

the Latin. "Some of the ancients affirmed, that light gave an organization, sensation, and thought, to the primitive chaos, and is the pabulum of all living things. It is the purest, brightest and most beautiful of all that we behold, of the works of the Creator." Plato, in *Timæus*, asserts that fire and heat beget and govern all things. He accounts for the animal functions, from air and fire joined, acting through the whole body; fire expanding within and fire compressing without. The Abbe le Plucifé says, there are but three fluids, which by their continual activity, cause all motion; these are *fire, light air*; and they are the breath of life. These active agents the heathen held to be intelligent, and the gods that govern the world. Fire and air, they call the active moving powers, and earth and water the passive elements.

These opinions correspond with Dr. Thomson, who thinks with them, that the circulation of the blood is caused by the expanding power of heat within, and the compression of air without. The activity he has assigned to them agrees with the most reputed systems of ancient philosophy. An egg cannot hatch, says Dr. Ray, without air and heat. They have absolute dominion over all things. The circulation of the blood is from internal heat, and external air pressing into the lungs, they serve as a pump to draw the blood from the heart, and the air keeps this pump in motion. The air is to the body, what the weight is to a clock, and the heart with its valves, as a pendulum to regulate its motions.

We now perceive, from these few examples of ancient and modern opinions, and they might be greatly enlarged, that Dr. Thomson has not given too much importance to heat and air, in his theory; or if he has erred, it is in great society, and with long established maxims of profound reason, and careful observation.

Dr. Thomson says, food and medicine are in harmony with each other; they grow in the same field, and are gathered by the same people. Dr. Ray remarks, we derive our food from the surface of the earth, and it also contains our principal medicine.

In accordance with the sentiments of the philosopher, on the beneficial results of misfortune, Dr. Thomson was forced into his career of medicine, and pressed forward till triumph crowned his struggles, and wealth repaid his toil; from the vale of obscurity he has risen to take his rank among the benefactors of the world.

UNFETTERED CANADIAN.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1849.

Continuation of the Discussion between
N. B. Wolfe, M. D. and the Editor.

LETTER I.

TO ROBERT DICK ESQ :

Respected Sir,—The fifth No. of the *Unfettered Canadian* has been duly received, in which I find, you have opened the discussion of the question :

"If the restrictive laws which now protect the medical profession, were removed, would society at large be benefitted?"

The above question was submitted to you, with my written declaration, that I was prepared to sustain the negative of the argument through the medium of any press that would grant the use of its columns. I still hold myself in readiness to make good that declaration, and if Mr. Dick is to be my antagonist, we must have an adjustment of the "Rules" that are to govern the discussion.

Your note, responsive to a note dated, August 1st, contains the following statements: 1st, "I pledge myself to publish your productions, so long as three doctors of your profession, sustaining an honourable reputation in society can be found to sanction them." 2nd, "I shall claim the right, however, of calling upon you to sustain the affirmative after the publication of your sixth communication, for an equal number of articles."

Now sir, have you accepted the proposition I made, and as it stands recorded in the *Unfettered Canadian*? If so, why have you placed me under the restraints of a Medical Board