

Cambridge 11<sup>th</sup> of April 1826

Dear Sir,

We are born to disappointment & trouble as the sparks fly upwards, that is to say, that the one is as natural as the other.

It is but a few days since I advised you to write to the President of the U. S. to appoint you the Vaccine Agent and I actually wrote to him in the strongest terms in your favour, resting it on the benevolence of your practice, as well as experience; but I have just received letters from Washington informing me that your appointment would raise a clamour, because you are not of the profession; and I now find which I did not suspect before, that there is great interest made in Philadelphia for Dr Nancende, who has strong letters of recommendation from all the medical professors, & first physicians of Philadelphia, which of itself would operate as a ban to your appointment. There is beside a Dr R. a physician of character in Baltimore, & two at New York, all with their hands full of recommendations from the Faculty, and others which I had no suspicion of. Under these circumstances <sup>the President</sup> would not think it proper to appoint one who is not a regular physician. But they say to me "you must be the man" to which I can reply that I had no such intention, and that my wish was that Dr Gancher should have it be he had earned it, as I thought richly deserved it. But it is now rendered in a manner, certain that the President will appoint no one who is not a regular graduated physician, and I have accordingly written to him to relieve him from the difficulty of slighting my recommendations. In this state of things should

he

be think proper to appoint me without my solicitation, - I will accept it, if you will assist me in the performance of the duties of it, and partake of its profits. - When I proposed the application <sup>to you</sup>, I had no idea that any one but Smith was seeking after it; but now I find several distinguished young men, or rather middle aged, are eager for the station, but the members of Congress say that D.W. must have the offer of it, which idea I had relinquished when I wrote to you. Having cut out other business, but I submit to the judgment of others and remain your steady friend

B. Waterhouse

I have no time to explain farther now —

P.S. 12<sup>th</sup>

your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> has just come to hand +  
the papers —

I have no doubt but that Small Pot has followed after Small Pet, but as it occurs not often than once in a million times, they are much like Black Swans

'I shall never apply for any thing of the kind. The  
people of power & influence at Washington know me, &  
my labours, and if they are disposed <sup>to</sup> put anything of that  
sort under my direction, or ever think of a remuneration  
well and good; but I will never remind them of it.  
Certainly I would not quit Cambridge as a residence  
for 3,000 dol<sup>r</sup>s a year. As it regards small pds,  
the people may run their chance for all me. I  
have done my part, and now, let it be with them  
as with other ~~sinful~~ sinners. They have slighted  
warning, & refused repeated calls: They have sown  
willy, and may reap corruption. You have seen  
me with a heavy crop -

any place where a cover  
York could be sent, his silence is unpar-  
I mention this that you may have it on your  
benguise, or that your attention may be drawn  
if you should hear of any one of the name being men-  
tioned in any place beside Cambridge. When I last  
heard of Dahme, which was in the autumn of 1823,  
he was in Philadelphia. He then left the city, but  
whether he went, into what country or region of our  
own, I never could hear. I can hardly think that  
he is living. If he be, it is most probable that he  
is in some of the New States, for he is not in the  
ports.

Visit to the subject of the New

for a license  
sent "his silence"  
but you may have it in  
your memory & remember  
you collected it in your  
own favor many years  
ago one of the names  
which was Cawley being men  
of the same name

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Cambridge Wh Paid 12 $\frac{1}{2}$   
April 12<sup>th</sup>  
D Sylvanus Fancher  
New Haven  
Connecticut

Cambridge June 8<sup>th</sup> 1827.

Dear Sir,

I am not certain whether I wrote last or you, but rather think the latter: be that as it may I would just inform you now, that they never did any thing in vaccination when the Smallpox was brought into New-  
port. They inoculated a few, but were much inclined to inoculate with small pox, and perhaps would have committed this mad & wicked act, had not my son Andrew, who resides there, prevented it by the strongest of arguments. He told them that should his father hear of it, he would come himself to stop it; and if he could not, would publish them to the world as fools or knaves, or both. He told the men in authority there, that it would be a double disgrace to Newport where the first promoter of the Line Pock inoculation was born, to encourage such an unwise project. He soon gained men of the most influence on his side; and they arrested the contagion before it had done any very serious mischief, or allowed of such a disgraceful precedent.

