foremost down in a boot, with a quart ink bottle in my hand, when my father appeared. Seeing how I was occupied, he rushed towards me. The abruptness of his manner, (though I was doing no harm, but on the contrary a pious duty,) alarmed me. I fled; he pursued. He gained ground: I heard him puff close at my back. In my eagerness to escape, I attempted to jump over a cooler full of ale. I should easily have accomplished the leap, had it not happened that at that moment my father's hand arrested me by the trousers behind. He checked the impetus of my spring, and I fell, with the ink bottle, boot, and cat, into the middle of the steaming liquid.

I screamed, the cat mew'd, my father swore. But the death of my mother, I suppose, had softened his heart; for in a minute he recovered his good humor, laughed at the cat and me, and said, "It did not matter, as the boot was the only thing that would be the worse for it." However, he made up his mind to send me to school forthwith, "to improve my manners, and have me out of harm's way."

To school I was sent, and there I remained until I was twelve years old, at which time my father sent for me home, put me into his counting-house, and taught me the arts of book-keeping and brewing. The latter I found was a far more intricate and mysterious process than the mere mixture of malt and hops.

Years went on, I grew up into a man; but as I advanced the little town declined. It was not a place of much trade, and as the inhabitants died away, they were not rapidly succeeded by fresh settlers. The mortality of the

place was certainly very great. The air was voted unhealthy, though formerly it had been considered the reverse. By some extraordinary fatality, my father's best customers were always the first to drop off. I felt for him, and myself, for I was now taken into partnership; and my mind sympathized with Moore's beautiful lines:—

"O'er this from childhood's hour,
I've seen my fondest hopes decay;
I never nurs'd a tree or flower,
But 'twas the first to fade away.
"Never nurs'd a dear gazelle
To glad me with its bright black eye,
But when it came to know me well,
And love me, it was sure to die!"

But, after all, what are gazelles to customers! and what is the sight of its eye to the sight of a bill for beer made out, ready for payment? Alas! these bills decreased as the town decayed, and ere long the Gazette presented the names of "R. Killman & Son, Brewers." The shock up at my father, he never looked up afterwards, and the very day week after the above announcement, I saw his heels standing out of a large mesh-tub. He had chosen the fate of Clarence.

With the few pounds left to me I fled from the fatal neighborhood to London. In that vast metropolis I had no chance of setting up in my trade again; there were too many in it already with larger capitals, and equal skill in composition to myself. For some time I served in one of the principal breweries as a clerk—but my salary was so small that I could neither pay for wine nor brandy; malt liquor I could not drink—I was too much behind the scene for that—and for water, I had a constitutional antipathy—I was dying for thirst amidst a profusion of beverage—I could bear it no longer—I left my situation.

I was walking with little in my pockets except my hands along Bloomsbury Square, when a man held out a paper to me. I took it, and found it to be a puff of a patent medicine. A new light broke in upon me, I cried out "Eureka," and cut a caper in the air for joy. My plans were quickly settled. I invested my remaining money in drugs, phials, and a chest, and set out on a tour to the country. It was indifferent to me whither I directed my steps, and the accident of seeing a notice of reduced fares, led me to book my place for Birmingham.

As soon as I arrived at that place, I boldly engaged a handsome lodging, and put an advertisement into the paper, wherein, drawing upon the credit of my future fame, I announced that Dr. Thalaba Killman was to be consulted on every disease to which the human frame is liable, but he had more especially devoted his attention to nervous, cutaneous, chronic, epileptic, intestinal and mental disorders. The doctor had studied the superior practice of the continent, he had been entrusted to draw the Emperor of Russia, had operated on the King of Prussia for the stone, and cured the Queen of Sardinia of *dispepsia vulgaris*. From these distinguished individuals he had received the most satisfactory testimonials.

I spent the interval, till the appearance of my advertisement, in writing out autographs of those illustrious persons, and mixing my newly invented Balsam of Bethesda. This consisted of stimulating and narcotic drugs.

