

## SAMUEL THOMSON

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gentlemen, and render such a verdict as will justify you to the prisoner, to your own conscience, your country, and your God.

Give way, gentlemen, to nothing but a love of justice—retire to the jury room and interchange your sentiments in an amicable manner, hear one another with calmness, weigh everything carefully, submit everything to a test of common sense, and render such a verdict as in your conscience you believe to be just and right!

Finally, after four hours' deliberation, the jury returned to the Court with a verdict of,—

**GUILTY OF MANSLAUGHTER IN THE FOURTH DEGREE,** accompanied with a recommendation of the accused to mercy.

Mr. Morrill moved an arrest of judgment on the ground that the accused had never been arraigned, nor the indictment read to him.

Mr. Phenix said that there was a statute for the cure of all such informalities, and that the legality of the proceedings could not be questioned.

Mr. Morrill replied that he had other grounds for his motion of arrest, but what he had stated, he deemed sufficient for the present.

The Court replied that the motion should receive due consideration at the ensuing term, and, meanwhile, the **PRISONER MIGHT GO AT LIBERTY UNTIL A DECISION WAS MADE.**

The Recorder **THEN THANKED THE JURY FOR THEIR VERDICT, AND SAID THAT IT WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW, AND RECEIVED THE UNANIMOUS APPROBATION OF THE COURT!**

Thus ended this most famous trial which, together with that of Thomson, created more interest in early reform American medicine than perhaps all other influences combined. Let us now pass to the *Materia Medica* adopted by Thomson and his followers.

## THE THOMSONIAN REMEDIES, TREATMENT OF DISEASE, AND THE FAMOUS THOMSONIAN "COURSE OF MEDICATION"

The Materia Medica of the early followers of Samuel Thomson consisted of botanical products and combinations thereof. The aim was to exclude all poisons, in which list lobelia was not by them included. Their remedies, therefore, excluded such energetics as podophyllum, sanguinaria, rhus, etc., which became important agents with Beach and his followers, the Eclectics. Whilst the Thomsonians rejected mineral salts and the inorganics, these substances were conservatively employed in Eclecticism. These facts have not been generally understood, many physicians and others, who should know better, maintaining that Eclectics used only botanical remedies.

In order that the Thomsonian Materia Medica may be authoritatively recorded in our Bulletin, we reproduce from *The Lobelia Advocate*, 1838, an editorial commenting on this subject, followed by a complete list of the plants used by Thomson and his followers, which also is reproduced by us in full, in the terms employed in the original.

### THOMSONIAN MATERIA MEDICA.

Many false and wholly erroneous notions have heretofore existed, and still do, to a considerable extent, with regard to the articles used by Thomsonian practitioners as remedial agents, both as regards their medicinal properties and the number used.

It is believed by many honest, well-meaning individuals, (those, of course, who are wholly ignorant of Thomsonianism,) that the articles used in the Thomsonian Materia Medica, are of the most deleterious and poisonous nature—that Thomsonian practitioners use but one or two articles *in all*, and that the same articles are given in all cases, whatever may be the form of disease; that steam, cayenne, and lobelia, constitute the Materia Medica of the Thomsonian system of medical practice, and that they are very dangerous, and neither of them can be used without great danger to the patient. Now we do not censure folks who thus believe and talk, because we believe they do it ignorantly, yet we do most sincerely pity their ignorance and credulity, for believing the vague and foolish stories of those who are prejudiced and interested, for we lay it down as an indisputable truth, that none but the ignorant, (that is, ignorant of Thomsonism,) interested and prejudiced, ever speak against the Botanic practice, and for the especial benefit of such as are in the habit of talking thus ignorantly and foolishly, we shall make the three following declarations, viz: 1st. Thomsonian physicians use in their ordinary practice of medicine a greater number of distinct

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of

SAMUEL THOMSON,

and a history of

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as shown in "THE NEW GUIDE TO HEALTH," (1835),  
and the *literature of that day.*

