

guage could convey an idea, he was not at liberty to give a description; that he was only allowed a short time to return to earth and give the advice he was now communicating to certain officers and men. He was extremely solemn and impressive, and what he uttered was in such a correct and pure style, that it might have been heard with satisfaction from a pulpit, delivered by a learned divine. After finishing with me, he ordered me to send for Commodore Rodgers, as he said he must deliver a message to him before he finally quit us. I waited upon the Commodore and delivered the order. The Commodore stared, and for a moment hesitated how to act, fearing some deception, and the ill effects it might have upon the minds of superstitious seamen; but he descended, when such a scene presented itself as is seldom witnessed by man. Imagine to yourself for a moment such a man as Commodore Rodgers in a sick bay, by lamp-light, surrounded by a hundred or more witnesses, standing before a common sailor, supposed to have been dead, who commenced to address him in words like these: 'I have sent for you, sir; some hours since I would have trembled at your form and feared your displeasure; but now, sir, I am your superior, being a messenger from heaven to you; therefore, listen to what I shall say.' He then touched in a handsome manner upon the different duties and relative situation of commander and men, dwelt upon the great responsibility of his station, his power to do good, the force of good example, humanity, etc. etc.

"When he had concluded, his head sunk upon his shoulder and he appeared once more to be lifeless. The Commodore retired to his cabin, sent for me, and requested from me a philosophical explanation of what had happened. I endeavoured to give one, which it would take up too much time to repeat; but there was and ever will be one insurmountable difficulty in the case, without admitting something like inspiration, to wit, how or in what manner he acquired the knowledge of such excellent language, and delivered himself with such fluency and ease, mostly and clearly being an uneducated, rough, common topman. Not knowing what might take place after what I had just witnessed, I laid him down and retired to rest. Late at night I was called out of my room to see a man who was very ill, and hanging in a hammock near the sick bay. After bleeding him and giving him an anodyne, I went in haste into the bay to get something; no one was present but myself; all hands not on duty were sleeping soundly around me; a solitary lamp threw a sickly light. Upon turning my head aside, *horribile dictu*, what struck my eyes but the aforesaid corpse sitting up in his bed, fixing his glaring eyes upon me. I became motionless and almost petrified, when I was relieved from this unpleasant situation by his exclaiming, with a loud voice and much authority, 'Give me some water.' I never obeyed an order so quickly before; springing to a tin mug that stood near me, I approached, presented it to his lips, he drank of it, and closed his eyes forever. The next morning he was buried, or committed to the deep. I never saw more anxiety depicted upon the human face than every man discovered during the reading of the funeral service. Among six hundred and fifty men I believe not a tearless eye could be found, and when the body was slid into the sea every one, I was about to say, instinctively looked over the side, when their surprise was not lessened by beholding the body arise to the surface once or twice before it finally disappeared. It was astonishing the effect this affair had upon the language and countenances of the men for some days, especially those who had heard the address. The Commodore was delighted to learn that so far from representing fighting to be criminal, he spoke of love of country, and recommended discipline, attention to orders, obedience, and performance of duty in time of action."

---

*Note to a Report of a Case of Destruction of a Solid Ovarian Tumour by Incision followed by Suppuration.* By D. PRINCE, M. D.

This case was reported in *American Journal of Medical Sciences* for July, 1850, page 267. This treatment was practised in 1847. In 1849, a healthy child was born. The patient has recently been heard from. She has had entire immunity from a return of the disease, and has had since several births.