

Cambridge 19<sup>th</sup> July. 1802 13

Dear Sir

Accept my thanks for the printed account of your second experiment respecting the prophylactic power of the sine pock. I thought it would conduce to good to give it to the public through the Centinel. I wrote a few lines on the same paper to the printer personally, which he also printed. A man to publish in the Centinel this week a piece on the absurd notion, now industriously deputed, that the sine pock will only secure a person for a short time. Perhaps it would answer a good purpose among you to have it copied into one of your Portsmouth papers, for this doctrine is spreading wide, & discourages me.

The Mr. Smith I wrote to you about inculcating is the mother of William P. Smith, and as he has lately been unfortunate I could wish not to be lacking in attention to her, or him who employed me. Will you please to tell her that I called at her house the day after she left Boston, and finding she was gone had desired you to call on her in my behalf. If I can reciprocate this service, please to command your humble servant.

Benj<sup>d</sup> Waterhouse

with the singular, because it has but one pock; the X being pluris

5861. July 18<sup>th</sup> 1847. Waterbury

BOSTON  
JUL 18

Lyman Spalding  
Portsmouth  
New Hampshire

21000R

Spalding

21000R

# Extract of a Letter from Dr. J E N N E R, dated

LONDON, February 24, 1802.

"THE most arduous task I have lately had to perform, has been making Practitioners sensible of the *absolute necessity* of attending to the QUALITY of the *virus* employed. You will receive with this some Rules compressed into a small space." They are these which follow :

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR Vaccine Inoculation.

LET the vaccine fluid be taken, for the purpose of Inoculation, from a pustule that is making its progress regularly, and which possesses the true vaccine character, on any day from the fifth to the eighth, or even a day or two later, provided the efflorescence be not then formed around it. When the efflorescence is formed, it is always most prudent to desist from taking any more of the virus from that pustule.

To obtain the virus, let the edges of the pustule be gently punctured with a lancet in several points. It will gradually ooze out, and should be inserted upon the arm about midway between the shoulder and the elbow, by means of a very small oblique puncture. A little red spot will appear on the punctured part on the third day, if the operation succeed, which on the fourth or fifth becomes perceptibly vesicated. It goes on increasing 'till the tenth day, when it is generally surrounded by a rose-coloured efflorescence, which remains nearly stationary for a day or two. The efflorescence then fades away, and the pustule is gradually converted into a hard glossy scab, of a dark mahogany colour. These progressive stages of the pustule, are commonly completed in sixteen or seventeen days.

A single pustule is sufficient to secure the constitution from the small-pox ; but as we are not always certain the puncture may take effect, it will be prudent to inoculate in both arms, or to make two punctures in the same arm, about an inch and a half asunder, except in very early infancy, when there is a great susceptibility of local irritation.

If the efflorescence surrounding the pustule should be extensive, and occasion much local heat upon the arm, it may be cooled by the repeated application of pieces of folded linnen dipped in cold water ; or still more expeditiously by a strong solution of the *aqua lythargyri acetati*\* in water ; an ounce, for example, of the former in five or six of the latter. If the scab should at any time be prematurely rubbed off, the part may be occasionally touched with the undiluted *aqua lythargyri acetati*.

Vaccine virus, taken from a pustule, and inserted immediately in its fluid state, is preferable to that which has been previously dried ; but as it is not always practicable to obtain it in this state, we are compelled to seek for some mode of preserving it. Various means have been suggested, but from the test of long experience it may be asserted, that preserving it between two plates of glass is the most eligible. Let a piece of common window glass be cut into squares of about an inch each, so that they shall lie smooth when placed upon each other. Let the collected vaccine fluid be confined to a small spot (about the size of a split pea) upon the centre of one of these glasses ; which should be suffered to dry in the common heat of the atmosphere, without exposure to the heat of fire or the sun. When dry it should be immediately secured by placing over it the other piece of glass. Nothing more is necessary for its preservation than wrapping it in clean writing paper.

