

Letter to Lord Ebury, 14 January 1858

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[0001]

12 Kensington Palace Gardens
14th January 1858
My Lord Ebury
I beg leave to
return my hearty thanks
for the kind expressions
contained in your
favour of the 2^d Jan^y.
and also for the kind
feeling which prompted
you to bring the subject
of the Homoeopathic system
to my notice. I tried

[0002]

the whole range of
Homoeopathic globules on
the natives of Africa &
unfortunately without
ever producing or
alleviating a single
symptom. This was the
case also with my father
in law M^r Moffat &
was a cause of regret
inasmuch as these forms
of medicine are so very
portable.

Among Boers, half castes
and others who are
accustomed to use coffee
tea condiments &c the case

[0003]

was different. There the
globules were often very
useful as there is
at the time of their exhibition
usually a strict enforce
ment of proper regimen.
With this latter I found
bread pills quite as

efficacious in curing
many complaints. And
I consequently became
a little sceptical as to the
value of the globules.
Homoeopathy has done
great good in exploding
the overdrugging system
which prevailed in this

[0004]
country as it shewed
how much unassisted
nature can do. but
before pinning our
faith to the system
I think it would be fair
for those who believe
in it to shew what
is effected by their
art in contradistinction
to what is effected by
nature. I never met
one who would pretend
to shew this. and as no
effects follow in the
native constitution
where the diet is of the
simplest kind I am disposed

[0005]
to attribute the effects
you have observed
to the regimen allowing
nature to have fair
play.

I passed through
the usual medical
curriculum but
was not taught
"Allopathy" though
I have seen statements
made by persons
who attended the
same classes to the

[0006]
effect that they
in adopting the Homoeopathic
system had been converted
from Allopathic

principles. I dont
wonder at your
Lordship speaking with
scorn of the "thing
called Allopathy" for
it must have been
brought under your
notice by those who
believe in Homoeopathy
using a nickname
which they have

[0007]

invented. I was taught
the Eclectic system
i.e. to choose the
good out of all
the systems - (and
many systems there
have been, each of
which had as much
claim on our regard
for cures effected
as Homoeopathy) - and
to leave the nonsense
as much as possible
alone. I am sensible
of no mental bias

[0008]

against Homoeopathy
I only wish that I
could find a tenth part
in it of the good some
see therein but I could
not trust my own
life in a serious illness
to it and I hope your
Lordship will not
when you really need
medicine lean on
nature alone

Again thanking your
Lordship for kindly
writing to me I am
Truly Yours
David Livingstone