

a man's hand, fracturing and carrying away the anterior half of the sixth rib, fracturing the fifth, lacerating the lower portion of the left lobe of the lungs, and the diaphragm, and perforating the stomach." Lacerated portions of the lungs and stomach separated and left a perforation into the latter, large enough to admit the whole length of the middle finger into its cavity; and also a passage into the cavity of the chest half as big as his fist. The orifice in the side and stomach never closed. His life was often in jeopardy, but through the skill and unremitting care with which he was treated by Dr. Beaumont, he ultimately recovered, so that in ten months he was able to go about and do light work, rapidly gaining strength.

In one year from the date of the accident the injured parts were all sound except the perforation into the stomach, which was now two and a half inches in circumference. For some months thereafter the food could be retained only by constantly wearing a compress and bandage; but early in the winter, a small fold or doubling of the villous coat began to appear, which gradually increased till it filled the aperture and acted as a valve, so as completely to prevent any flux from within, but to admit of being easily pushed back by the finger from without.

Dr. Beaumont began his experiments in May, 1825, and continued them for four or five months; St. Martin being then in high health. In the autumn, St. Martin returned to Canada, married, had a family, worked hard, engaged as a voyager with the Hudson's Bay Fur Company, remained there four years, and was then, at a great expense, engaged by Dr. Beaumont to come and reside near him, on the Mississippi, for the purpose of enabling him to complete his investigations. He came accordingly in August, 1829, and remained till March 1831. He then went a second time to Canada, but returned to Dr. B. in November 1832, when the experiments were once more resumed, and continued till March 1833, at which time he finally left Dr. Beaumont. He now says Dr. Combe in 1836, enjoys perfect health, but the orifice made by the wound remains in the same state as in 1824.

Dr. Beaumont describes the aperture in St. Martin's stomach as being situated about three inches from the cardia, near the left or superior termination of the the great curvature. When the stomach was nearly empty, he was able to examine its cavity to the depth of five or six inches by artificial distention. Such then was the favorable subject on which Dr. Beaumont's observations and experiments were made; and such were the numerous opportunities which he enjoyed for repeating them, and verifying their accuracy.