

# SUPPLEMENT TO THE COURANT.

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NO. 26.

## Poetry.

FOR THE SUPPLEMENT.

### THE FIRST SNOW.

BY MRS. M. H. SALTMARSH.

Lightly the pure flakes fall upon the earth,  
Silently covering all the frost had spared  
Of summer's vesture—and what sorrowing tears,  
Love gives to memory now,—when the first snow  
Is falling where we laid our loved ones down  
While yet the year was in its greener beauty,  
Burying anew the forms so idolized  
Beneath its freezing pall. The fresh green grass  
We love to lay upon their graves, and look,  
With our hearts comforted, and won to hope,  
Upon the flowers that spring there—but the snow  
Its icy monuments uprearing thus,  
Awakes the slumbering grief. Those cherished ones  
That we had sheltered in our hearts from aught  
That might have rudely touched them—giving life  
If so we might have spared them suffering—  
Forsaken 'neath the snow!—the fire's bright blaze—  
The cheerful lights—the comforts of our home,  
Almost reproach,—and bear our thoughts away  
To their cold place of rest—a bitter cup  
The mortal drinks with Death, nor tear nor prayer  
Can win the arrow from his upraised hand,  
And woe for him who bends above the grave  
Nor looks beyond its bounds—the glorious gift  
Of immortality Christ brought to man  
Lies buried in the fearful silence there,  
Silence unbroken by the faintest whisper  
Revealing life, before which death must bow.  
Alone with his own breaking heart he stands,  
Nor lifts his gaze adoring to the skies  
Where He is throned who calls his angels home.

The love of God alone,  
Bids light break o'er the darkness of the tomb.  
Creator! Father!—thou dost ever turn  
A listening ear, when mortal anguish offers  
Its "late repentant" prayer,—Thy hand sustains  
The fainting soul that lives when loved ones die—  
The Saviour slept as they—and rose again  
As they shall rise and live again in Him.  
In this immortal trust our hearts grow strong,  
When turning from the place of graves away  
To tread life's busy walks.  
When Time has borne the heart beyond the hour  
Of its first bitter anguish—and it learns  
To say "Thy will be done" in humble faith,  
By this regaining peace, then shall the face  
Of stern old Winter beam with cheerful smiles.  
His frosty hands with snow-flakes scatter joys—  
His pure cold breath persuade to trust in Him  
Who "giveth snow like wool," and every murmur  
Borne through the branches by his rude grasp stiffen'd  
Shall tell of God,—and nature's many voices  
Speak to our souls and win them to respond;  
All her deep melodies are full of meaning  
To the "immortal essence hid in man"  
Wonderful mysteries lie all around us,  
And nature's lyre bids answering chords awake  
Within our souls—responsive harmonies,  
Unheard by those who turn no listening ear  
To the low spirit tones.  
Let the pure snow-flakes fall where sleep the loved  
And lovely—laid to rest amidst the flowers,  
Those holiest children of our mother earth,  
The Spring's sweet breath of promise bids them rise,  
God on the resurrection morn awakes our dead.  
Hartford, Dec. 17th.

TRANSLATED FOR THE SUPPLEMENT.  
THE KLA'S SONG.

FROM SCHILLER.

The forest groaned, the clouds careering by,  
Hid the last glimpse of daylight in the sky;  
And on the river's bank just turning green,  
A maiden's sad and youthful form was seen.

The angry billows white and foamy beat,  
Each time advancing nearer to her feet;  
She marked them not, nor waves nor stormy skies;  
For tears of sorrow dimmed her downcast eyes.

My heart is dead! the world a dreary void:  
My hopes, my loves, my pleasures all destroyed:  
Oh Holy One! life's only bliss I've proved;  
Recal me then, for I have lived and loved.

F. B.

### EFFECT OF KINDNESS.

A little word in kindness spoken,  
A motion or a tear,  
Has often healed the heart that's broken,  
And made a friend sincere.

A word, a look, has crushed to earth  
Full many a budding flower,  
Which, had a smile but owned its birth,  
Would bless life's darkest hour.