The first patient that ever visited me was an elderly lady, who complained of lowness of spirits. She said she was always miserable except when in company. I did not wonder at this when I heard her mode of life, which was, to play at cards to a very late hour every night and to lie in bed till an equally late one the next day. I gave her three of my guinea bottles of the Balsam, and desired her to call again when she had taken them. I saw her no more.

On referring to my Journal, I find the next who came was of the same sex, but a very different age. Her complaint was love, and her lover had been fickle. I sold her two bottles of my Balsam. She called again in a week, said she had taken it all, had felt very sick in body, but had quite got over her original complaint. I told her she had better have a couple of bottles by her for future occasions, to which she agreed. I understood that shortly afterwards she had a large sum of money left her, that she again met her former lover, who made her an offer, and they were married immediately. She is alive and well; and keeps my two bottles by her in case she should ever fall in love with any one else.

The third case at Birmingham—but I will not go into particulars. Suffice it to say, it ended in a coroner's inquest. A verdict of manslaughter was returned, and I was put into prison to await my trial. At the assizes an error in the indictment entitled me to an acquittal, and, being set at liberty, I returned to my lodgings, put a letter in the paper, proving the skill with which I had acted, and that I had been made the victim of the envy of certain resident practitioners—and was as well attended as ever.—Wonderful is the credulity of the public.

I tried my hand at several other towns; Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, all had the benefit of my presence. The same success attended me at each of them; that is to say, I enriched myself and benefited my patients—by transplanting them to "another and happier world."

Having accumulated a considerable sum of money, I resolved to discontinue my wandering life, and open my grand campaign in the metropolis. I therefore made arrangements for the sale of my balsam with agents in the different places I had visited, and took a large house in Benners street.

The first thing I did, was to compose a number of new testimonials, and to dress a man up in a striking and appropriate costume, to dispense my announcement to the citizens. His dress was parti-coloured—half green, and half spotted, to signify the plague and eruptive diseases. The following is a copy of my circulars:—

"VIVE VALSQUE. Art thou afflicted, and would'st thou be healed? Go to No. 400,

Benners street, and consult Dr. Thalaba Killman. All diseases arise from one source, the unhealthiness and derangement of the system. To cure this, Dr. T. K., after intense study and long practice, by a heaven-sent thought discovered the wonderful, miraculous, and infallible BALSAM OF BETHSADA. Be time wise. The poet has judiciously pointed out the great desiderata of life, and which has he placed first? Health, peace, and competence."

"In addition to testimonials from several crowned heads, Dr. T. K. has, amongst many others, received the following grateful acknowledgments from his own countrymen.

"Birmingham, Sept. 6.
"Sir,—I was born deaf, dumb, and blind, and continued in that melancholy state of privation till about a fortnight ago. I have often seen my parents mingling their tears for hours together, and when I have asked them the reason, they have answered in voices choked with sobs—'We weep for thee! Think, sir, of their heart-felt delight at my perfect recovery in every faculty. Three weeks ago, a friend recommended your balsam. Less out of hope, than from a sense of duty, which prompted them not to throw a chance away, they bought a bottle. Before I had finished it, I could hear certain inarticulate noises, and could stammer a few words and there was a glimmer of light. By the end of the second bottle, I could hear my mother's tongue going from morn till night; I could get in a word or two, and I could distinguish that her dear nose was red. The third bottle made a man of me. I could understand all that every body said in any language; I could see that my mother's nose was turned up, and could discourse as fluently as Lord Brougham. These are your doings, and they are acknowledged with a grateful heart by
Your obedient servant,
"MATTHEW MOLE."

"To Dr. Thalaba Killman.
"Sympathy Cottage, Coal Hole Alley, Leeds.
"Miss Alicia Letitia de Montmorency Sniggs presents her unteigned acknowledgments to Dr. Killman, and begs to inform him that her little boy has been quite cured of a sore nose and the ringworm, by two bottles of the Balsam of Bethesda.
"To Dr. Thalaba Killman."