Our member in Congress, Mr Everett, informed me that every thing was so mixed up with the great Presidential question that even the post of Superintendent of vaccination would be given to a Philadelphian <sup>by the opposition</sup> in preference to any others, if by so doing they might influence and leading characters in Philad. to exert themselves in favour of the "military chieftain". Are such men worth saving? —

So long as men & women regard the things of sense, and I may add, nonsense, more than that of health & general safety, they will act as they have done in several places, respecting vaccination. They are impressed with things of the present moment without regarding future consequences.

I absolutely dispair of any thing, good & honest, being done in Congress relative to vaccination, before the Presidential election is determined; for all the little minded, intriguing people are exerting themselves to effect a change in hopes of snatching up something good to eat and to wear, without once thinking of the great cause of suffering humanity. The history of England is full of such instances; much fuller I hope than our own history will be. What vast sums of money have been expended & wasted in ostentatiously parading about the country & feasting a foreigner, while many of our own brave generals had scarcely bread to eat! I call this the sin of Hezekiah.

It is remarkably healthy in this region. The season is fine & the aspect of the country beautiful — Andrew has been with us about a week, and is now returned to R. Island. We have never yet heard a word of Daniel, and therefore know not if he be living — If he is, his conduct is hardly pardonable. I hope you will occasionally enquire respecting him from those who belong to the new states & territories, where he may possibly be by some other name.

Give my respects to Mrs. Fansher, and continue to believe me your steady friend P. Waterhouse

We must do all the good we can; but is it not a fact, that the longer a man lives in the world the worse opinion he has of it - I mean of the people in it. And perhaps it is right, in the eternal orders of things that it should be so in order to reconcile us to leaving it in hope & faith of a better. What are we to think of thousands and thousands in this country, who prefer such an ~~outrageous~~<sup>4.</sup> & sometimes lawless man as Gen<sup>l</sup>. Jackson in preference to such a great, moral & truly serious man as J. Q. Adams.<sup>2</sup> But the disposition is not a new one: - the multitude was more in favor of Barabbas as the robber than of Jesus! - and so much for popularity!

We have just chosen Mr Webster for our congressional senator in the room of Mr Mills. was in hopes he would have been employed in the House of Representatives to muzzle John Randolph. Should he there show his teeth & growl at his betters. He will, however, be highly useful in the senate: and we shall select some able dog to combat the mad Virginian. A retired man is apt to be severe in his remarks. It is, ~~the~~ intercourse with the world that rubs down and polishes his sharp angles - I have need sometimes to check myself in consuming a world I have little to do with.

To

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Dr Sylvanus Flanders

Southbury

Cambridge Mass  
Nov<sup>r</sup> 9 - 1

" Connecticut

Cambridge 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1827

I do not wonder, my Dear Sir, that you call the appearance on the hands of the milkmaids & on the teat or udders of the cow "interesting," inasmuch as it may, if confirmed, establish our independence of England, even in the great point of preserving men from the greatest evil among the catalogue of plagues.

I have believed from the beginning of my knowledge of vaccination that such an epizootic distemper was amongst our Kine. I grounded my belief upon the origin of our Cows, & the similarity of the country of New England with that of the old. Our Cows came from Great Britain, and so did our graft-seed; and our mode of keeping, feeding and treating horned cattle are alike. We ourselves have the same diseases here, as they have in the Island from whence we sprang, little over two hundred years ago. We have no leprosy, because our progenitors had none: But had this country been settled <sup>by</sup> Algerines, <sup>have</sup> Tunisians or Tripoli-tans, we should probably <sup>had</sup> lepers amongst us. But our diseases are so similar to those of England, that the medical books, and the treatments of diseases laid down in them, serves as much to guide us, as they do to direct them: so that our country may well be called New England. These have been some of the reasons which

