

and ever will be the only reward of the benefactors of the human race. "Lady Mary," says his Lordship, "protested that in the four or five years immediately succeeding her arrival at home, she seldom passed a day without repenting of her patriotic undertaking; and she vowed she never would have attempted it if she had foreseen the vexation, the persecution, and even the obloquy it brought upon her. The clamours raised against the practice, and of course against her, were beyond belief. The faculty all rose in arms to a man, forestalling failure and the most disastrous consequences; the clergy descended from their pulpits on the impiety of thus seeking to take events out of the hands of Providence; and the common people were taught to hoot at her as an unnatural mother who had risked the lives of her own children. We now read in grave medical biography, that the discovery was instantly hailed, and the method adopted by the principal members of that profession. Very likely they left this recorded—for whenever an invention or a project, and the same may be said of persons, has made its way so well by itself as to establish a certain reputation, most people are sure to find out that they always patronized it from the beginning, and a happy gift of forgetfulness enables many to believe their own assertion. But what said Lady Mary of the actual fact and actual time? Why, that the four great physicians deputed by government to watch the progress of her daughter's inoculation betrayed not only such incredulity as to its success, but such an unwillingness to have it succeed—such an evident spirit of rancour and malignity, that she never cared to leave the child alone with them one second, lest it should in some secret way suffer from their interference."

Gentlemen, how was the still greater discovery of the immortal Jenner received—Vaccination? Like every other discovery—with ridicule and contempt. By the Royal College of Physicians, not only was Jenner persecuted and oppressed; but long even after the benefits which his practice had conferred upon mankind had been universally admitted, the pedants of that most pedantic of bodies refused to give him license to practice his profession in London; because, with a proper feeling of self respect, he declined to undergo at their hands a school-boy examination in Greek and Latin. The qualifications of the schoolmaster not the attainments of the physician; the locality of study, rather than the extent of information possessed by the candidate, were, till very lately, the indispensable preliminaries to the honours of the College.—Public opinion has since forced them to a more liberal course. But, to return to Jenner; even religion and the Bible were made engines of attack against him. From these Errham of Frankfurt deduced his chief grounds of accusation against the new practice; and he gravely

attempts to prove from quotations of the prophetic parts of Scripture, and the writings of the fathers of the church, Vaccination was the real *Antichrist*! Can you wonder that medicine should have made so little progress, if those only make fortunes by means of it who know nothing more than the jargon and crudities which pass for medical science with the vulgar? How true are the words of the son of Sirach—after searching the world he "returned and saw under the sun, that there was neither bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favour to men of skill."

Gentlemen, the ancients endeavoured to elevate physic to the dignity of science, but failed. The moderns, with more success, have endeavoured to reduce it to the level of a trade. Till the emoluments of those who chiefly practise it cease to depend upon the quantity of useless drugs they mercilessly inflict upon their deluded patients—till surgeons shall be other than mechanics, and physicians something more than mere puppets of the apothecary—till the terrible system of collusion, which at present prevails under the name of a "good understanding among the different branches of the profession" be exposed, the medical art must continue to be a source of destruction to the many—a butt for the ridicule of the discerning few. The wits of every age and country have amused themselves at the expense of the physician; against this science they have directed all the shafts of their satire: and in the numerous inconsistencies and contradictions of its professor—they have found matter for some of the richest scenes. Moliere, so long the terror of the apothecaries of Paris, makes one of the *dramatic personæ* say to another, "Call in a doctor, and if you do not like his physic, I'll soon find you another who will condemn it!" Rousseau showed his distrust of the entire faculty, when he said, "Science which instructs, and physic which cures us, are excellent certainly; but science which misleads, and physic which destroys, are equally execrable; teach us how to distinguish them." Equally sceptical and rather more sarcastic in his satire of the profession was Le Sage. "Death," says he, "has two wings; on one are painted war, plague, famine, fire, shipwreck, with all the other miseries that prevent him, at every instant, with a new prey. On the other wing you will behold a crowd of young physicians about to take their degree before him. Death with a Demon smile, dubs them doctors. (*leur donne le bonnet*) having first made them swear never in any way to alter the established practice of physic." But it is not our continental neighbours only who have laboured to expose medical pretensions. Locke, Smollet, Goldsmith, (all three physicians) held their art in contempt. Swift, Temple, Hume, Adam Smith—to say nothing of Beron, Hazlitt, and other contemporaries, were equally severe on its