

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

History of Medicine

It is sobering to realise that as recently as the year in which *On the Origin of Species* was published, learned opinion was that diseases such as typhus and cholera were spread by a 'miasma', and suggestions that doctors should wash their hands before examining patients were greeted with mockery by the profession. The Cambridge Library Collection reissues milestone publications in the history of Western medicine as well as studies of other medical traditions. Its coverage ranges from Galen on anatomical procedures to Florence Nightingale's common-sense advice to nurses, and includes early research into genetics and mental health, colonial reports on tropical diseases, documents on public health and military medicine, and publications on spa culture and medicinal plants.

The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.

A physician and medical reformer enthused by the scientific and cultural progress of the Enlightenment as it took hold in Britain, Thomas Percival (1740–1804) wrote on many topics, including public health and demography. His influential publication on medical ethics is considered the first modern formulation. In 1807, his son Edward published this four-volume collection of his father's diverse work. Some of the items here had never been published before, including a selection of Percival's private correspondence and a biographical account written by Edward. Volume 2 contains essays on moral and literary subjects, notably a Socratic discourse on truth as well as miscellaneous observations on the influence of habit and association. Also included are a memoir of the philanthropist Thomas Butterworth Bayley and the text of Percival's *Medical Ethics* (1803), which has been reissued separately in this series along with his *Essays Medical and Experimental* (revised edition, 1772–3).

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The Works,
Literary, Moral, and Medical,
of Thomas Percival, M.D.

*To which are Prefixed,
Memoirs of His Life and Writings,
and a Selection from
His Literary Correspondence*

VOLUME 2

THOMAS PERCIVAL



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108067348

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2014

This edition first published 1807

This digitally printed version 2014

ISBN 978-1-108-06734-8 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or
with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE
WORKS
OF
THOMAS PERCIVAL, M.D.
IN FOUR VOLUMES.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE
WORKS,
LITERARY, MORAL,
AND
MEDICAL,
OF
THOMAS PERCIVAL, M.D.

F. R. S. AND A. S.—F. R. S. AND R. M. S. EDIN.

LATE PRES. OF THE LIT. AND PHIL. SOC. AT MANCHESTER; MEMBER OF
THE ROYAL SOCIETIES OF PARIS AND OF LYONS, OF THE MEDICAL
SOCIETIES OF LONDON, AND OF AIX EN PROvence, OF THE
AMERIC. ACAD. OF ARTS, &c, AND OF THE AMERIC.
PHIL. SOC. AT PHILADELPHIA.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED,

MEMOIRS of his LIFE and WRITINGS,
AND A SELECTION FROM HIS
LITERARY CORRESPONDENCE.

A NEW EDITION.

VOL. II.

PRINTED BY RICHARD CRUTTWELL, ST. JAMES'S-STREET, BATH;
FOR J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD, LONDON.

1807.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

*MORAL and LITERARY DISSERTATIONS.*

	PAGE
D EDICATION — — —	iii
Preface — — —	v
Socratic Discourse on Truth — — —	3
Miscellaneous Observations on the Influence of Habit and Affociation — — —	71
On Inconsistency of Expectation in Literary Pursuits	115
On the Advantages of a Taste for the general Beauties of Nature and of Art — — —	127
Miscellaneous Observations on the Alliance of Natural His- tory and Philosophy with Poetry — — —	141
On the Intellectual and Moral Conduct of Experimental Pursuits — — —	175
A Tribute to the Memory of Charles de Polier, Esq; address'd to the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester	191
General Appendix to the foregoing Dissertations —	203
An Enquiry into the Principles and Limits of Taxation	232
Appendix — — —	259
Biographical Memoirs of the late Thomas Butterworth Bailey, Esq; — — —	287

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

6

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Differtatio Medica Inauguralis de FRIGORE	307
MEDICAL ETHICS; or, a Code of Institutes and Precepts, adapted to the professional Conduct of Physicians and Surgeons: I. In Hospital Practice. II. In Private or General Practice. III. In Relation to Apothecaries. IV. In Cafes which may require a Knowledge of Law. To which is added, an Appendix; containing a Discourse on Hospital Duties; also, Notes and Illustrations	55
Contents of Medical Ethics	361

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

MORAL AND LITERARY

DISSERTATIONS:

CHIEFLY INTENDED

AS THE SEQUEL

TO

A FATHER'S INSTRUCTIONS.

VOL. II.

A

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

“REM TIBI SOCRATICÆ POTERUNT OSTENDERE CHARTÆ.

“—— QUO VIRTUS, QUO FERAT ERROR.” HOR.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TO THE RIGHT REVEREND

RICHARD WATSON, D. D. F. R. S.

LORD BISHOP OF LANDAFF,

&c. &c. &c.



MY LORD,

PERMIT me again to offer this volume of Moral
and Literary Dissertations to your Lordship's
acceptance and patronage. The work has been
much enlarged; and I shall think myself happy if it
continue to be honoured with your indulgence and
approbation. I feel a lively sense of the value of
your friendship; and venerate those distinguished
talents and virtues which you have so uniformly and
assiduously exerted in the promotion of science, reli-
gion, and liberty. With every affectionate wish for

A 2

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

iv

DEDICATION.

your Lordship's health, felicity, and the still further
extension of your usefulness, and with the most cor-
dial respect and attachment,

I have the honour to be,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's much obliged,

And most faithful humble servant,

THOMAS PERCIVAL.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE PREFACE.



