

It is on record that Dr. Simcott, of Huntingdonshire, was constantly being sent for, and no doubt that worthy practitioner went with a grumble to minister to the woes of the *malade imaginaire*.

At this time Oliver was constantly consulting Dr. Mayerne in London. The court physician undoubtedly must have given him twenty grains of calomel, his favorite dose, although no mention is made of treatment in the *Ephemerides*. "Monsieur Cromwell valde melancholicus." The records go on to state that the Great Oliver was the victim of a periodic pain in his stomach, whose time of attack was exactly three hours after the future Protector had eaten his dinner. Its favorite site was in his left side. Probably it was an enlarged spleen, the result of malaria. Cromwell had just returned from drinking the waters at Wellingborough, in the county of Northampton. The consultation took place on the 29th September, 1628. This long residence in Huntingdonshire, a tract of country notoriously ill-drained, was probably the origin of the ague from which he suffered during the rest of his life.

During the Scotch campaign he was constantly upon the sick list; and the Parliament were so concerned that they sent Dr. Bates and Dr. Wright to Scotland to advise him, as well as to report to Parliament his condition of health. He refused to follow the advice offered him—that he should retire from active life.

For the next seven years after this, Oliver Cromwell enjoyed good health. He was made Lord Protector in 1653. The year 1658 was one of trouble and anxiety. He lost by death his friend, the Earl of Warwick, his son-in-law, Mr. Rich, and, worst of all, his favorite daughter, Mrs. Claypole. Her last illness was prolonged and painful. She died, it was thought, of cancer. For fourteen days and nights Cromwell was a constant attendant at her bedside.* It was said that his refusal of the request that the life of Dr. Hewett should be spared, weighed so heavily on the mind of the dying woman that her last words

* An account of the last hours of the late renowned Oliver Cromwell. London, 1659.