The virus, thus preserved, when wanted for the purpose of inoculation, may easily be restored to its fluid state by dissolving it in a small portion of cold water, taken up on the point of a lancet. It may then be used in the same manner as when just taken from a pustule.

The vaccine fluid is liable, from causes apparently trifling, to undergo a decomposition. In this state it sometimes produces what has been denominated the spurious pustule ; that is, a pustule, or an appearance on the arm not possessing the characteristic marks of the genuine pustule. Anomalies, assuming different forms, may be excited, according to the qualities of the virus applied, or the state of the person inoculated ; but by far the most frequent variety, or deviation from the perfect pustule, is that which arrives at maturity, and finishes its progress much within the time limited by the true. Its commencement is marked by a troublesome itching ; and it throws out a premature efflorescence, sometimes extensive, but seldom circumscribed, or of so vivid a tint as that which surrounds the pustule completely organized ; and (which is more characteristic of its degeneracy than the other symptoms) it appears more like a common festering produced by a thorn, or any other small extraneous body sticking in the skin, than a pustule excited by the vaccine virus. It is generally of a straw colour ; and when punctured, instead of that colourless, transparent fluid of the perfect pustule, its contents are found to be opaque.† That deviation from the common character of the pustule, arising from vaccine virus which has been previously exposed to a degree of heat capable of decomposing it, is very different. In this instance, it begins with a creeping scab, of a pale brown or amber colour ; making a long and slow progress, and sometimes going through its course without any perceptible efflorescence. Its edges are commonly elevated, and afford, on being punctured, a limpid fluid.

A little practice in vaccine inoculation, attentively conducted, impresses on the mind the perfect character of the vaccine pustule ; therefore, when a deviation arises, of whatever kind it may be, common prudence points out the necessity of re-inoculation, first, with vaccine virus of the most active kind, and secondly, should this be ineffectual, with variolous virus. But if the constitution shews an insusceptibility of one, it commonly does of the other.

If the effluvia of the small-pox have been received into the habit previously to the inoculation of the vaccine virus, the vaccine inoculation will not always be found to stop its progress, although the pustule may make its advances without interruption. The lancet used for inoculation should always be perfectly clean. After each puncture, it is proper to dip it into water, and wipe it dry. The preservation of vaccine virus upon a lancet, beyond the period of a few days, should never be attempted ; as it is so apt to produce rust, which will decompose it.

\* Goulard's extract of Saturn.

† YELLOW matter is always spurious.

101 0 5 M 2

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.

Main body of faint, illegible text, appearing to be bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