Including

Portraits of SAMUEL THOMSON; Fac-Simile of THOMSON'S "PATENT"  
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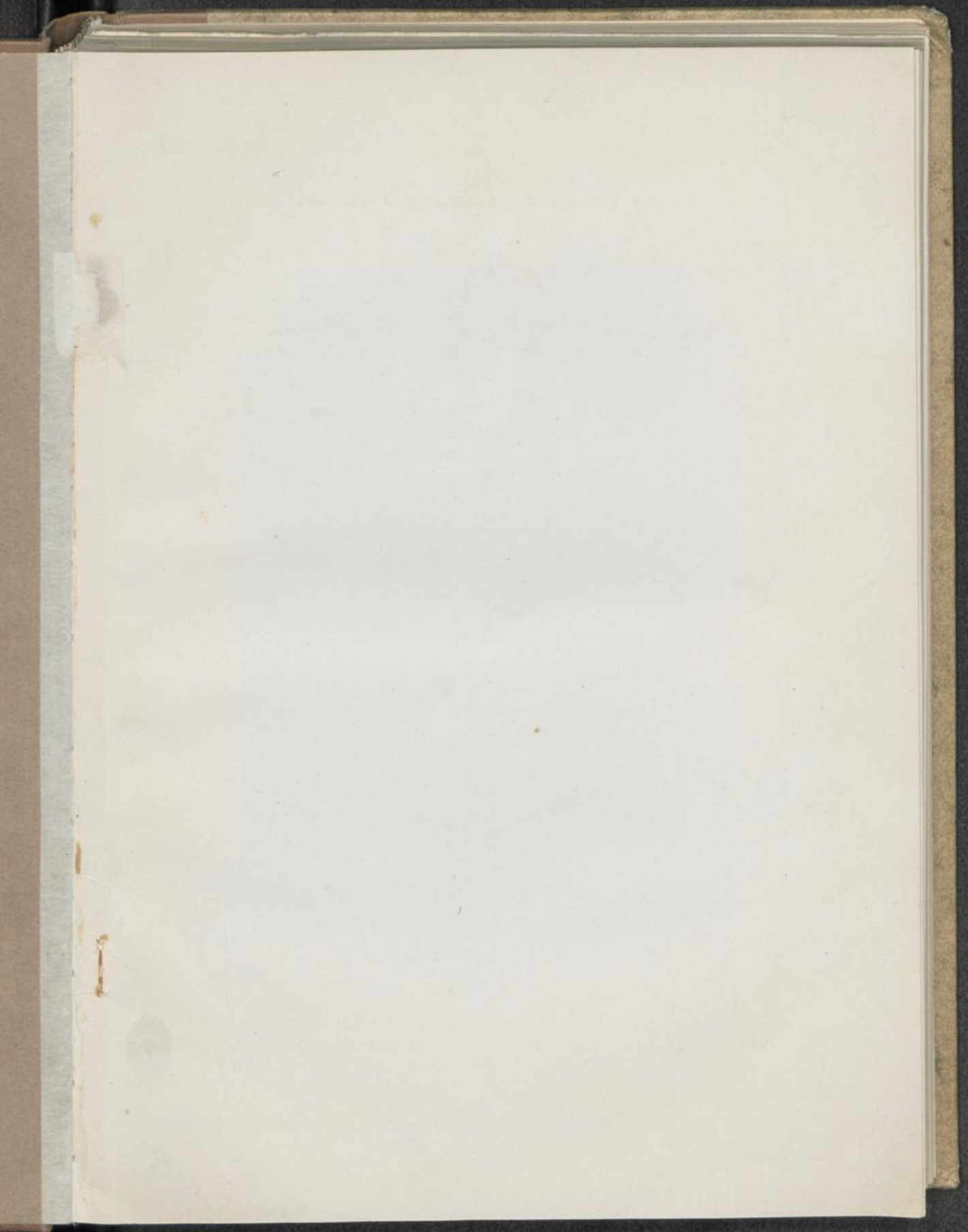
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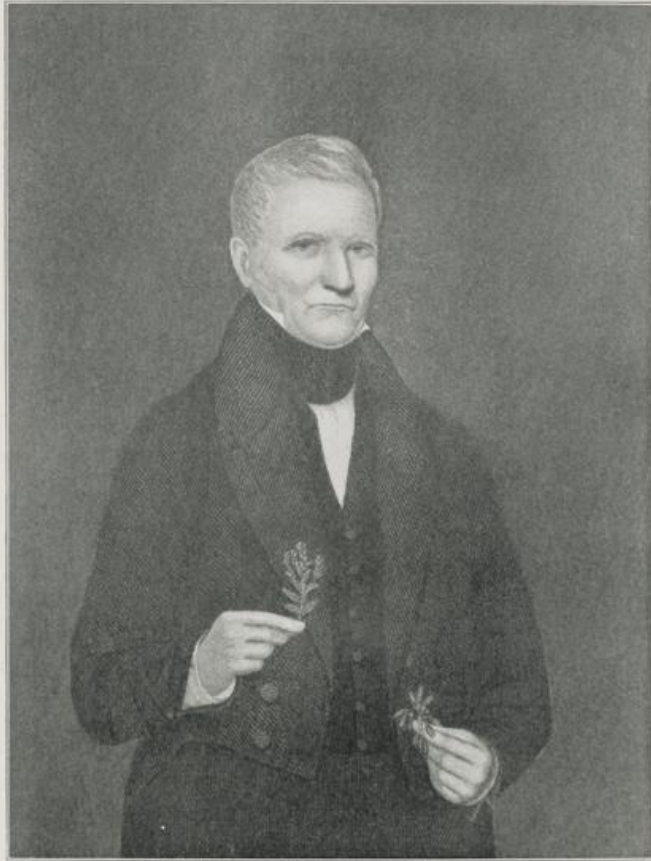
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**SAM<sup>L</sup>. THOMSON - BOTANIST.**

*His System and practice originating with himself*  
*Born Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 1769.*

[From "The Thomsonian Materia Medica," 1841.]