Then deem it not an idle thing,  
A pleasant word to speak:  
The face you wear, the thoughts you bring,  
A heart may heal, or break.

## Original.

FOR THE SUPPLEMENT.

### DIPLOMACY IN ANCIENT TIMES.

The following is the introductory part of a letter from Gov. Brenton of Rhode Island to the Executive of Connecticut, dated "Nuport the 20th Dec. 1662," relating to the disputed boundary between the two colonies.

W. S. P.

"Hon'ed Sr Mr John Allen

Your loving lines of the 7th of Novemb. last being now come to my hand, by which I perceive mine to Mr. Willis is received and was not displeasing to any of yourselves;—Truly, sir, it is the earnest desire of my soul, that we which are of one nation, and do profess one God, one Redeemer, and one Spirit, by which all his redeemed ones in Christ, and shall be all sanctified by that one Spirit by whom all his hath access to the Father; and although there may be various dispensations of God, to some more, to others less, yet it is the desire of my prayers that we might all agree as brethren of one Father, and so to seek each others peace, in love; for to me it is grievous that I should be at distance or difference with any of the saints, especially about these low things which are but for a moment of time. Sir, assure yourself, and I trust you shall not find me wanting to use my best endeavors for to obtain peace and friendship betwixt you and us; if you find me otherwise, reprove me for it, and it shall be as balm," &c.

The superscription is:

"To my Hon'ed & much Esteemed  
Friend Mr John Allen w'th  
the rest of the Councill att  
Harford in  
Connectecott  
this be p'resented w'th speed  
& Trust."

## Miscellaneous Selections.

From the Boston Medical Journal.

### INSENSIBILITY DURING SURGICAL OPERATIONS PRODUCED BY INHALATION.

Read before the Boston Society of Medical Improvement, Nov. 9, 1846, an abstract having been previously read before the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Nov. 3, 1846.

By HENRY JACOB BIGELOW, M. D., one of the Surgeons of the Massachusetts General Hospital.

It has long been an important problem, in medical Science, to devise some method of mitigating the pain of surgical operations. An efficient agent for this purpose has at length been discovered. A patient has been rendered completely insensible during an amputation of the thigh, regaining consciousness after a short interval. Other severe operations have been performed without the knowledge of the patients. So remarkable an occurrence will, it is believed, render the following details relating to the history and character of the process, not uninteresting.

On the 16th of Oct. 1846, an operation was performed at the Hospital, upon a patient who had inhaled a preparation administered by Dr. Morton, a dentist of this city, with the alleged intention of producing insensibility to pain. Dr. Morton was understood to have extracted teeth under similar circumstances, without the knowledge of the patient. The present operation was performed by Dr. Warren, and though comparatively slight, involved an incision near the lower jaw of some inches in extent. During the operation the patient muttered, as in a semi-conscious state, and afterwards stated that the pain was considerable, though mitigated; in his own words, as though the skin had been scratched with a hoe. There was, probably, in this instance, some defect in the process of inhalation, for on the following day the vapor was administered to another patient with complete success. A fatty tumor of considerable size, was removed, by Dr. Hayward, from the arm of a woman near the deltoid muscle. The operation lasted four or five minutes, during which time the patient betrayed occasional marks of uneasiness; but upon subsequently regaining her consciousness, professed not only to have felt no pain, but to have been insensible to surrounding objects, to have known nothing of the operation, being only uneasy about a child left at home. No doubt, I think, existed in the minds of those who saw this operation, that the unconsciousness was real; nor could the imagination be accused of any share in the production of these remarkable phenomena.

I subsequently undertook a number of experiments, with the view of ascertaining the nature of this new agent, and shall briefly state them, and also give some notice of the previous knowledge which existed of the use of the substances I employed.

