

“ spect to this young nobleman, and conveyed  
“ to him the king’s request, he made no con-  
“ cealment, but exposed the left side of his  
“ breast, when I saw a cavity into which I could  
“ introduce my fingers and thumb; astonished  
“ with the novelty, again and again I explored  
“ the wound, and first marvelling at the extra-  
“ ordinary nature of the cure, I set about the  
“ examination of the heart. Taking it in one  
“ hand, and placing the finger of the other on  
“ the pulse of the wrist, I satisfied myself that it  
“ was indeed the heart which I grasped. I then  
“ brought him to the king, that he might behold  
“ and touch so extraordinary a thing, and that  
“ he might perceive, as I did, that unless when  
“ we touched the outer skin, or when he saw our  
“ fingers in the cavity, this young nobleman  
“ knew not that we touched the heart!” Other  
observations confirm this great authority, and  
the heart is declared insensible. And yet the  
opinions of mankind must not be lightly con-  
demned. Not only does every emotion of the  
mind affect the heart, but every change in the  
condition of the body is attended with a corres-  
ponding change in the heart: motion during  
health—the influence of disease—every passing  
thought will influence it. Here is the distinction  
manifested. The sensibility of the surface of  
the eye is for a purpose, and so is the sensibility  
of the heart. Whilst that of the eye guards it