LIBRARY

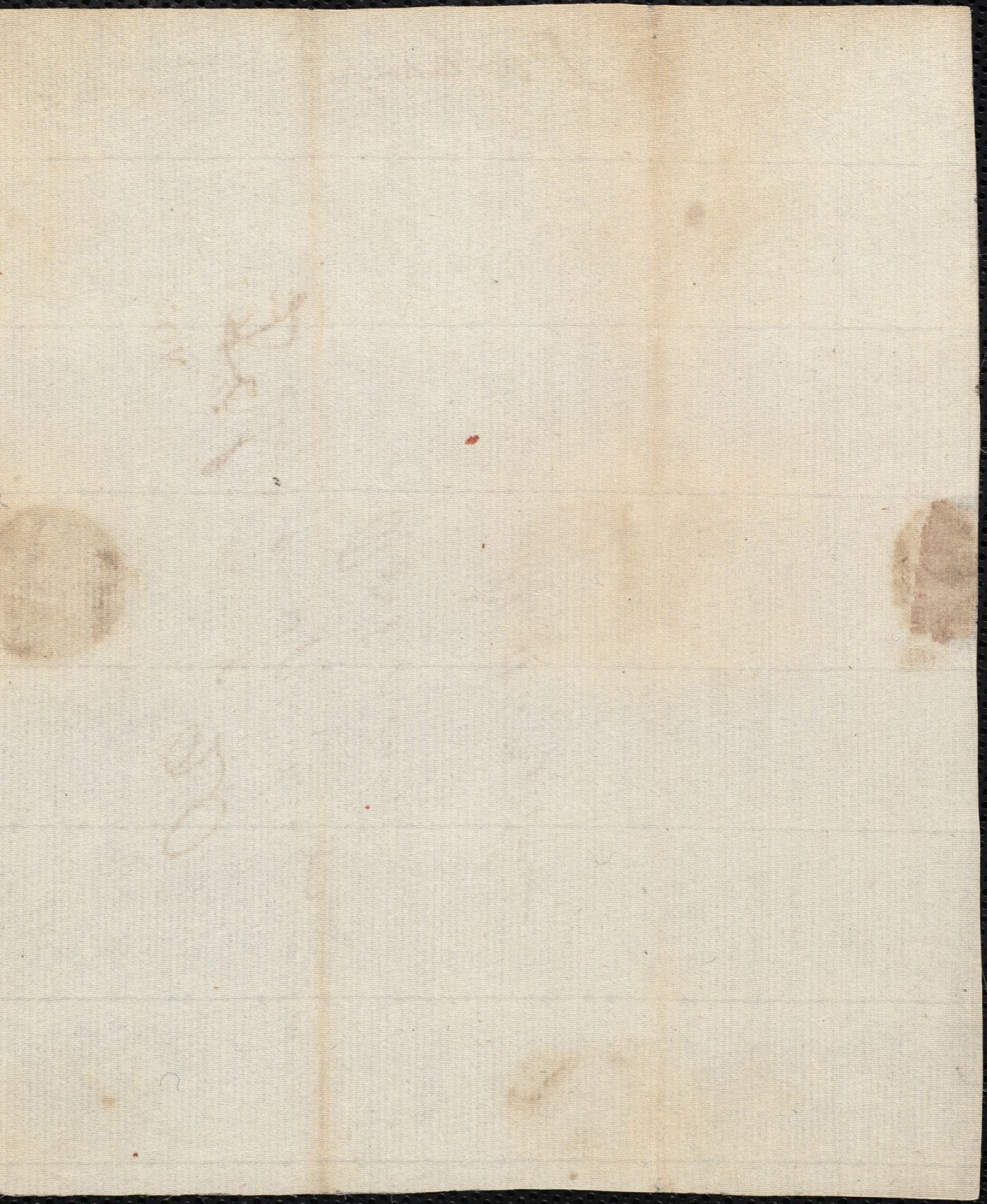
Faint text at the bottom of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.

I have only time to enclose  
you the fresh infected lancet  
(Sunday noon Nov<sup>r</sup> 21<sup>5</sup>)  
B Watshouse

Let the fish be accompanied  
by a line to be put directly in the  
post office for me, when I will send  
for it from the coast.

*[Faint, illegible handwriting on lined paper]*





Ms. A. 10.11



20

D. Lyman Spalding

Portsmouth

N. Hampshire

D. W. Wetherby





Cambridge 20<sup>th</sup> Nov: 1810

17.

Dear Sir,

The bearer of this Mr Wait is a respectable Printer & Bookseller in Boston; He is I believe about printing a new edition of Thacher's Dispensatory, and, if I mistake not, another work by the same author. Whatever it may be, my respect for Dr Thacher & Mr Wait, and the desire of promoting useful publications, induce me to recommend the latter to your notice & confidence. I can assure that Dr Thacher & you can benefit each other in your respective publications; and this is one of the reasons of my giving Mr Wait this letter of introduction to you.

My family, such as they are, remain of it, desirous to be remembered to you, & yours. I correspond, as you know, more with medical men at a distance than with those near home. To hear of your health & prosperity will always give pleasure to your friend & humble servant

D. Lyman Spalding  
New York

Benj<sup>r</sup> Waterhouse

Amphid 29 Decr.