The first experiment was with sulphuric ether, the odor of which was readily recognized in the preparation employed by Dr. Morton. Ether inhaled in vapor is well known to produce symptoms similar to those produced by the nitrous oxide. In my own former experience the exhilaration has been quite as great, though perhaps less pleasurable, than that of this gas, or of the Egyptian *haschisch*. It seemed probable that the ether might be so long inhaled as to produce excessive inebriation and insensibility; but in several experiments the exhilaration was so considerable that the subject became uncontrollable, and refused to inspire through the apparatus. Experiments were next made with the oil of wine (etheral oil.) This is well known to be an ingredient in the preparation known as Hoffman's anodyne, which also contains alcohol, and this was accordingly employed. Its effects upon the three or four subjects who tried it, were singularly opposite to those of the ether alone. The patient was tranquilized, and generally lost all inclination to speak or move. Sensation was partially paralyzed, though it was remarkable that consciousness was always clear, the patient desiring to be pricked or pinched, with a view to ascertain how far

\*Extract of Indian Hemp.

sensibility was lost. A much larger proportion of oil of wine, and also chloric ether, with and without alcohol, were tried, with no better effect.

It may be interesting to know how far medical inhalation has been previously employed. Medicated inhalation has been often directed to the amelioration of various pulmonary affections, with indifferent success. Instruments called *Inhalers* were employed long ago by Mudge, Gairdner and Darwin, and the apparatus fitted up by Dr. Beddoes and Mr. James Watt, for respiring various gasses, has given birth to some octavo volumes. More recently Sir Charles Scudamore has advocated the inhalation of iodine and conium in phthisis, and the vapor of tar has often been inhaled in the same disease. The effects of stramonium, thus administered, have been noticed by Sigmond.

The inhalation of the ethers has been recommended in various maladies, among which may be mentioned phthisis and asthma. "On sait que la respiration de l'ether sulfurique calme souvent les accidents nerveux de certains croupes," is from the Dict. des Sc. Med.; but I find that mention of the inhalation of this agent is usually coupled with a caution against its abuse, grounded apparently upon two or three cases, quoted and requoted. Of these the first is from Brande's Journal of Science, where it is thus reported: "By imprudent respiration of sulphuric ether, a gentleman was thrown into a very lethargic state which continued from one to three hours, with occasional intermissions and great depressions of spirits—the pulse being for many days so low that considerable fears were entertained for his life." Critchton quotes the following from the Midland Med. and Surg. Journal, to prove that nitric ether in vapor is a dangerous poison when too freely and too long inhaled: "A druggist's maid servant was found one morning dead in bed, and death had evidently arisen from the air of her apartment having been accidentally loaded with vapor of nitric ether, from the breaking of a three gallon jar of the Spiritus Æth. Nitric. She was found lying on her side, with her arms folded across her chest, the countenance and posture composed, and the whole appearance like a person in a deep sleep. The stomach was red internally, and the lungs were gorged." The editor of the journal where this case is related, says he is acquainted with a similar instance, where a young man was found completely insensible from breathing air loaded with sulphuric ether, remained apoplectic for some hours, and would undoubtedly have perished had he not been discovered and removed in time. Ether is now very commonly administered internally as a diffusible stimulant and anti-spasmodic, in a dose of one or two drachms. But here also we have the evidence of a few experiments that ether is capable of producing grave results under certain circumstances. Orfila killed a dog by confining a small quantity in the stomach by means of a ligature around the œsophagus. Jager found that a half drachm acted as a fatal poison to a crane. It was for a long time supposed to be injurious to the animal economy. The old Edinburgh Dispensatory, republished here in 1816, explicitly states that it is to be inhaled by holding in the mouth a piece of sugar, containing a few drops, and also that regular practitioners give only a few drops for a dose; "though," it adds, "empirics have sometimes ventured upon much larger quantities, and with incredible benefit." p. 566. Nevertheless, it was known to have been taken in correspondingly large doses with impunity. The chemist Bucquet, who died of scirrhus of the colon, with inflammation of the stomach and intestines, took before his death, a pint of ether daily, to alleviate his excruciating pains (he also took 100 gr. opium daily); and Christison mentions an old gentleman who consumed for many years sixteen drachms every eight or ten days. Such facts probably led Merat and De Lens, in their *Matiere Medicale*, to question its grave effects when swallowed. Mentioning the case of Bucquet, they say, even of its inhalation, that it produces only "un sentiment de fraicheur que suit bientot une legere excitation."

