

B. Franklin



537. [N^o 1]

THE New-England Courant.

Monday August 7. 1721.

Homo non nisi serpens. Or, *Jack of all Trades.*

Dr. Benglass
abnormis sapiens. — Hor.

At the Request of several Gentlemen in Town :
A Continuation of the History of Inoculation in Boston,
by a Society of the Practitioners in Physick.

THE bold undertaker of the Practice of the Greek old
Women, notwithstanding the Terror and Confu-
sion from his Son's Inoculation-Fever, proceeds to inocu-
late Persons from Seventy Years of Age and downwards.
The Select Men (or Managers of the Town Affairs)
in duty bound to take Cognizance of the Matter, desire
a Meeting of all the Practitioners in Town, to have
their Opinion whether the Practice ought to be al-
lowed or not; they unanimously agreed that it was *rash*
and *dubious*, being entirely new, not in the least vouch-
ed or recommended (being merely published, in the
Philosophick Transactions, by way of Amusement)
from Britain, tho' it came to us *via* London from the
Turks, and by a strong *viva voce* Evidence, was *proved*
to be of fatal & dangerous Consequence. B—n is de-
sired by the Select Men to desist.

Notwithstanding the general Aversion of the Town,
in Contradiction to the declared Opinion of the Practi-
tioners, in Opposition to the Selectmen, and in Spite of
the discouraging Evidences relating to this Practice,
Six Gentlemen of Piety and Learning, profoundly igno-
rant of the Matter, after serious Consideration of a Di-
sease one of the most intricate practical Cases in Physick,
do on the Merits of their Characters, and for no other
reason, with a *Vox prateriæq; nihil*, assert, &c. If
this Argument, *viz.* their Character, should prevail
with the Populace (tho' here I think they have
missed of their Aim) who knows but it may oblige
some prophane Person to canvas that sort of Argument.
I think their Character ought to be sacred, and that
they themselves ought not to give the least Occasion
to have it called in question. They set up for Judges
of a Man's Qualifications in the Practice of Physick,
and very lavishly bestow all the fullsome common Place
of *Quack Advertisements*. One would think they
meant some *Romantick Character*, something beyond
that of candid Sydenham, the sagacious Radcliff, or
the celebrated Mead : They might indeed in respect of
his moral and religious Qualifications, which lay pro-
perly under their Cognizance, have said, *That he was*
a modest, humble Man, a Man of Continency, Probity, &c.
At first reading of this Composure, many were per-
suaded that it was only a Piece of Humour, Banter,
Burlesque,

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