which have induced me to believe that the distemper would be found, sooner or later, amongst our own cows.— I have had three or four very strong, presumptive evidences of milkers having taken the distemper from milking— one given me by Dr Willard of Vermont, and another, still stronger, by a Mr Nathan Adams now living in Charlestown, near Boston; but I never had that plenary evidence which would satisfy a judge in a court of law on a trial of life & death. But the case you mention is of a nature to determine the question beyond all shadow of doubt, if you have seen the eruptions on the udder of the cows & the pustules on the hands of the milkers, and above all if you have given the true disease to one of the human species. And I am in hopes to hear from you that you have been confirmed in your opinion by inequivocal experiment.

The suggestion of a person you mention that the Kine or Cow pox may have come originally from some insect, was I believe first started by myself. If you read the last paragraph of the last chapter or Chapter IX<sup>th</sup> of my treatise, you will find it thus written;— "Have we not then reason to expect, that these analogous distempers in our domestic animals have one common origin, and that they are all derived from the same original poison, generated, probably, in some reptile, or Insect, that inhabits places where those animals feed?"

I am impatient

I am impatient to hear the result of your inquiries  
and observations on this interesting subject of the  
indigenous source of Cow—or Lince pax—If it  
turn out so, please to write me fully on the subject  
that I may give it publicity, and you the honor  
of having discovered it —

I was not a little pleased with the more se-  
rious part of your letter, & directly turned to that  
chapter of Job which contained your text of  
equaint thyself now with God, and be at a  
peace". If people would, they would escape  
the gloomy fears inspired by that celebrated  
Frenchman John Calvin, whose system of  
terror, and doctrine of election & reprobation has  
driven many a man & many more women to  
distraction, and is now filling Cambridge with  
confusion, under what they call an "awakening",  
among our domestic keep, who are running to  
night meetings, and are plunged by dozens  
on our river every week. They bring to my  
mind the ludicrous lines in Hudibras

"They dive, like wild fowl, for salvation;

"And fish,—to catch regeneration!"

There are some heavenly things above reason, but  
none that runs counter to common sense. Reason is like  
the Sun which shows us every thing upon the Earth; but  
hides from us the view of the Heavens, which are not  
seen till after the sun sets. We have preaching pray-

praying & expounding the scriptures every night  
in the week, yet not superabounding in religion,  
which seeks not to be seen of men, and is not confined  
to one sect or country. Give our regards to your good  
wife and believe me to be your steady friend

P. Waterhouse

-12-

To

Dr Sylvanus Thaxter

Southbury  
Cambridge  
June 27 - 1

Cambridge Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> 1827.

Dear Sir,

I this day rec'd. your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> instant, and what is more, I received the one you referred to and the virus it contained, and yet from a combination of events & circumstances, I suspect & fear that I never answered it. It might have arrived when I was on an excursion East. or other causes may have contributed to the lamented omission. Mr Waterhouse's aged Father has failed so much that it has obliged her to be with him two thirds of the time; and then all the time, and at length I removed myself in a great measure from my snug & favorite habitation to the residence of my wife & her Father. This devangaged some of my smaller papers, and among them your letter was overlooked.

As to the question what I would advise you to do respecting the process of expediting the vaccination? I know not what advice to give as it regards London; but as it regards our Congress, I believe you may as well apply to a council of Pottowatomie Indians - Wyom bagoes! One party would promise you every thing, if you would engage to abuse Adams & shout for Jackson, but not otherwise. Every plan, scheme or device for the public good, and for the local or general cause of humanity would be overlooked, if not connected with party - Mr Everett - Bailey and Fuller told me that the Presidential question was so absolutely predominant in the Opposition, and in too many of the Friends of the Administration, that nothing of so trifling concern as

the

could be attended.

as the lives of the people. In a word, they assured me that they were scarcely listen to, when the matter was mentioned. The people must be roused up to it as they are now in London; where the smallpox rages. You will learn my feelings & opinion by the inclosed, which I wrote a few days since, & signed it vox in cœmo — or, a voice in the wilderness. The paper preceding this communication mentioned the raging of the distemper in London. It will rouse them there; and our large cities will be roused here, and that is the only way by which the un-thinking multitude, & their representatives, will be compelled to think of suffering humanity.