This variety of evidence tends to show that the knowledge of its effects, especially those of inhalation, was of an uncertain character. Anthony Todd Thompson well sums up what I conceive to have been the state of knowledge at the time upon this subject, in his London Dispensatory of 1818. "As an anti-spasmodic, it relieves the paroxysm of spasmodic asthma, whether it be taken into the stomach, or its vapor only be inhaled into the lungs. Much caution, however, is required in inhaling the vapor of ether, as the imprudent inspiration of it has produced lethargic and apoplectic symptoms." In his *Materia Medica and Therapeutics*, of 1832, however, omitting all mention of inhalation, he uses the following words: "Like other diffusible excitants, its effects are rapidly propagated over the system, and soon dissipated.

From its volatile nature its exciting influence is probably augmented; as it produces distension of the stomach and bowels, and is thus applied to every portion of their sensitive nature. It is also probable that it is absorbed in its state of vapor, and is therefore directly applied to the nervous centres. It is the diffusible nature of the stimulus of ether which renders it so well adapted for causing sudden excitement, and producing immediate results. Its effects, however, so soon disappear, that the dose requires to be frequently repeated."

Nothing is here said of inhalation, and we may fairly infer that the process had so fallen into disrepute, or was deemed to be attended with such danger, as to render a notice of it superfluous in a work treating, in 1832, of therapeutics.

It remains briefly to describe the process of inhalation by the new method, and to state some of its effects. A small two necked glass globe contains the prepared vapor, together with sponges to enlarge the evaporating surface. One aperture admits the air to the interior of the globe, whence, charged with vapor, it is drawn through the second into the lungs. The inspired air thus passes through the bottle, but the expiration is diverted by a valve in the mouth piece, and escaping into the apartment is thus prevented from vitiating the medicated vapor. A few of the operations in dentistry, in which the preparation has as yet been chiefly applied, have come under my observation. The remarks of the patients will convey an idea of their sensations.

A boy of 16, of medium stature and strength, was seated in the chair. The first few inhalations occasioned a quick cough, which afterwards subsided; at the end of eight minutes the head fell back, and the arms dropped, but owing to some resistance in opening the mouth, the tooth could not be reached before he awoke. He again inhaled for two minutes, and slept three minutes, during which time the tooth, an inferior molar, was extracted. At the moment of extraction the features assumed an expression of pain, and the hand was raised. Upon coming to himself he said he had had a "first rate dream—very quiet," he said, "and had dreamed of Napoleon—had not the slightest consciousness of pain—the time had seemed long;" and he left the chair, feeling no uneasiness of any kind, and evidently in a high state of admiration. The pupils were dilated during the state of unconsciousness, and the pulse rose from 130 to 142.

A girl of 16 immediately occupied the chair. After coughing a little, she inhaled during three minutes, and fell asleep, when a molar tooth was extracted, after which she continued to slumber tranquilly during three minutes more. At the moment when force was applied she flinched and frowned, raising her hand to her mouth, but said she had been dreaming a pleasant dream and knew nothing of the operation.

A stout boy of 12, at the first inspiration coughed considerably, and required a good deal of encouragement to induce him to go on. At the end of three minutes from the first fair inhalation, the muscles were relaxed and the pupil dilated. During the attempt to force open the mouth he recovered his consciousness, and again inhaled during two minutes, and in the ensuing one minute two teeth were extracted, the patient seeming somewhat conscious, but upon actually awakening he declared "it was the best fun he ever saw," avowed his intention to come there again, and insisted upon having another tooth extracted upon the spot. A splinter which had been left, afforded an opportunity of complying with his wish but the pain proved to be considerable. Pulse at first 110, during sleep 96, afterwards 144; pupils dilated.

