

allusion to the dreaded disease. Thankful for the immunity afforded, the reporter from whom I quote writes : " Vaccination needs no defence from us. Nothing, however beneficent, can escape the criticism of the times in which we live. But this criticism of vaccination, often passionate and violent, relates chiefly to points which, however interesting they may be, leave the main question unaffected. Let any one read the history of the ravages of small-pox before Jenner's discovery, and compare it with the mortality of Massachusetts from this cause in the present generation, and ask himself the reason of this change. There can be but one answer. We may speculate about the possibility of the potency of vaccine being exhausted in the human family; we may be surprised to find that people with good vaccine scars sometimes have small-pox; we may dispute as much as we please about the average period when re-vaccination may be considered a prudent safeguard; we may even conjecture (what no man has proved) that other diseases than that of the cow may be communicated by humanized vaccine; we may turn the vaccination question with ingenious skill, so that its many facets shall reflect a multitude of curious lights, and after all we find that we rest in a security against this most horrid pestilence, unknown to former generations. The disease is the same now as then, for we see its effect among barbarous tribes; but because Dr. Jenner lived and made the greatest of all discoveries in preventive medicine we are almost completely safe." I have quoted from a public document which received the sanction of a learned deliberative body—and the approval of the Government of the State—the most generally intelligent State in the adjoining Union. What says the Ohio Board of Health? " While sister cities in Ohio have been recently afflicted with small-pox, Cleveland has enjoyed an exemption far exceeding that of former years. * * * * Our comparative immunity from this loathsome and terrible disease conclusively demonstrates the preventive power of vaccination, and must impress every thoughtful mind with the munificence of the legacy the immortal Jenner left the human race." I have purposely introduced at greater length from American than from British authorities, because it has been asserted by a certain few, who have spoken against vaccination