The President of the U. S. never returns to the seat of government without making me a visit at Cambridge. The week before his departure, he spent a few hours with us, when we talked of the matter. He expressed his opinion and most hearty wish, but could do nothing, unless when it come to the appointment.

He dined with the respectable association of mechanics at their triennial meeting — very much to their satisfaction, and his own. I heard that the respectable and moral society of Quakers, in Philadelphia, and in New York, have come pretty much to the resolution of deviating from their usual conduct, as it regards elections, and that they mean to attend the polls and give in their ~~no~~ votes for the moral & peaceable <sup>and pacifist.</sup> Adams, and in opposition to the bloody man of war. They are for adopting the prayer of the Psalmist, who

said "Scatter thou them whose delight is war."  
and <sup>are</sup> equally disposed to implore a blessing  
upon the head of the peace maker.

Hope and expect that the truly respectable  
Society of Methodists, will see it fit and consis-  
tent with their principles, to join with the example  
of the Pennsylvania Friends. As servants  
& subjects of the Prince of Peace, I should sup-  
pose they would feel it, in a measure, their  
duty, thus to counteract those passions whence  
come wars & fightings. Why can you no  
thing on this subject?

We must not sit down and fold our arms  
when the safety of the city is at stake; but we must  
imitate Nehemiah and his watchful & brave com-  
panions who were seen on the walls of Jerusalem  
with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the  
other. Durst I was acquainted with the Bishop,  
or Patriarch of the Methodist Societies of the United  
States — I would ask him if he did not think it the  
duty of every valiant soldier of the great Captain of  
our salvation to do his utmost to beat down Satan  
under our feet, when we <sup>advancing</sup> saw him <sup>advancing</sup> with his in his  
mouth & lawless violence in his heart? Adams is  
more than a serious man, he is a religious one but  
not so much of an Unitarian as his Father. I have  
known him 40 years, and a more righteous man never  
filled the chair of our National government.

Benj<sup>n</sup> Waterhouse

So Cambridge M<sup>s</sup>  
Octo 10-

12 $\frac{1}{2}$

Doctor Sylvanus Fansher  
at  
Middletown  
in Connecticut

Cambridge Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 1831

Dear Sir,

Returned last evening from Rhode Island and found your letter, and a newspaper that came with it on the table of my study; both of which I perused with satisfaction. I am glad to find that your faith has not waxed faint, nor your benevolent practice come to a halt; but that you <sup>are</sup> still marching on, like a truly brave veteran, fighting the monster small-pox with unflinching courage and confidence. Like the faithful & firmly believing Christian you will have your reward hereafter if not here below, for I set a high estimation on good works.

As soon as I arrived at New Haven I began, at once, to enquire for you, first ~~at~~ of the bar-keeper, and of the master of the Sontine Hotel, and also of the aged barber, who said that you were, he believed, gone somewhere after the small-pox, like, I suppose, a sheriff's officer after a murderer — But the most correct information was from Mr Clark, Deputy-collector, son in law of Abraham Bishop, both of whom paid me particular and marked attention, so that I saw every street, and the environs of New Haven together with the college and their distinguished characters during the three days I sojourned in that pleasant city. I passed three days also at Bridgeport with my friend, the Hon. Van Parlement, formerly Ambassador from the States of Holland during the administration of Washington, and yet I did not stay more than half an hour in Hartford; for having passed their regular dining hour, it was concluded to drive on to the place where the stage usually stops for the night. By all which you ~~can~~ perceive that if I did not see you it was not because I did not try to —

I wish

I wish you success in making a Lamp all light, and no shadow. Do you forget that every thing upon earth has its dark side as well as its light, and that there is nothing under the sun which has not?