The next patient was a healthy-looking, middle-aged woman, who inhaled the vapor for four minutes; in the course of the next two minutes a back tooth was extracted and the patient continued smiling in her sleep for three minutes more. Pulse 120, not affected at the moment of the operation, but smaller during sleep.—Upon coming to herself, she exclaimed that "it was beautiful—she dreamed of being at home—it seemed as if she had been gone a month." These cases, which occurred successively in about an hour, at the room of Dr. Morton, are fair examples of the average results produced by the inhalation of the vapor, and will convey an idea of the feelings and expressions of many of the patients subjected to this process. Dr. Morton states that in upwards of two hundred patients similar effects have been produced. The inhalation, after the first irritation has subsided, is easy, and produces a complete unconsciousness at the expiration of a period varying from two to five or six, sometimes eight minutes; its duration varying from two to five minutes; during which the patient is completely insensible to the ordinary tests of pain. The pupils in the cases I have observed have been generally dilated; but with allowance for excitement and other disturbing influences, the pulse is not affected, at least in frequency; the patient remains

in a calm and tranquil slumber, and wakes with a pleasurable feeling. The manifestation of consciousness or resistance I at first attributed to the reflex function, but I have since had cause to modify this view.

It is natural to inquire whether no accidents have attended the employment of a method so wide in its application, and so striking in its results. I have been unable to learn that any serious consequences have ensued. One or two robust patients have failed to be affected. I may mention as an early and unsuccessful case, its administration in an operation performed by Dr. Hayward, where an elderly woman was made to inhale the vapor for at least half an hour without effect. Though I was unable at the time to detect any imperfection in the process, I am inclined to believe that such existed. One woman became much excited, and required to be confined to the chair. As this occurred to the same patient twice, and in no other case so far as I have been able to learn, it was evidently owing to a peculiar susceptibility. Very young subjects are affected with nausea and vomiting, and for this reason Dr. M. has refused to administer it to children. Finally, in a few cases, the patient has continued to sleep tranquilly for eight or ten minutes, and once, after a protracted inhalation, for the period of an hour.

The following case, which occurred a few days since, will illustrate the probable character of future accidents. A young man was made to inhale the vapor, while an operation of limited extent, but somewhat protracted duration, was performed by Dr. Dix upon the tissues near the eye. After a good deal of coughing, the patient succeeded in inhaling the vapor, and fell asleep at the end of about ten minutes. During the succeeding two minutes, the first incision was made, and the patient awoke, but unconscious of pain. Desiring again to be inebriated, the tube was placed in his mouth and retained there about twenty five minutes, the patient being apparently half affected, but, as he subsequently stated, unconscious. Respiration was performed partly through the tube and partly with the mouth open.—Thirty-five minutes had now elapsed, when I found the pulse suddenly diminishing in force, so much so, that I suggested the propriety of desisting. The pulse continued decreasing in force, and from 120 had fallen to 96. The respiration was very slow, the hands cold, and the patient insensible. Attention was now of course directed to the return of respiration and circulation. Cold affusions, as directed for poisoning with alcohol, were applied to the head, the ears were syringed, and ammonia presented to the nostrils and administered internally. For fifteen minutes the symptoms remained stationary, when it was proposed to use active exercise, as in a case of narcotism from opium. Being lifted to his feet, the patient soon made an effort to move his limbs, and the pulse became more full, but again decreased in the sitting posture, and it was only after being compelled to walk during half an hour that the patient was able to lift his head. Complete consciousness returned only at the expiration of an hour. In this case the blood was flowing from the head, and rendered additional loss of blood unnecessary. Indeed the probable hemorrhage was previously relied on as salutary in its tendency.

Two recent cases serve to confirm, and one I think to decide, the great utility of this process. On Saturday, the 7th Nov., at the Massachusetts General Hospital, the right leg of a young girl was amputated above the knee, by Dr. Hayward, for disease of this joint. Being made to inhale the preparation, after protesting her inability to do so from the pungency of the vapor, she became insensible in about five minutes. The last circumstance she was able to recall was the adjustment of the mouth piece of the apparatus, after which she was unconscious until she heard some remark at the time of securing the vessels—one of the last steps of the operation. Of the incision she knew nothing, and was unable to say, upon my asking her, whether or not the limb had been removed. She refused to answer several questions during the operation, and was evidently completely insensible to pain or other external influences. This operation was followed by another, consisting of the removal of a part of the lower jaw, by Dr. Warren. The patient was insensible to the pain of the first incision, though she recovered her consciousness in the course of a few minutes.