"Manchester, Aug. 4th.
"Sir,—I beg to inform you that some years ago my right ear was most unwarrantably cut off by the sword of a yeomanry soldier. I remained in that state, and I was universally called the cropped donkey, till I was induced to try your esteemed Balsam, the effect of which has been such, that my ear has not only grown again, but is twice as large as the other.
Your humble servant,
"BALAAM FRANKLIN."

I felt I had as much right to love these testimonials, as Don Matthias had to forge love-letters to himself, and I am happy to say mine were more profitable than his. There were some other letters it is true, really and bona fide sent to me, which I did not publish, preferring those of my own invention.

The following I received from Nottingham.
"Sir,—For many years I have been enduring the worst pain that the human species, at least the male part of it, is liable to, I mean the tooth ache! Year after year I suffered the pangs of extraction, till one tooth remained in my head. It was then that I heard the fame of your invaluable Balsam. Hope catches at a reed; I sent for a bottle. In my eagerness for relief from the fit of pain I was then enduring, I put the neck of the bottle to my mouth without waiting for a cup. The consequence was, I thrust my last tooth out of its place and down my throat. I swallowed it with the Balsam, and from that day to this I have been free from the tooth ache.
Yours faithfully,
"BENJAMIN GOM."

To Dr. Killman. Sheffield, July 20th.
"Sir: You are a beast, and scoundrel; a rogue, a cheat, a thief, a quack an impostor! I bought two bottles of your stuff, to cure me of the stomach ache, and they have made me worse. If I die, I'll be d—d if I don't haunt you.
"ALEXANDER LARGE"

Notwithstanding Mr. Large's threat, I have always been less afraid of the dead than the living; and as it will appear, with reason. For, having carried on a most thriving trade for two years, and having amassed a very pretty fortune, my end has been hastened in the following manner:
I had been taking a walk one evening, and had just returned to my own door, when, as I raised my hand to the knocker, a person came quickly up to me, and inquired if my name was not Dr. Killman? On my replying in the affirmative, the wretch seized me with the grasp of Hercules, and holding me with the tenacity of a vice, belaboured me with a bludgeon over the head and body, till I sunk to the earth exhausted. He then went away exclaiming, "Now, if I have not done for you try your own balsam."

I was found by the police, and carried into my house. The blows on my head produced temporary derangement. A doctor was sent for, and he prescribed for me. But my house-keeper had too good an opinion of her master to let him take any thing recommended by a stranger. She emptied out the bottles as they were sent, and filled them with BALSAM OF BETHSADA. Unconsciously I partook of my own invention. Like Perillus, I have been the author of what has caused my own death. My reason has returned, only to tell me I am dying. My house-keeper, as soon as she thought I could understand her, boasted of her artifice, and how she had been cheating the doctor.
THALABA KILLMAN.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SPEECH OF MR. CAMBRELENG.

In the House of Representatives, Jan. 27, 1836, on the following resolution, offered by Mr. Adams, of Massachusetts:

Resolved, That so much of the message of the President of the United States to Congress, at the commencement of the present session, as relates to the failure, at the last session of Congress, of the bill containing the ordinary appropriations for fortifications, be referred to a select committee, with instructions to enquire into, and report to the House the cause and circumstances of the failure of this bill.

Mr. CAMBRELENG said it was not his design to detain the House long in discussing this very grave question of the loss of the appropriation of three millions for the defence of the country; the true issue between the two Houses. Concerning the bill making ordinary provision for new fortifications there was no contest to be finished, perhaps in 1840, but about the 3,000,000 appropriation in 1835, for arming forts already completed, and for increasing our navy afloat. The inquiry was, whether the country defenceless, after the message of the President communicating the correspondence with France, and after the unanimous resolution of the House, that the execution of the treaty should be insisted on; and at a crisis too when the question of peace or war depended on the caprice of a Government denying us justice, and regardless of its faith. That was the appropriation to which the attention of the nation was directed, and in the fate of which our national interest and honor were directly involved—that was the only issue now pending between the two Houses, and on which the country had already and very justly decided.

