

## REPORT

*Of the select Committee to which was referred, on the 9th ultimo, the memorial of Dr. James Smith, accompanied with a bill to encourage Vaccination.*

---

MARCH 4, 1824.

Read, and, with the bill, committed to a committee of the whole House to-morrow.

---

The Committee, to whom was referred the memorial of Dr. James Smith, on vaccination,

### REPORT, AS FOLLOWS:

The memorial of Dr. James Smith states that the smallpox is now spreading, to a very alarming extent, to most of the great cities, and to many other parts of the United States; and that, beside the calamities immediately attendant on the disease, it necessarily suspends and interrupts commerce and intercourse between different portions of the Union. To arrest the progress of this scourge, and to prevent its future appearance, the memorial recommends the appointment of a general agent for the United States, and local agents in the several congressional districts, to whom the general agent shall, at all times, furnish the real vaccine matter, free of postage. The memorial also contains much detail, on the nature and distinguishable character of the vaccine from the smallpox or variolous disease. It also asserts that medical skill is not required for the effectual and safe application of the vaccine matter; that this process may be performed by any person. But that, to ensure confidence and success in the vaccine system, *great care, attention, and experience*, are necessary, in obtaining and preserving the *true vaccine matter*, or crusts, and that if it be not pure, no reliance can be placed on it as a guard against the smallpox. To this point, much evidence, drawn from practice and long observation, is set forth: also, much evidence, tending to shew its ample protective character when pure.

In a paper accompanying the memorial, Dr. Smith has furnished statements, with extracts of letters, and a certificate of a Mr. Phillips, tending to show that the unfortunate occurrence at Tarboro' was the result of some wanton interference with his letter and direc-

tions, after they were by him enclosed, and before they reached Dr. Ward. That Dr. Ward is inclined to the belief of this fact, and made the first suggestion of it in April, 1822.

The Committee do not pretend to account for the unfortunate occurrence at Tarboro', nor do they see as much reason for imputing its wilful commission to those who were publicly engaged, and of course the first to be made responsible, as to some secret hand, not responsible. They beg leave to suggest the propriety and public necessity for paying some respect and attention to the general sentiment, which prevails throughout the civilized world, in favor of the preventive power of the vaccine disease against the smallpox; and that to obtain security from the latter which so materially affects both life and our maritime relations, cannot be less than a national object. They ask leave to report a bill, and with that view offer the following resolution.

*Resolved*, That the select Committee, raised on the subject of vaccination, have leave to report a bill.