The character of the lethargic state, which follows this inhalation, is peculiar. The patient loses his individuality and awakes after a certain period, either entirely unconscious of what has taken place, or retaining only a faint recollection of it. Severe pain is sometimes remembered as being of a dull character; sometimes the operation is supposed to be performed by somebody else. Certain patients whose teeth have been extracted, remember the application of the extracting instruments; yet none have been conscious of any real pain.

As before remarked, the phenomena of the lethargic

state are not such as to lead the observer to infer this insensibility. Almost all patients under the dentist's hands scowl or frown; some raise the hand. The patient whose leg was amputated, uttered a cry when the sciatic nerve was divided. Many patients open the mouth, or raise themselves in the chair upon being directed to do so. Others manifest the activity of certain intellectual faculties. An Irishman objected to the pain that he had been promised an exemption from. A young man taking his seat in the chair and inhaling a short time, rejected the globe, and taking from his pockets a pencil and card, wrote and added figures. Dr. M. supposing him to be affected, asked if he would now submit to the operation, to which the young man willingly assented. A tooth was accordingly extracted, and the patient soon after recovered his senses. In none of these cases had the patients any knowledge of what had been done during their sleep.

I am as yet, unable to generalize certain other symptoms to which I have directed attention. The pulse has been, as far as my observation extends, unaltered in frequency, though somewhat diminished in volume, but the excitement preceding an operation, has in almost every instance, so accelerated the pulse that it has continued rapid for a length of time. The pupils are in a majority of cases dilated; yet they are in certain cases unaltered, as in the above case of amputation.

The duration of the insensibility is another important element in the process. When the apparatus is withdrawn at the moment of unconsciousness, it continues upon the average, two or three minutes, and the patient then recovers completely or incompletely, without subsequent ill effects. In this sudden cessation of the symptoms, this vapor in the air tubes differs in its effects from the narcotics or stimulants in the stomach, and as far as the evidence of a few experiments of Dr. Morton goes, from the ethereal solution of opium when breathed.—Lassitude, headache and other symptoms lasted for several hours when this agent was employed.

But if the respiration of the vapor be prolonged much beyond the first period, the symptoms are more permanent in their character. In one of the first cases, that of a young boy, the inhalation was continued during the greater part of ten minutes, and the subsequent narcotism and drowsiness lasted more than an hour. In a case alluded to before, the narcotism was complete during more than twenty minutes, the insensibility approached to coma.

Such cases resemble those before quoted from Christison and other authors, and show that the cessation of the inhalation, after it has been prolonged for a length of time, does not produce a corresponding cessation of the symptoms; while if the inhalation is brief, the insensibility ceases in a short time. Recovery, in the latter case, is not improbably due to the complete and rapid elimination of the vapor from the lungs; the more gradual return of consciousness, in the former case, to the presence of a larger quantity of unexhaled particles. A fact mentioned by Christison bears upon this point.—This author states that insensibility from the presence of a large quantity of alcohol in the stomach, often gives place to a complete and sudden return of consciousness, when the alcohol is removed by the stomach pump. It is probable that the vapor of the new preparation ceases early to act upon the system, from the facility with which it is exhaled.

The process is obviously adapted to operation which are brief in their duration, whatever be the severity.—Of these, the two most striking, are perhaps, amputations and the extraction of teeth. In protracted dissections, the pain of the first incision alone is of sufficient importance to induce its use; and it may hereafter prove safe to administer it for a length of time, and to produce a narcotism of an hour's duration. It is not unlikely to be applicable in cases requiring a suspension of muscular action; such as the reduction of dislocations or of strangulated hernia; and finally it may be employed in the alleviation of functional pain, of muscular spasm, as in cramp and cholera, and as a sedative or narcotic.

The application of the process to the performance of surgical operations, is, it will be conceded, new. If it can be shown to have been occasionally resorted to before, it was only an ignorance of its universal application and immense practical utility that prevented such isolated facts from being generalized.

**COLLECTOR'S DEBTS.**—A butcher in New York, who had often dunned one of his customers, who lived in a fine house, hit upon the following expedient:—A cart was placed before the door in which sat a boy, holding a placard with the inscription—"A poor butcher's boy waiting to get the money for his bill—\$7.14."

