

alarming disclosure, do so with your finger on my pulse; and, unless I judge deceptively of my firmness, you will find it unmoved."

The only remark made in reply was by Dr. Rush, who said that the request was new, and might require a little reflection and conference, before a satisfactory decision on it could be had. And, from a significant look that passed between him and Dr. Physick, I felt inclined to doubt whether they did not consider me slightly delirious. Nor would it be perhaps at all surprising, if such was their opinion. Be that matter, however, as it might, without formally either granting or refusing my request, they acted much in conformity to it; for they never retired from my chamber to deliberate on their prescription. And though my case proved extremely obstinate, not to say formidable, and required for its subdual very vigorous treatment, yet, in about fifteen days from its commencement, I had recommenced the exercise of my pen, and in twenty was in the streets, engaged in active contest with the disease. With a single exception, my subsequent health was perfectly sound. The mercury employed did not fairly salivate me; but it produced an intractable affection of my gums and maxillary bones, which never ceased to annoy me until it had gradually deprived me of all my teeth, and compelled me to resort to a full set of artificial ones. The process by which the removal of my teeth was effected was the absorption of those parts of the maxillary bones which formed their sockets and held them in their places. And in its progress it was very slow, commencing in the year 1797 or 98, and being completed in 1836. Yet did it in no degree injure my general health, or communicate to my breath an unpleasant odor. I consulted for it, to no useful purpose, the ablest dentists in the United States, England, and France. It set at defiance every effort to arrest it, until it had done its work in its own way and its own time. Like an irresistible burning, it ceased to consume only with the destruction of the last monad of consumable matter.

The yellow fever of 1797 having swept with great mortality over a portion of Philadelphia, and spread consternation throughout the whole of it, closed its ravages, like that of 1793, at the commencement of cool weather, in the month of November. During the prevalence of it, I had been benefited in several re-