

preference of your old worthy governor, general Menckton, whom they had chosen their commander in chief in India, had absolutely refused to accept of that officer's services; in consequence of which administration have just now very cavalierly appointed old general Gansell to that department; a nomination which has disgusted many, and surprised every one; indeed it will serve to keep this veteran for the future from the hands of bailiffs and their rascally crew. The directors of the India company propose sending out a commander in chief of their artillery in India, who is to be an officer from his Majesty's royal regiment of artillery, with the rank of major general."

ANNAPOLIS, MARCH 17.

On Sunday evening the 6th inst. was married, by the Rev. Mr. Wilmer, Richard Bennett Carmichael, Esq; to Miss Kitty Murray, daughter of the late Dr. Murray, of Chester-Town, Maryland.

"Let mirth go on, let pleasure know no pause;  
But fill up every moment of their lives  
With joy."

CUSTOM-HOUSE.

ENTERED.

Schooner Sulannab, Nathaniel Dodd, from Salem.  
Schooner Elizabeth, Josiah Godfrey, from Boston.  
Ship Jenny and Polly, Daniel Lawrence, from London.  
Schooner Happy Return, Thomas Boyle, from Cadiz.

CLEARED.

Sloop Lively, Timothy Wadham, for New-Providence.  
Ship Nancy, John Robertson, for Genoa.  
Schooner Sally, Nathaniel Gray, for Boston.  
Ship Isabella, Simon Breffelt, for Virginia.  
The Captains Richardson, Coulton, and Suel, are arrived in Patuxent from London.

DR. EPHRAIM HOWARD'S Letter to DR. CHARLES WHIESENTHALL concluded.

YOU say I have not proved that such dangerous consequences would have ensued an abscess on Mr. Coale—and to prove the contrary, you have had recourse to your journal for two cases, where the consequences were not so bad—you attended col. Charles Hammond's son, and must have seen the consequences of an abscess forming there, which I think not very favourable; it is probable you might forget to insert it in your journal—I should have been well pleased to have seen a torrent of quotations from the best authors, proving that an inflammation of the muscles require bleeding only to take off the tension and not procure a resolution. (F) I have given you a case from Huxham, I think in essentials as similar, or more so, than either of yours, also his caution where he so strongly recommends bringing on a resolution of the whole inflammation. (G) He points out the danger attending abscess—if you will peruse Van Swieten, you may find many instances of the bad consequences attending abscess of those parts—that there have been instances of abscess in the muscles, particularly the fleshy parts, without bad consequences ensuing, I grant, though very few where the tendinous parts are suppured; so there are instances of abscess forming in the head and discharged by the frontal sinuses, without any bad consequences ensuing; also abscess of the lungs, liver, &c. and the patient soon got well: yet, I presume, a common attendant, or illiterate nurse, would dread abscess forming in those places.

You take the liberty of differing in sentiments, presuming these muscles were not the original seat—I should have been glad you would have pointed out where the original was—you observe in your journal his original disorder was a rheumatic fever; which puts me to a necessity to define what rheumatism really is, and shall for that purpose give you Dr. Cullen's definition. Rheumatismus morbus ab externa et pleurumque evidente causa, pyrexia; dolor circa articulos musculorum tractum sequens, genua et reliquos majores, potius quam pedum vel manuum articulos, infestans—Now sir, as you acknowledge his disorder to be of the rheumatic kind, I presume you will not deny but what the seat of the inflammation was originally in the muscles, I shall here subjoin Hoffman's opinion on the seat of a rheumatism. "In rheumatismo, musculi cum eorum membrana communi & tendinibus ubi ossibus inseruntur, gravi dolore & spasmo hinc inde in artibus aliisque corporis regionibus afficiunt, &c."—I am of the opinion that part of the pectoralis major which is inserted about the head of the humerus, also the tendinous parts of the other muscles inserting about the shoulder, and the membranes surrounding the joint, were the original seat of inflammation, which caused the pain previous to the fever; from an imprudence of Mr. Coale a few days before the fever, exposing himself in the rain, a spasmodic stricture was induced on the superficial, of course a greater determination to the internal parts; by which his shoulder became more affected (which at times from April had pains in it of the rheumatic kind) as the inflammation and pain increased, the fleshy parts of the muscles became affected, also the intercostals; a fever being now excited from the great stimulus, in proportion as the impetus of the circulation increased, so did every complaint.

I presume whenever an inflammation terminates in suppuration, the abscess must form where the seat of inflammation was; therefore, if an abscess had formed

on the breast or shoulder, it would have been liable to all the bad consequences I mentioned—and worse than on the knee, as there would have been no amputating those parts.