## PUSH.

Riding the other day in a stage coach, all alone, with an Irish gentleman, we became quite sociable, and he gave me this account of his life:—

"When twenty years of age I was at school learning surveying and navigation. 'And do you mean to travel?' said the master. 'What think you of America?' said I; for we were then in Danganonn, county Tyrone, Ireland. 'America,' repeated he, 'America is a growing country—go, John, and behave yourself as becomes a true Irishman, and you may eat white bread in your old age.'—At a little more than 21, I sailed from Cork, in the good ship Queen Dido, and landed in 57 days at New Castle. I hid me up to the city in a trice, and wandered through the streets a stranger for two days, when, on the third who should I happen to meet but Ned McCloskey, an old townsman. 'Halloo!' said he if this isn't our old friend John Varnham! When did you come? In what ship honey? How were all at home? Why your cheek looks red as a potato, man. You'll grow white in this country, boy, but (running on without waiting for an answer,) what's your motto?' 'What's my motto?' enquired I, 'what is that?' 'A short bit of sentence to direct you in life. You'll have to take one. See,' continued he, touching a flask of whiskey which he carried, and pointing to a buxom looking hussy, that was just passing—'A short life and a merry one, my motto.—Good bye, John, I'll see you again,'—and away he flew, half seas over, bound for a short life, methought, whether for a merry or sad one, was a matter of doubt.

Going up Chestnut street—thinks I does every man take a motto on setting out in life? What shall I choose. A motto! Let me see—when upon an inner door, I saw in large letters,—PUSH—'That shall be my motto,' said I—and on the impulse of the moment, my right hand was on the door, my foot over the threshold, I found myself in the middle of an office of some sort.—After pausing a moment, a genteel man stepped up and inquired my business. 'To tell the honest truth,' said I, 'none special with any one mortal man in particular, but I am an Irish lad, a perfect stranger, just come to America to seek my fortune.' 'Have you money?' said the gentleman. 'Nothing but five guineas, the gift of my angel mother,' said I, common learning, Irish honor, and a grateful heart to any one that will put me in a way to be useful.' 'Why,' said the man, smiling, 'I like your frankness, and really will venture to trust something to that face. You can write; very well—then copy that paper.' I did so, and found myself in a snug berth, with plenty to do for an industrious man—plenty to eat and drink for a temperate man—and satisfactory compensation for a reasonable man.

My employer was a scrivener, and sometimes dealt in the purchase of real estate on speculation. Hearing him deliberating, one day, doubtfully about a purchase, 'Push' whispered my good genius. 'It will not fail,' said I, 'and if I might be permitted, I would gladly take half the bargain.' 'On your luck and judgment, John,' said my employer. We bought the property, aided by a loan, and in ninety days realized a thousand pounds. I was now two and twenty; the bloom of my cheek had the freshness of youth and health—a pit or two of the small pox did not mar my good looks—my hair twisted about my forehead in clusters of curls which though I seemed careless about them, were matters of some little vanity, and I did not like to part with them; my skin under my sleeve was white as snow and except that I was a little bow-kneed, (I had that from my grandfather, Sir Phelim) you would not find a properer person in a summer's day! Did you ever know an Irishman that had not a warm heart towards the ladies? Not often said I.

'My good fortune,' continued he, 'in several bargains began to be rumored around; and as I went constantly to church with my master, several damsels looked kindly on me; one more especially, the daughter of a wealthy merchant over the way, and her brow it seemed to me relaxed from the prudish severity of an heiress, when her eye met mine. 'Push,' said my good genius, 'And blessings be you my sweet damsel,' said I, half whispering, as I took an opportunity to pass by her side, half a square on her way home from meeting one afternoon.—'And church is doubly pleasant when you and the like of you attend morning and evening.—No offense in saying so I hope, charming lady.' 'Me, sir,' replied she, 'but not very invitingly nor very angrily. 'Push,' said my good genius, for my heart fluttered a little. 'Who else but your bonny self, miss,' continued I, for that speaking eye and tell tale lip, say that it's your mother's daughter who has a kind heart and gentle affection—and—'Fie, Mr. Varnham,' said she, for it seems she knew my name.—'I'm sorry if there is anything in my countenance so communicative as to warrant a gentleman who is almost a stranger, to address me in such a manner, and