IN offering to the public a miscellaneous work like the following, it may be proper to give a brief account of the different parts of which it is composed. The **SOCRATIC DISCOURSE** was written several years ago, for the use of the author's own family; and a few printed copies of it were distributed amongst his friends. The approbation with which it has been honoured by some of the most judicious of them, has abated his diffidence concerning it; and the desire of rendering his private labours of utility to mankind has induced him to commit it again to the press. It forms the first part of a plan which he has long had in contemplation, of teaching his elder children the most important branches of ethics, *viz.* **VERACITY, FAITHFULNESS, JUSTICE, and BENEVOLENCE**, in a *systematic and experimental* manner, by **EXAMPLES**. But various causes have hitherto prevented, and will probably continue to prevent, the completion of his design. He cordially wishes, therefore, that some moralist of more leisure and superior abilities, into

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

whose hands this little piece may fall, would execute in its full extent what is here so partially and imperfectly attempted.

To promote the love of truth, and to excite an aversion to duplicity and falsehood, are objects which merit the most serious attention in the business of education: and as the minds of children at an early age are incapable of discerning the distinctions and subordinations of moral duty, the rules prescribed to them should be absolute and without exception. But in the more advanced period of youth, observation and reading will necessarily point out many deviations from these rules, not only in the conversation and conduct of their friends, but in the most applauded actions which history records: and when such reflections suggest themselves, it is a proof that the powers of the understanding are unfolded; and that it will be reasonable to graft rational knowledge on the love of virtue. For to obviate error is the first step towards rectitude; and the abuse of reason in our moral judgments too frequently terminates in depravity of principle.

The author has in general given his authorities for the facts which he has related, that historic truth may be distinguished from the fictions, introduced for the sake of illustration: but in the story of the King of Navarre, afterwards Henry IV. of France, they have been unavoidably intermingled. On this point M. Boulard, an advocate of considerable rank at Paris, who has translated the present work into very elegant

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE.

vii

French, thus expresses himself: *On a vu qu'il dit dans sa préface qu'il a ajouté quelques faits de son invention, à ce qu'il a raconté de Henri IV. Je pense qu'il auroit été plus convenable de ne pas mêler des fictions à l'histoire.* But the author does not recollect any historical fact, which fully exemplifies the case in question: and the reference to Sully's Memoirs will shew the precise boundary between truth and fiction.

It is well known to the learned, that Socrates gave rise to a new mode of instruction in the schools of philosophy; and that Plato and Xenophon, by recording the moral conversations of their amiable master, excited a taste for dialogue, which has prevailed through all succeeding ages. The mode of exemplification pursued in the present work has necessarily occasioned some deviation from each of these great originals; who are indeed themselves so different as to agree only in one common outline. But the author has copied both in many particulars, especially in the adoption of real characters for the *dramatis personæ*, or speakers in his discourse. How far he has done justice to the talents or opinions of Philocles, it is not for him to determine. But if the sentiments imputed to his late honoured friend be such as he would not have avowed, let it be remembered, that Plato also wrote what Socrates disclaimed;*

* The *LYSIS*. When Socrates heard this dialogue of Plato read, in which he supported the principal character, "Gods!" he exclaimed, "how this young man makes me say what I never thought!"

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

and that the author alone is answerable for whatever he has delivered.

The ESSAYS ON THE INFLUENCE OF HABIT AND ASSOCIATION; ON INCONSISTENCY OF EXPECTATION IN LITERARY PURSUITS; ON THE ADVANTAGES OF A TASTE FOR THE GENERAL BEAUTIES OF NATURE and of ART; ON THE ALLIANCE OF NATURAL HISTORY and PHILOSOPHY with POETRY; and on the INTELLECTUAL and MORAL CONDUCT OF EXPERIMENTAL PURSUITS; have been read before the LITERARY and PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY of Manchester, and honoured with a place in their journals. But in these several compositions the discerning reader will perceive evident traits of paternal instruction: and that both in the choice of the subjects, and in the method of discussing them, he has had in view the interests of those in whose improvement he is most nearly and tenderly concerned. They will therefore, he trusts, be deemed no improper sequel to the SOCRATIC DISCOURSE.

The composition of a TRIBUTE to the MEMORY of CHARLES DE POLIER, ESQ; devolved upon him as the friend of the deceased, and officially as PRESIDENT of the very respectable society which appointed this record of his merit. It was written under the impression of heart-felt sorrow, and on that account may perhaps be suspected of exhibiting a picture too strong in its lineaments, and too glowing in its colours. But time, which calms every emotion, and restores the due authority of judgment over imagi-

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06734-8 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 2

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE.

ix

nation, has made no change in the author's sentiments concerning the character he has drawn; and the insertion of it in this work, whilst it gratifies the feelings of his mind, is perfectly consonant to the general design which he has in view: for it offers a most instructive model to young men, who are animated with the laudable ambition of uniting liberal and polite manners with the more solid attainments of learning and virtue.

The APPENDIX contains such remarks and illustrations, as further reflection or reading have suggested since these Dissertations were written. The author is fully apprized of the peculiar delicacy and difficulty of the moral topics which he has attempted to investigate; and trusts, that he shall always be disposed to acknowledge and to rectify any errors into which he may have fallen. For he deems a return to truth and reason more honourable than the possession even of infallible judgment; and sincerely adopts the sentiment of a celebrated writer, "that the man who is free from mistakes can pretend to no praise, except what is derived from the justness of his understanding; but that he who corrects his mistakes, displays at once the justness of his understanding, and the candour of his heart."

MANCHESTER, *September 20, 1788.*