In reality you cannot think what intent I could have in bleeding him again, as the tumour was brought to a resolution, and my intent fully answered—I will then explain to you—I confess that on bleeding him the second time, on the second day of his disorder, his complaints were removed, and a resolution of the inflammation seemingly procured—the fever depending thereon also subsided—but on the fifth day, the inflammation returned violently, in consequence the fever—here, I say there was an indication to bleed again; as my assertion may not appear to be in consequence of an hypothetical theory, I will refer you to some of the best practical authorities—Huxham observes when a pain has ceased for a considerable time, and returns again violently, it plainly shows a fresh inflammation; and requires bleeding as much as the primary, though not to the same degree—Cleggborn from observations says, he found the accessary seizure on the fourth and fifth days, after the inflammation and pain were removed by bleeding in the beginning, were in consequence of not carrying the evacuation far enough at first; that those fresh attacks often baffled all his endeavours afterwards; and when they did recover it was very slow—but observe, that afterwards he bled his patients with more freedom in the beginning, which prevented those accessary seizures, and his patients soon recovered—your journal says that the pulse was such, as to have admitted bleeding the 7th day (viz. five days after the last bleeding) and you would have ordered it, if the tumefaction was not subsiding—I think this is a demonstrative proof that bleeding could not have been used too copiously—please to look into Huxham, Hillary, & Smith, and many other of the best authors, and you will find that they observe in topical inflammations, if the symptoms require it, so long as the pulse keeps full and strong, the propriety of bleeding is maintained; therefore if his pulse indicated bleeding on the 7th day, there needs no other confirmation it was not used too copiously.

It is an observation founded on the experience of ages, that the pulse is the best and surest guide; for so long as it is full and strong, bleeding may be used with freedom if the symptoms require it.

That inflammatory disorders, and particularly the rheumatic, attack different parts successively, is an observation made by most; whether it may be from any matter translated from one part to another, or other causes, it's not a time now to discuss. The most effectual method of preventing those successive attacks, is by bleeding plentifully in the beginning, and so long as the pulse keeps full and hard, the pain and inflammation continuing, bleeding is indicated. "The cure ought to be attempted only by bleeding says Sydenham. (H) To show you my ideas are not merely the effects of hypothetical theory when I speak of an inflammatory diathesis, I will give you the observation of one of the most experienced physicians of this age, Morgagni, "in those persons whose blood is disposed to create inflammations, it happens not unfrequently, that many places are inflamed at the same time, or at least one after another," letter 20, article 44.

What this particular inflammatory disposition consists in, I confess cannot so easily be ascertained, but I will here give you the observations of some of the first physicians of this age; which probably may lead us to think those successive attacks are not from a translation of matter; Morgagni observes, that there appears to be a peculiar disposition to concretion of the gluten (or what some call coagulable lymph) in inflammations, and from that he accounts for the polypos concretions, that appear on dissection. He further observes, the more the inflammatory crust is, the greater number of polypos, and when he has seen blood drawn not long before death without the crust, he has predicted before dissection there were few if any polypos concretions, which has been verified on opening the body. Dr. Hunter and Cleggborn both make mention of the separation of the gluten, found on dissection in topical inflammations, which they consider symptomatic. Dr. Lind, physician to Hanover hospital, in two papers laid before the medical society of Edinburgh, observes the same, and looks on it as the cause of inflammation, and observes this spontaneous separation always exists in inflammatory disorders. Dr. De Haen in Vienna, in his observations on dissection in inflammations of the breast observes the same, as you will find in his ratio medendi, vol. 3. Now sir, I presume the gradual increase of the pain and inflammation of his knee, also the subsiding of that of his shoulder, was nothing more than what is common in rheumatic complaints, and requires no other cure than being removed in the incipient state by copious bleeding, &c. as is observed by every experienced physician—you have taken a step to your journal and mention your visit on the 2d of June, (I) when you found the pain of the shoulder &c. subsided, and a violent pain of the knee, &c. and you mention as a specimen of my candour, that he had taken the bark freely and in various forms, and claret, previous to your coming; which you could not help agreeing to, which I had omitted in my state of the case—as you have asserted that the bark had been given largely and in various forms before your coming on the 2d of June, to point out to the reader a clearer idea of the nature of your journal; I will here subjoin your letter of the first of June,

SIR,

The pain in Mr. Coale's knee is nothing more than a continuation of the rheumatic symptoms, of which

(H) Who you so much rever, as so strongly to have recommended to your pupil, that he should bleed him four times—what a pity it was he had not been by your side, (when you contradicted me in regard to his writing on the plague) that he might have given you a hunch, observing you was exposing yourself—I will take the liberty of recommending it to you; never to contend concerning the writings of Sydenham, without having your pupil placed by you.