in such a place. No young woman should listen to that sort of address, certainly without a mother's leave.'—And methought that she half lingered instead of quickening her pace, to hear if I had anything to reply. 'Push,' said my good genius. 'In Ireland, dearest,' said I 'our fathers often make love going home from church, and if you would give me leave to ask your mother's approbation'—here I stammered in spite of my motto. 'O, as to that,' said the smiling girl, 'you may say anything to my mother you please.'

The same evening, returning from bathing in the Delaware, for the day had been sultry, a sudden bustle and cry of distress, arrested my attention, at that hour, an unfrequented place. The cry of a fellow man in trouble is always, you know, a command to a true Irishman to Push. My cane was my shillelah; one villain reeled in an instant with a broken head, and the other, though twice my size, sunk beneath an arm that was nerved by humanity and duty. Assistance soon gathered, and on placing my prisoner in the hands of an officer, who should lie there bleeding before me but the honored father—'Hah, your sweet-heart—the pretty damsel you had half courted coming from meeting?' The very same. I took him home, when he introduced me as the saviour of his life from robbers and murderers. In less time than a ship could sail to Cork and home again, I was junior partner in the wholesale store, and the loveliest girl that has lived for a thousand years blessed me with her heart and hand. Thank God, I have been prosperous in my basket and my store. Our children are a blessing to us, as I hope they will be an honor to their country, and we have enough for them and ourselves and somewhat for the poor."

The stars that guide the wanderer right  
Are virtue fair and honor bright.  
Be temperate, steady, just and kind,  
Then Push, and fortune you shall find.

## THE ELOQUENCE OF PATRICK HENRY.

Unquestionably, Patrick Henry was the most eloquent speaker of modern times, if not of all times. The following narrative from the Baptist Register, gives a fine illustration of his powers and the effects he produced upon the minds of those who heard him:

It appears that soon after Henry's noted case of "tobacco and preserves," as it was sometimes called, he heard a case of oppression for conscience sake. The English church having been established by law in Virginia, became, as all establishments are wont to do, exceedingly intolerant towards other sects. In prosecution of this system of conversion, three Baptist clergymen had been indicted at Fredericksburg, for preaching the gospel of the Son of God, contrary to the statute.—Henry, hearing of this, rode some fifty miles to volunteer his services in defence of the oppressed. He entered the court, being unknown to all save the bench and bar, while the indictment was being read by the clerk. He sat within the bar until the reading was finished, and the king's attorney had concluded some remarks in defence of the prosecution, when he arose, reached out his hand for the paper, and without more ceremony, proceeded as follows:

"May it please your worship, I think I heard read by the prosecutor, as I entered this house, the paper that I now hold in my hand. If I have rightly understood the king's attorney of the colony, he has framed an indictment for the purpose of arraigning and punishing by imprisonment, three inoffensive persons before the bar of this court for a crime of the greatest magnitude—as disturbers of the peace. May it please the court, what did I hear read? Did I hear it distinctly, or was it a mistake of my own? Did I hear as an expression, as if a crime, that these men, whom your worship are about to try for misdemeanor are charged with—what?" and continuing in a low, solemn, heavy tone, "preaching the gospel of the Son of God!" Falling, amidst the most profound and breathless silence, he slowly waved the paper three times around his head, when lifting his hands and eyes to heaven, he, with peculiar and expressive energy, exclaimed, "Great God!" The exclamation, the burst of feeling from the audience were overpowering. Mr. Henry resumed:

"May it please your worship, in a day like this, when truth is about to burst her fetters; when mankind are about to be aroused to claim natural and inalienable rights; when the yoke of oppression, that has reached the wilderness of America, and the unnatural union of ecclesiastical and civil power is about to be dissolved—at such a period, when liberty, liberty of conscience, is about to awake from her slumbers, it is well to inquire into the reason of such charges as I find exhibited here to-day, in this indictment!" Another fearful pause, when the