

in Athens; and never before had this dreadful scourge of the human race, ravaged so many countries and climes. Rising on the burning brow of Africa, through Ethiopia, Egypt, Lybia and Persia, Syria and Cyprus, and Lemnos, together with many other places of Asia and isles of the Ægean sea, it held its dreadful and desolating course. The nations stood appalled in its presence, and thousands perished by its breath! A merchant vessel landing in Piræus, brought the disease to Athens; and this fell destroyer ragged with a fury before unknown, over that city of Minerva. Its fearful and rapid progress seemed to bid defiance to all mortal skill.—From the first attack of the disease, the powers of the mind seemed blotted out, while the body acquired new and additional strength; as if the enemy, on purpose, had augmented the power to suffer. The torment was terrible. The sick were seized with despair, and the *sound* confounded with madness.—All the laws of equity and social order trample down. Scenes of riot and confusion, and reckless tumult, surrounded the march of death! The diseased was first smitten in the head; from this the malady passed down through the whole body, leaving in one shapeless mass, that noble form divine. But the sufferers seldom waited for this terrible catastrophe; but, in the beginning, in the fury of distraction, plunged into wells, rivers, and the sea, to quench the consuming fire that devoured within them!

It was in this awful crisis of his ruin, that one man, one single man, skilled in the use of those divine remedies, which the God of Nature has lodged in the herbs and flowers of the field, entered the devoted city,

and shook off, with a giant's strength the deadly grasp of the destroyer. The sound of his very name poured hope and consolation through the torn bosom, filled with the agonies of despair! This man was the far famed Hippocrates. He dwelt in the Island of Cos. At the breaking out of the plague in Persia, Artaxerxes the great, king of the empire wrote to the physician to hasten to the relief of his dominions. He allured him by the most magnificent promises; the most splendid offers of wealth and honors. But the physician replied to the great king, that he had neither wants nor desires; and he owed his services and his skill, whatever they might be, to his country, rather than her enemies! This magnanimous reply so enraged the monarch, that he sent a squadron to bring him by force of arms; but Hippocrates had sailed far Athens. And the power of his fame upon the mind, and his skill over the body, scattered the shadows of death, and shed around him a radiance of joy and hope, as if an angel's visit had lighted upon the City.

To purify the air, he caused large fires to be kindled in all the streets and lanes of Athens. And to relieve the suffering from the consuming heat which devoured their entrails, he placed them in warm baths to expel the infection by the surface of the skin; and, to support their weakness, caused them to drink the rich wines of Naxos.

The great examples of success and diligence in the healing art, to discover and apply new modes of cure, when we find all the *common* and *established* forms baffled and confounded, should dispose us to cherish, as the martyr would his faith, whatever discovery may be-

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