

plead the fatigue and indisposition of a very tedious journey.

I remain yours, sir, with much respect,
WILLIAM TULLEY.

Dr. H. Lee, Middletown, Ct.

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**LETTER FROM PROFESSOR
WATERHOUSE.***

NO. II.

CAMBRIDGE, Dec. 8, 1835.

To Samuel Thomson, Botanic Practitioner of Medicine.

Dear Sir:—To the questions put to me yesterday I answer, that I remain firm in the opinion that you were the discoverer of the remarkable medical virtues of the *Lobelia Inflata*, as a safe emetic, and other rare qualities in effectually detesting the stomach and intestines of foul and morbid matter—a prime object in the removal of all disorders consequent upon imperfect digestion. The efficacy and safety of this vegetable I have had ample and repeated proofs of in a number of cases, and in my own person, and have reason to value it to any article in our *Materia Medica*.

That you yourself are the originator of this compound process, very extensively known under the title of the *Thomsonian Practice or System*, I have no doubt whatever. I mean the uniting the warm bath, with the thorough cleansing of the whole alimentary canal. I value and recommend it on this account. It effects in three or four days, what we regular physicians used to occupy as many weeks to accomplish. As a public teacher of the practice of physic, I have told my pupils for nearly half a century past, that when they have learned to restore the long impaired organs of digestion to their pristine or natural state,

* Dr. Thomson wrote a letter to Dr. Waterhouse requesting him to give his decided opinion of the Botanic system, and this letter was written by Dr. Waterhouse in reply to it, and the reader by a careful examination of the Doctor's letter, will be able to ascertain fully the opinion of this great medical philosopher relative to the Thomsonian system.

they acquired two-thirds of their profession; and on that simple principle is based the whole doctrine of my printed lecture on the pernicious effects of *smoking cigars*, and the inordinate use of ardent spirits.

Furthermore: the regular physician finds it necessary sometimes to make a *great change* in the human frame, or to make a very strong *counter irritation*, so as to obliterate the *morbid* or *destructive* one. This used to be done by *quicksilver*, that is *mercury* in the various preparations; when pushed to a *salivation* it dilapidates, if we may so speak, or dissolves the human fluids, all of which are made up of globules, or round particles, on the *arasis* of which depends the vital integrity of our bodies, and of course our health and vigor. After the hazardous process of *salivation*, the physician may, perhaps, be able to say—*now I have so far* changed the morbid state of the patient, that his disease is conquered, and entirely overcome by the powerful operation or the *mercury*. But then in what condition does he find the sufferer? His teeth are loosened, his joints are weakened, his healthy countenance is impaired, his voice is more feeble, and he is more susceptible of cold, and a damp state of the weather. His original disorder is to be sure, overcome, but it is paying a great price for it. Secret history conceals from public notice innumerable victims of this sort.

Now, my sagacious, industrious, and much respected EMPIRIC, or ECLECTIC, if you like the latter term better, let us come to the point you seem to aim at, namely my opinion on the whole.

I consider a man laboring under a chronic disease of some time standing, who has passed through one, two, or three, (as the case may be) of your processes of the *lobelia emetic*, to be as much altered as the man who has gone through the very disagreeable and dangerous operation of mercurial salivation; and if so your discovery is highly valuable, and on this account it was that I spoke freely and strongly in commendation of the new practice, and was not afraid nor ashamed to hail you as a REFORMER, and to give you full credit, and in this view, I have always considered you as