

plished with—but I shall refrain from publishing them.

The above, "I trust, will satisfy even the most fastidious person," that justice as well as humanity prompted me to exert myself in behalf of those people.

As the inhabitants of St. John, whose liberality and benevolence never have been surpassed when any calamity or distress have called them into action, must be heartily tired of this affair, I shall now take my leave of it.

JOHN BOYD, M. D.
July 22, 1830. Visiting Physician.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COURIER.

SIR,—It is a strange enormity for which sophistry may not furnish some plausible defence, that will satisfy a conscience not over-scrupulous; but to suppose that the public are to be misled by a tissue of such riddles and low wit as is displayed in a Communication signed "Robert Bayard," which appeared in last Saturday's Paper, is to allow them a very small share of discernment indeed. Nothing but the greatest enfeeblement could offer this insult to their understanding. A more puerile and imbecile production never blotted paper; and with its author, would be too contemptible to deserve attention were it not for some circumstances which it is connected. He tells us, his visit to the Island was undertaken for the satisfaction of his patients, and was sanctioned by two Aldermen of the City; and we are, of course, gratified with a spurious sort of *Notitia* dated from the Police Office, a few days thereafter, announcing openly their contempt of an injunction issued by the chief Magistrate. It would appear, however, that this stratagem being not quite successful in satisfying public uneasiness, and some consequent quarrels seizing certain Members of the Common Council, the subject was taken into consideration by that body on the Friday or Saturday following; and a minute, as it is rumoured, was entered by the Clerk (which by the bye ought to have been made equally public,) disclaiming all knowledge of that document, or rather declaring that it was issued without authority; and thus virtually denouncing it as a barefaced imposition on the Public, and which, it was expected, would obtain credit under this official character; and the inference unavoidably follows, that all concerned are implicated in a disonourable trick, for the purpose of concealing an offence dictated by the basest motives, and fraught with danger to the lives of their fellow-citizens. If not lost to every sense of shame, the declaration of the two Constables might cover them with confusion.—Our civic authorities ought to bear in mind, that their whole power and importance is derived from the citizens; that their appointment including that of the Mayor (though founded on a different source) is like that of the Health Officers, for a single year; that, like them also, their reelection depends altogether on their faithful and upright discharge of their public duties; and that all, from the highest functionary in the Province to the lowest, are amenable to public opinion. There is no saving Statutory Provision to place them beyond the reach of the law. They can do wrong; and when they do transgress, they are liable to punishment. I am, indeed, unwilling to suppose, that, by the minute alluded to, any individual could have sealed his own condemnation; and by so doing, rendered himself unworthy of the confidence of the Public. It must, nevertheless, be said, that, when we discover that two Aldermen accompanied Dr. Bayard to the Island on his anti-meridian expedition, (I allow him every advantage in respect to the hour, for it does not alter the colour of the day, and did actually go on shore there, and permit others also to do so; and that the Mayor himself, with his wonted zeal, was ready to receive them, on their return, at the place of their landing at the Lower Cove; there appears something like a concerted plan, and a previous understanding between the parties. The result, however, was very different from what had been confidently expected. For the Doctor admits, that he really found small-pox on the Island, having obtained by this voyage of discovery as much information as enabled him to distinguish this disease from "fever with a peculiar eruption," and which for aught that we know, may have no other name. The price paid for this knowledge was indeed high; but what will not the man of science undertake on hazard for the sake of "patients affected with a peculiar eruption!" It will be perceived then that the mistake lay altogether with the Doctor, who seems to have been wonderfully puzzled what to make of this "fever with peculiar eruption;" which after all, turns out, as we are told, to be nothing more than what the old women call *swine-pox*; and these good ladies might, perhaps, have saved the Doctor a great deal of unnecessary perplexity and trouble, had he only heeded the counsel of calling them in consultation. It is strange the Doctor should, on this occasion, display so much inconsistency of character; or, shall we rather admire the versatility of his opinions and their ready adaptation to suit his interests? It will be remembered, that, about the time he condescended to favour this City, by making it the place of his residence, he strongly advocated the practice of *small-pox* inoculation as preferable to *Vaccination*, contrary to the opinion of every enlightened member of the medical profession and the experience of nearly forty years;—and what is far more to be admired, exhibiting an unexampled perversion of principle, he even argued against his own conviction!—Now, we must either charge him with inconsistency, unless it be admitted (as some have supposed) that his visit to the Island was for the purpose of procuring a supply of small-pox matter for the benefit of His Majesty's liege subjects; all which is, perhaps, extremely praiseworthy and honourable; and may, in some places, raise him, already "distinguished," to the pinnacle of fame; but which, in England, might obtain for him some salutary recreation in the treadmill.