He regretted that he was obliged to engage in an enquiry after the lost appropriation, when the time of the House could be so much more profitably employed in devising measures for the national defence, war or no war; but, said Mr. C., I am not at liberty to be silent in this debate—the combined attacks on me in both Houses, oblige me to defend myself. In doing so, I shall be compelled to notice some of the statements of the gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. Wise.) I shall not, Mr. Speaker, in discussing this question, introduce names—they are of little moment in debate; not even the illustrious name of the gentleman from Virginia, could add the weight of a feather to my argument. You would never tolerate it, sir, and I am sure the House would be astonished by an indecorum, were I to designate the gentleman as "Mr. Wise"—and courtesy would certainly not permit me to call the gentleman otherwise. No, sir, I hope I shall never be tempted on any occasion, even by the wild rant of disappointed ambition, to forget my own self-respect, or my regard for the dignity of this House, so far as to treat any gentleman with disrespect.

In the present instance, Mr. Speaker, I shall not only treat the gentleman with the utmost respect, but even with tenderness. It would be unkind indeed, to treat otherwise the innocent, the unsuspecting, the penitent victim of that stupendous fraud, which the gentleman from Virginia has so recently discovered—that stupendous conspiracy which the President, you and I, were plotting last year, to betray the gentleman, undermine our Constitution, and destroy our Government. No, sir, it is far, very far from my purpose, to engage in any parliamentary tournament with the gentleman from Virginia; but, should I ever be forced into any such contest with any gentleman, I hope it will be my fortune to encounter some more formidable antagonist than "Buckingham with his rash levied strength."

Before I proceed, Mr. Speaker, to discuss this question, I must do an act of justice to an honorable Senator from Massachusetts. A day or two since, I announced my intention to notice an attack made, upon me in the National Gazette of Philadelphia, in March last, founded upon information derived, among other sources, "from Senators of the highest character." In that Journal, it was stated that the Vice President and Secretary of State had advised me to let the fortification bill die in the House, to prevent the responsibility of its failure from falling on the President—a statement which was immediately pronounced, both by the Secretary of State and myself, to be false, upon whatever authority founded. And now sir, for the origin of this poor slander.—The Vice President and Secretary of State were in this House, and about leaving it, when the committee of conference, returned to it.—The Secretary of State, from whom the estimate for the three million appropriation had been received, inquired the result of our conference, and on learning it expressed the opinion, in which I entirely concurred, that eight hundred thousand dollars was a pitiful appropriation for the defence of a nation. Not one syllable passed between the Vice President and myself. Sir, there was no secret—no mystery about the matter—it was in the presence of the whole House, and every syllable uttered might have been heard by every gentleman near. As chairman of the Committee of Conference on the part of the House, whatever may have been my opinion as to the inadequacy of the appropriation, I should have immediately reported the compromise but for the obstacles which I shall state in their proper order. Every gentleman near me, without reference to party, knew that such was my intention.

Such was all the foundation for the statement in the National Gazette. That statement I ascribed to the Senator from Massachusetts, the authority referred to being a Senator of "the highest character." I am happy to say, sir, that since the last day's debate, I have received the most satisfactory assurance that that honorable Senator was not the authority relied on by the editor; and I take far more pleasure in doing justice to that gentleman than I should have done in defending myself

from the attack. I make the acknowledgment with the greater pleasure because, throughout the remarks of the honorable Senator, he has not condescended—he has not stooped to notice this miserable scandal—he has resigned all the honor of nourishing and cherishing this poor and contemptible slander to some unknown Senator, and to others who have no loftier ambition.