(I) Your journal makes no mention of this visit,

he had a fever—the laterious sediment promises something critical; I would therefore recommend the tinctura cort. peruv. & spi. vitr. dulc.—viz. as long as the fever does not terminate into intermission, two parts of the spiritus virriol. with one part of the tinct. cort. but when the fever plainly remits, though the complet intermission, then the tinct. cort. may be double to the spirit. vitr. dulc. still to continue the antimonials between as cause may be appearing. These species of fevers seldom are quite terminating, and generally subside gradually, the application of the bark in a mild form is of great use to make them terminate speedily—be pleased to give my compliments to the family, and wishing a quick recovery,

I am Sir,

Your most humble servant,  
CHARLES WHIESENTHALL.

I received this letter on the 2d of June in the morning, and thought the quantity of bark mentioned by you insignificant; therefore left the letter laying on the table at Mr. Coale's to be shown to Dr. Puc, with this observation, "I am of the opinion that the cort. may be used with more freedom than mentioned by Dr. Whiesenthall, therefore have sent the proportion of the tincture in greater quantity."

Now on the 2d of June, about the middle of the day, I sent him the bark for the first time; it is probable he might have taken one dose thereof before you came in the evening, still you say it had been given largely, and in various forms before your second visit, also claret; which you observe you could not help agreeing to, with a precaution of its being genuine.

I declare no claret had ever been given before your second visit; it was mentioned to you by some of the family, that I had recommended it; which you did not seem to approve of; which was mentioned to me, and on the 3d of June in the morning, I asked you what objection you had to claret; you answered it was seldom genuine and might heat—I observed that Charles Carrol, Esq; had the genuine, and a messenger was sent when we came from the house together. (K)

Your letter on the first of June, may convey to the reader your ideas of his complaint—I presume no one can think from what you say there, that you expected an abscess was forming, but considered it as a rheumatic symptom, and that it would gradually go off as rheumatic complaints generally do; or does it seem you was afraid of the matter being translated to a more noble part; when you recommended laudanum to rub it with, to ease the pain—compare your letter of this date with your journal—there may appear as great a mutability of your ideas, as there is of your manners.

I presume it's not a matter of any great importance, whether the pulsations were counted by a glass, clock, or watch—I am not yet so callous in impudate, to assert that to be a fact to day; which will be proved to be false the next—it's not probable I should make those observations and the family not know it, therefore if not true, I was sure to be detected—I beg your pardon for giving so superficial an account after the 2d of June, also for the omissions; as the purpose of my letter was to prove his disorder was of the inflammatory kind, and that bleeding ought to have been used so long as the pain and inflammation continued, provided the pulse was full and strong; also to point out the bad effects of abscess forming in those parts; I thought it superfluous to mention every article, as all were used with the same intent, and were medicines of the same tendency, or could I have given so full an account, as I did not visit him so singular, as his son Samuel was with him, who was capable of observing the changes.

That I offered to lay 50 guineas on my side of the question, of there being no matter contained in the abscess of the knee, is true; also that I thought the inflammation might originally be brought on by relaxation of the part, and that there was not any danger in applying any thing to prevent suppuration taking place; as from the stiffness before any sensation of pain being several days, also the oedematous swelling of the leg and foot, plainly showed a great relaxation; but as more full and candid account given by you might have shown my ideas were not merely hypothetical theory.

It was only in regard to the consistence of the fluid contained in the abscess, I denied; you must remember this—I denied its being matter, as not being the consistence of pus; you said all bodies were matter; I told you in a philosophical idea they were, but in a physical one not; and nothing with propriety could be called matter, except it was the consistence of pus. That I knew there was an abscess is certain, as for two days before your coming, I wanted to open it; as you will see by my state of his case; I have very candidly delivered the appearance on opening. You observed that it had been a translation of morbid matter to the knee, and that suppuration was favourable, by which he soon would recover.

I told you my ideas were different, that as he had been much relaxed; that an obstruction might arise in those parts merely from the tonic power of the vessels here being lost, from which the pain and inflammation therefore any thing tending to restore the contractile power of the vessels, might remove the inflammation and prevent an abscess taking place; but as the abscess now existed it could not be let out too soon.

That the bone became affected by any of the applications I deny, as the inflammation was seated in the tendinous parts of the muscles, and membranes surrounding the joint, and not improbably from the vicinity of the parts; the capsular ligament was also affected, the abscess must have formed here—stricture in cases where there is great weakness, if they do remove the obstructions, tend to increase in nature. That pain and inflammation of the rheumatic kind

(K) Cannot you take another step to your journal, to prove beyond contradiction, that not withstanding the bark was not procured, or agreed by should take it, and the 3d June—It is said that you had before your visit on the 2d June.