

To those friends who have already remitted their two dollars, we tender our thanks. We transmitted acknowledgments on the receipt of the monies, which we hope they duly received.

### COMPULSORY VACCINATION.

Small pox has always been a loathed and dreaded disease. Nor is this to be wondered at. The hideous disfigurement of the features which is present during the different stages of the eruption, and the heavy, disagreeable odour which emanates from the person of the patient, particularly during the periods of maturation and desiccation, render him, for the time, an object of disgust even to those most nearly related to him by ties of consanguinity or affection. The deep pits and seams, moreover, the results of the cicatrization of the pustules, which too often remain after the subsidence of the eruption, is not less distressing to the friends than to the person affected, from the great and permanent alteration which they make in the personal appearance of the individual. Since its first outbreak in Arabia, in the era of the Hegira, A. D. 622, down to the present time, it has been distinguished, in its different epidemic visitations, by a rate of mortality greater than obtains in many other diseases. This, in conjunction with its repulsive character, sufficiently accounts for the manifestation of dread which is usually exhibited by the great majority of persons as it approaches a place, or makes its appearance among a community.

The Asiatic and Northern African nations appear to have practised inoculation for small pox many centuries before its introduction into Europe. They, at an early period, became cognizant of the benefits to be derived from the induction of the disease in a person previously prepared for its reception, particularly at a time when the prevailing epidemic was mild in character. They observed that inoculation, under such circumstances, produced a disease of far less severity, and one which was not as liable to terminate in death. The practice was adopted in Constantinople at the end of the 17th century; and the first inoculation in London took place in the year 1721. It was introduced into the latter place by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. From thence it spread slowly, meeting with great opposition; but towards the latter part of the 18th century, it was generally practised throughout Europe. Just at this period, 1798, Dr. Jenner announced to the world his immortal discovery of Vaccination. One would require to be familiar with the fearful accounts which have been transmitted to us, of the great malignancy of small pox during past ages, to duly appreciate the vastness of the blessing conferred on mankind by this apparently simple discovery. The older authors abound with heart-thrilling descriptions of cities depopulated—populations decimated, or almost entirely swept away, and kingdoms