

## Letter to Lord Ebury, 14 January 1858

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[0001]

12 Kensington Palace Gardens

14<sup>th</sup> January 1858

My Lord Ebury

I beg leave to  
return my hearty thanks  
for the kind expressions  
contained in your  
favour of the 2<sup>d</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>.  
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<sup>r</sup> 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