D. Waterhouse

2 N<sup>o</sup> 10.1

*[Faint, illegible handwriting in cursive script, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

Cambridge July 22<sup>d</sup>. 1857.

16

Dear Sir

I thank you for your communication respecting the long life of the scab. I have found the scab to communicate the true disease two months after it was taken from the arm. It seems to be the crystalline state of the matter; but I have thought or conjectured that it occasioned more inflammation in the pustule produced.

I would thank you to send me some of the matter on a quill enclosed in a letter, that has been produced by the scab in question, I should like to compare it with some taken at the usual period. I am in the habit of preserving scabs, but I never use them, when I can obtain fresh unripe matter. - If you could send me a couple of quills by the return of post you will oblige

Yours<sup>d</sup> & humble servant

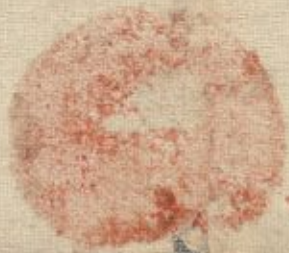
Bay W. Walker

To Spalding -

D Lyman Spalding

Portsmouth

New Hampshire



D. W. Waterhouse

15  
P. J.

Agreeably to your request I here  
enclose some more fresh vaccine matter  
which was taken from a child on the 8<sup>th</sup> day  
after vaccination & is not more than  
20 hours old —

My late publication has at least set  
the history of the practice in America in its  
true point of light & corrected several  
ill grounded notions —

I am Sir, I remain &c.

Ben<sup>l</sup>. Waterhouse

April 24. 1810 3

Handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a date or header.

Main body of handwritten text, appearing to be a letter or a journal entry, written in cursive.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or a closing.

Handwritten marks at the top left, possibly initials or a signature.

Handwritten text in the middle left section, appearing to be a list or notes.

Handwritten text in the lower left section, possibly a signature or name.

Vertical handwritten text in the lower middle section, possibly a date or reference.

Handwritten text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or reference.

1.01 0 str 2



Dr. Lyman Spalding  
Portsmouth  
N. Hampshire

Dr. W. C. Spalding



Cambridge Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 1802

Dear Sir

14

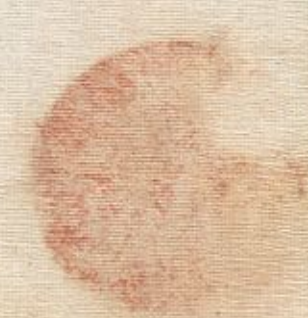
Agreeably by your request, I have enclosed a small portion of matter. I cannot send more, at this time, having just sent some to Philadelphia, where it is extant. I have just received a similar request from New York where it is also extant! and I have reason to think there is none in Boston, my own copies excepted!! Neither it seems is there any at Portsmouth!!! How can practitioners be so inattentive. I am obliged to hire children & others to be inoculated in Cambridge in order to keep up a continuity of the matter. - I have just received some on quills from Mr. Ring. Dr. Jenner has just sent me some in a silver box. I send with gold of exquisite workmanship with a complimentary inscription by Mr. Ring - you will find on reading Coxe that he has published in haste. He sent me the work in sheets

I sent ~~them~~ <sup>him</sup> the coloured engraving of the prostate  
in all its stages, contrasted with sperm. He has you  
see copied it, but it falls vastly short of the  
original. Dr Coxe has just written to me for a  
fresh supply of matter. In haste I remain  
yours &c

BW Waterhouse

P.S. If you could procure me another  
quantity of such fish as you sent me  
last autumn, you & will settle the  
amount of it when we meet next, or before  
by sending me the bill of it. — We can  
get the ordinary fish in Boston, but the best kind  
of large fish is not easy to be found —  
our exp<sup>t</sup>. stagnates for want of sperm matter.

*[Faint, illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]*





Dr Lyman Spalding  
Portsmouth  
New-Hampshire

Dr Waterhouse