I have written nothing on any subject pertaining to medicine since you were here. I published this summer an octavo volume historical, political, and moral, under the title of Junius & his Letters, a copy of which you can, I suppose, see at Mr Horne's, book-seller in New Haven. That historical work cost me years of labor. The late Dr Mitchell told me last June that he thought it a work of twelve years labour. Should you see the work at Horne's, I wish you read the preface of it through, if no more - and also from p. 444 to p. 449, which may give you some idea that I have not been idle, but have made and lit up a Lamp that I hope will not go out with my life, but glimmer a little while after my oil of life shall be burnt out -

My son Andrew spent 7 weeks with us from August to Oct. as did my daughter "the little Mary" her husband and her four children. Call on them if you go to N. York. Her husband is the Revd. Wm. Ware Beach Jr. of John's square. I expect my son Benj. from England before winter - if you know a clergyman. As for Daniel I question if he be living. I have not heard of him since 1822. — Mrs. W. retains her good health. She is gone on business to Boston while I am writing this. Her father died two years ago. We live in the house we occupied. I will do any thing you wish at the glass works in Craigsville, if I knew the precise object. The Poles you speak of have been murdering some of their Leaders & Generals. We have sent them a pair of consecrated standards. Yours steadily B. Waterhouse

I new Haven saw with pleasure, my old acquaintance Noah Webster. He has been like yourself a laborious and successful <sup>workman</sup>, ~~laborer~~ in the public cause of literature, and has built himself a durable monument in his large Dictionary - a work of great merit. It is now republishing in England; but the publishers will make more money by it than the author. It is the result of more than 30 years study & labor - But he is not contented with mere reputation, but seems to wish for more of that reward which perisheth.



Parker & B.  
J.

Sylvanus Fansher

New Haven -

Dr S. Tansher

Cambridge 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1832.

Dear Sir, A week ago I rec'd. a letter from you  
~~a week ago~~, and also from the Post master with yours -  
I directly answered it, directing my letter to Hartford and  
did not notice till this morning, your request that I would  
direct my answer to Southbury New-Haven, and that over-  
-sight occasions my writing this, and to repeat what  
I wrote last week viz - that I was too busy to write  
a long letter, and should be for a week or two to come  
owing to my (imprudently, considering my years) con-  
-senting to deliver a public lecture before our  
Lycœum society - <sup>x over</sup>I add, now I will aid all  
in my power your benevolent plans, and will  
write to Mr Adams or to any one else on the subject.  
Should like to see your book before its publication,  
and if you think it will aid your plan by de-  
-dicating it to me, you have my permission to do  
it, but not without you are convinced that it would  
be serviceable to the cause. How our papers are  
filled with the dread of Cholera Morbus, when we have  
a disease 10,000 times more terrible in our own  
country! Show not this wretched scrawl to anyone  
yours in haste

B. Waterhouse

very much against the judgment  
of my wife

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the Indians they wish to drive off their native  
possessions. All this will be paid for in thy work  
or <sup>in</sup> the next

B.W.



Dr Sylvanus Thaxter

Park's  
Bk

Southbury  
New Haven County  
Connecticut

Having rec'd. also the Connecticut Herald, containing  
Major Doughty's letter to you, and will have it inserted  
in the Norton Centinel. I have been so disgusted with  
the conduct of people, doctors & all respecting vaccination,  
that I hate almost the name of it. Georgia  
would probably rejoice to spread smallpox among

D<sup>r</sup>. Sylvanus Fancher Cambridge 19<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1832

Two days ago I received your letter without date and read it with satisfaction as coming from an old and valued friend and fellow-laborer in the great cause of diminishing the miseries of our fellow creatures. This cholera is a very destructive disease, yet not so dreadful a plague <sup>as</sup> smallpox. David chose it in preference to war and famine, because, says the sacred history, he preferred to fall into the hands of God rather than that of man. But had the destroying angel been armed with smallpox, and the royal Psalmist known, by experience, what that loathsome disease actually was, I think he would have preferred war with all its horrors. — I question, however, if that divine messenger has yet arrived at the threshing floor of our Aurinah. I suspect we shall experience more of it next spring. The sight of our Temple is not yet fixed on. You are acquainted enough with the Bible to understand all these scriptural allusions, in the book of Samuel.

