

standing on higher ground than *Paracelsus*, who was born 1493.

As to the point of your *originality*, I will sum it up in as few words as I possibly can—I regard you as the *Tree*, the root and trunk, of the *Lobelia* and vapour bath system, conjoined; its limbs your immediate agents, and its leaves and fruit, the purchasers of the rights and privileges—all deriving their value from the *Tree* of knowledge, and having said this, I have performed a grateful office, and I may add, duty, to all around me, and remain, and hope ever to remain,

Your steady friend,  
BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE.

---

**LETTER FROM PROFESSOR  
WATERHOUSE.**

NO. IV.

To Samuel L. Mitchell, M. D., LL. D., of the city of  
New-York.

CAMBRIDGE, Dec. 19th, 1835.

My dear Sir:—Dr. Samuel Thomson, who has the honor of introducing the valuable *Lobelia* into use, and fully proved its efficacy and safety, will deliver you this. He has cured and relieved many disorders which others could not, without being a regular diplomatised physician, and dared to be a republican in a hot-bed of federalism; for which he has been shamefully ill-treated, even to persecution.

I have aided and assisted Dr. Thomson from a firm belief that his novel practice has been beneficial to numbers, and that it may be placed among improvements. If he be a quack, he is a quack *sui generis*, for he proclaims his mode and means. Had John Hunter, whom I well knew, been born and bred where Samuel Thomson was, he would have been just such another man; and had S. T. been thrown into the same society and associations as J. H. he would, in my opinion, have been his equal, with probably a wider range of thought; both are men of talents and originality of thought.

I am, indeed, so disgusted with learned quackery, that I take some interest in honest, humane and strong-minded empiricism; for it has done more for our art in all ages and in all countries, than all the universities since the time of Charlemagne. Where, for goodness-sake, did Hippocrates study?—air, earth, and water—man, and his kindred—vegetable; disease and death, and all casualties and concomitants of humanity, were the pages he studied—every thing that surrounds and nourishes us, were the objects of his attention and study. In a word, he read diligently and sagaciously, *the great book of nature*, as Thomson has, instead of the little books of man.

How came your legislature to pass so unconstitutional an act as that called the '*anti-quack law*'? such as the parliament of England would hardly have ventured on; for, *who will define quackery*? Were I sufficiently acquainted with your excellent governor Clinton, I would write to him on the subject. You New-Yorkers are half a century behind us in *theological science*, and your quack bill looks as if you halted also in physie.

By what I have seen and learnt of Dr. Thomson, I wish him success, and the notice of the eminent and the liberal in his profession; and with these views I give him this rapidly written letter to you, and am with a high degree of esteem and respect, his steady friend.

BENJ. WATERHOUSE.

---

**THE TESTIMONY OF DR. DON-  
ALDSON,**

A SCOTCH PHYSICIAN OF HIGH REPUTE.

I was educated in the Gregorian doctrines of the Edinburgh school of Medicine; I was taught the theory of medicine as delivered in his *Conspectus*, and was exercised in the Cullenian discipline, divested of all his hypothetical errors of spasm and atony of the extremities of arteries. I learned all the branches of the medical science under the distinguished and erudite professors of the most celebrated uni-