Gentlemen who feel themselves accountable to the nation for leaving our country unprepared to meet any emergency which might have grown out of our relations with France, have plead their utter ignorance of the necessity for any such preparation, and of any proposition for defence till the last night of the session. What, sir, is the notorious history of this appropriation? Our affairs with France remained in an uncertain attitude till the last days of the session, and this House suspended its action upon the question, in the hope that some intelligence would arrive. None such as of a pacific character. The Minister of France had been recalled, passports had been tendered to our Minister, and he had been also recalled. Every thing wore a billigerent character. At that crisis, the President, in his message of the 25th February, communicates, as soon as it was received, the correspondence with the French Government, and in conclusion says:

"The subject being now, in all its present aspects, before Congress, whose right it is to decide what measures are to be pursued on that event, (Mr. Livingston's return,) I deem it unnecessary to make further recommendation being confident that on their part every thing will be done to maintain the rights and honor of the country, which the occasion requires."

Thus the Chief Magistrate of the Nation submits this question, at a critical period, to Congress, "confident that on their part, every thing will be done to maintain the rights and honor of the country, which the occasion requires." When that message came to the House on the 26th February, I submitted three resolutions which had been previously considered by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The third resolution, recommended contingent preparation for any emergency which might grow out of our relations with France. These resolutions, and the President's message were referred to the committee. The next day the committee made a report, which contained the following extract:

"The bill now before the House authorizing the sale of our stock in the Bank of the United States, would, if adopted afford all the revenue necessary. The committee is of opinion that the whole, or a part of the fund to be derived from that source, should be appropriated for the purpose of arming our fortifications, and for making the military and naval preparations for the defence of the country, in case such expenditures should become necessary before the next meeting of Congress."

The third resolution appended to that report was "that contingent preparation ought to be made to meet any emergency growing out of our relation with France. That report and the resolutions, were adopted by a majority of the Committee of Foreign Affairs, and proposed not merely an appropriation of three millions, but of the whole proceeds of our stock in the Bank of the United States, if necessary for the public defence.

When these resolutions came up the day after, I stated, that to secure unanimity I should, withdraw the third resolution, as I intended, when the Senate's amendments to the fortification bill should be under consideration, to offer an amendment appropriating three millions, which I had learned would be all that was deemed necessary by the Executive; thus substituting for a mere declaratory resolution, an actual appropriation for the defence of the country. Such, sir, is the published history of this preparation for defence, about which gentlemen seem to have been so utterly ignorant. The President's Message, the report and resolutions of the committee, and the unanimous resolutions of the House to insist on the execution of the treaty, were before the world—still gentlemen were ignorant of the whole affair, and waited for estimates from the Departments, and an Executive order. Journals on all sides were calling on Congress to place the country in a state of defence—the fire of patriotism was kindled throughout the land, and lighting every spot in the Union save one dark Chamber, into which the light could never penetrate—there all was midnight.

Other apologies are made to the country, sir—estimates were not submitted by the Department, and the form of the amendment was unprecedented, unconstitutional and monstrous. I shall presently show on what foundation, legislative or historical, this latter objection rests. As to the estimate, you will recollect that you as Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, united with me in a note to the Secretary of State, inquiring what amount would be required, and that his answer was one million for the army and two for the navy, including fortifications, ordnance and increase of navy. It was upon that estimate the proposed amendment was founded. And now, sir, for this formidable amendment—here it is, sir. "And be it further enacted, That the sum of three millions of dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, to be expended in whole or in part, under the direction of the President of the United States, for the military and naval service, including fortifications and ordnance and increase of the navy; provided such expenditures shall be rendered necessary for the defence of the country prior to the next meeting of Congress." This infernal machine, which was to blow the gentleman from Virginia, the constitution and the Government to atoms, was contrived here, sir, in concert with a former representative from Virginia, and a member of the opposition, a gentleman of the highest standing for ability, honor, and integrity, and universally esteemed in this House.