Have you read all my numbers in the Boston Courier on Cholera. I now send you the last one. I have written another, long and elaborate; but have been over-persuaded to withhold it, because it countenances the unpopular doctrine of contagion, which militates with the sordid views of the merchant, trader, and market-man. It is an abominable sight <sup>to see</sup> Mammon setting his teeth, and clinching his fist <sup>against</sup> Truth; but it was just so with the introduction of the Kine Pock. I am convinced of the contagious property

property of the malignant Cholera, even from the writings of those Physicians, who pronounce it non-contagious. It is not so contagious as small pox, but full as infectious <sup>as</sup> the yellow fever, or the ancient plague of London. On its first appearance here I was induced to believe and to say that it was non-contagious; but I have had reason to change my opinion to one more qualified.

Wherever the epidemic cholera rages it eats up all other diseases of the season; and every disorder that does appear at that time has a more or less tinge of the predominant malady. The remote cause of cholera, like every other pestilence, still walks in darkness. The best account of it among the ancients was written by Aretaeus of Cappadocia in Asia minor, more than a century before the birth of our Saviour. I suspect that the plague which destroyed the assyrian army commanded by Ishmael, besieging Jerusalem was the Cholera of Asia. It has existed time out of mind in the East Indies; but it never undertook to travel from that country, westward till the year 1817— Was its march— its singular march from the other side of the globe to us, an affair of accident or by Divine command? The Smallpox never commenced its march from the interior of Africa till about twelve hundred years ago. Neither the Jews, Greeks or Romans knew anything of such a disorder. Hippocrates believed that all wide wasting epidemics <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ from a divine agency.

My sentiments respecting the cholera being sent to scourge the distressed poor only coincides with yours. Italked to a minister

on the first-day,  
who preached that exclusive doctrine in my hearing, and  
he will never do it again. I wish you would send me that  
<sup>you mention</sup> article, in the New Haven Register, entitled "Justice to the Dead."

Yesterday was buried, with great pomp & ceremony, Dr.  
Spruzheim, a German Gentleman of talents, amiable dispo-  
-sition, and general erudition. His lectures were very popular  
but leaned, in my opinion, rather too much to the side of ma-  
terialism, and datalism; but they suited exactly the many  
in Boston and <sup>some</sup> Cambridge. Let them say what they will,  
matter cannot move without a Mover; — My friend, my  
old & worthy friend <sup>John Quincy Adams</sup> is the most sound and thorough believer and  
student of the holy scriptures of any gentleman I can name  
while others are blown about by every wind of doctrine —

My son Andrew died last May at Annapolis,  
Maryland of fever. Benjamin is a clergyman in England.  
Mary, the wife of the Rev. W<sup>m</sup> Ware, lives, St John's square  
New York with her four children, while I reside  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile  
West of my old residence on Cambridge Common, where we  
shall be glad to see you. Mrs Waterhouse often wishes for  
Dr Hansher's shadow less lamp, for she reads much in the  
winter evenings. Where is it; and when shall we see it  
brought to light?

I cannot name any order of men so temperate & regular  
as the Roman Catholic clergy; yet one of their Bishops died the  
other ~~the~~ day in the State of New York, with Cholera. What will  
the rich, and pampered Dives say to this? Is the pestilence  
& sent only to pick out the rags and durt of the community so as not to  
offend the sight & smell of the Pharisees? Benj: Waterhouse

NOV 15  
1845

Paid  
**PAID** B/H

D Sylvanus Fansher

Southbury  
Connecticut