It will be universally admitted, that the Visiting Physician enjoys as high a claim to humanity and courteous manners as the "distinguished" Doctor; and any of his Corporate allies; and it will not be supposed, whatever difference of opinion he may have from that gentleman, that he would have refused, on such an occasion, if respectfully applied to, to afford every facility (as far as he was concerned) of obtaining the information wished for; and which, I doubt not, would have been readily granted, had the letter addressed to the Aldermen been transmitted (as it ought) by them to the Visiting Physicians and the Mayor. But this would not have answered the Doctor's purpose; for the Visiting Physicians are supposed to mistake the disease, and it was necessary to pounce upon them by surprise; while his rendered errand by a pledge being required by the cautious Aldermen, that the Doctor would not publish his discovery of the suspected error, until they were prepared to receive it, and provide against the consequences. If they gave any credit to the mean insinuations of Doctor Bayard, it was incumbent on them, as public men, to make a candid and unreserved communication of them to the Visiting Physicians. By having neglected to do so, they voluntarily subject themselves to a share of the odium.

The manly and disinterested feeling which prompted the statement of Dr. Boyd, is deserving of, and has received the unqualified approbation of all respectable members of this community, or those whose praise is of any value; and his colleague, Mr. Cook, has not even aimed at participation; whether from unwillingness to offend certain members of the Corporation, or from other motives, I shall not decide; but I would beg leave to remind him, that the countenance of some men is more ominous than eclipse, and more baneful than the blast of the desert. The Corporation, as true, has the nomination of the Health Officers; but this is a privilege they hold only from year to year, in trust for their fellow-citizens, and date not abuse it. The Health Officers, when once appointed, are the Officers of the Public.

I am induced, in this place, to advert to the letter addressed by the Mayor, in reply, to the Visiting Physician; not as exhibiting an example of accurate composition or philanthropic feeling, but on account of an expression near its conclusion, worthy of notice, and which seems to con- tain the supposition, that there was, indeed, something like a harmony in this quadruple alliance of Magistrate and Doctor. It is, truly, a notable episode. The public has a right in laying it before them;—for the subject makes it official, in spite of all familiarities of address and language; and, as a public document, it is free to public criticism.

Instead of promising support to the Visiting Physicians in the discharge of their highly responsible public duty, he announces to them the threats of his "distinguished" friend; whose ire, dreadful to relate, was kindled to "fever heat," and which, spreading like contagion to His Worship, inspires his "peculiarly" happy "eruption" of style; doubtless, through the medium of that sympathy which never fails to actuate men of congenial minds, whose character and conduct so admirably fit them for each other's society and co-operation in good works.

Such, then, is the development of this singular transaction, wherein the Doctor was prompted (he will say) for the public weal, to expose his Worshipful companions to the dangers of the deep, the unwholesomeness of a "fever morning," and the risk of disfiguring them with the small-pox; a disaster, against which, however, it is presumed, the Doctor would employ the same infallible antidote which, he tells us, he so carefully made use of for the safety of his own person; whether it consisted in external ablation or internal potation—whether in whitewashing, bleaching, smoking or baking; of which highly interesting process, it is hoped, the "distinguished" Doctor will gratify the scientific world with a full and particular account, in the next edition of his elaborate work on Ob- stetrics, should it properly come under that head. St. John, July 19, 1830.

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