

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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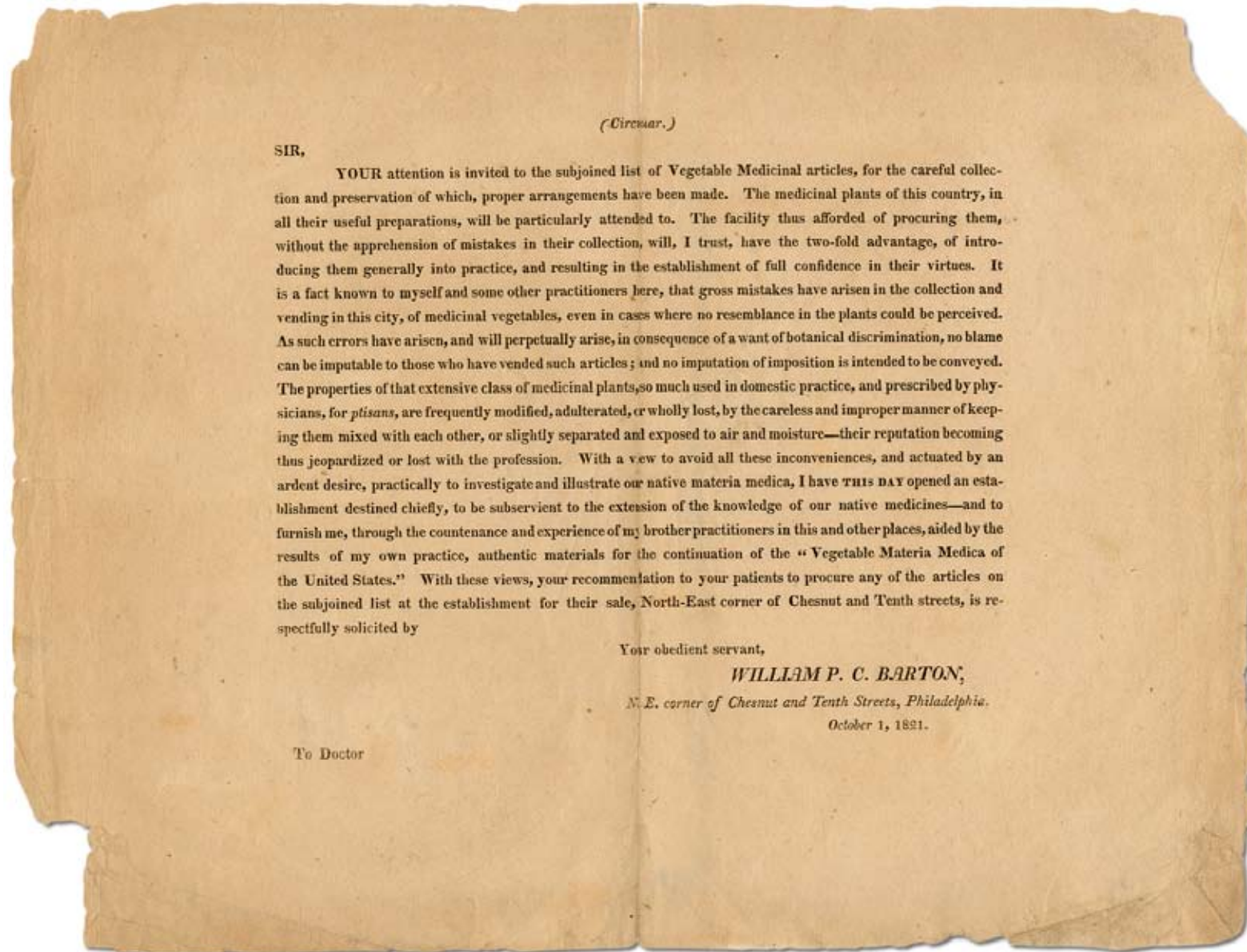
William P.C. Barton

[Circular Letter to Doctors 1821, caption title]:

Sir, Your attention is invited to the subjoined list of Vegetable Medicinal articles...

N.E. corner of Chestnut and Tenth Streets, Philadelphia: William P. C. Barton 1821

\$350



(Circular.)

SIR,

YOUR attention is invited to the subjoined list of Vegetable Medicinal articles, for the careful collection and preservation of which, proper arrangements have been made. The medicinal plants of this country, in all their useful preparations, will be particularly attended to. The facility thus afforded of procuring them, without the apprehension of mistakes in their collection, will, I trust, have the two-fold advantage, of introducing them generally into practice, and resulting in the establishment of full confidence in their virtues. It is a fact known to myself and some other practitioners here, that gross mistakes have arisen in the collection and vending in this city, of medicinal vegetables, even in cases where no resemblance in the plants could be perceived. As such errors have arisen, and will perpetually arise, in consequence of a want of botanical discrimination, no blame can be imputable to those who have vended such articles; and no imputation of imposition is intended to be conveyed. The properties of that extensive class of medicinal plants, so much used in domestic practice, and prescribed by physicians, for *pitans*, are frequently modified, adulterated, or wholly lost, by the careless and improper manner of keeping them mixed with each other, or slightly separated and exposed to air and moisture—their reputation becoming thus jeopardized or lost with the profession. With a view to avoid all these inconveniences, and actuated by an ardent desire, practically to investigate and illustrate our native materia medica, I have THIS DAY opened an establishment destined chiefly, to be subservient to the extension of the knowledge of our native medicines—and to furnish me, through the countenance and experience of my brother practitioners in this and other places, aided by the results of my own practice, authentic materials for the continuation of the “Vegetable Materia Medica of the United States.” With these views, your recommendation to your patients to procure any of the articles on the subjoined list at the establishment for their sale, North-East corner of Chesnut and Tenth streets, is respectfully solicited by

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM P. C. BARTON;

N. E. corner of Chesnut and Tenth Streets, Philadelphia.

October 1, 1821.

To Doctor

A one-page circular letter distributed October 1, 1821 by noted medical botanist and botanical illustrator William P.C. Barton (1786 – 1856). Printed on off white paper, Approximately 11½" x 9". Old folds have split and been professionally mended on the verso, chipped in the margins without loss of contents, good or better. This notice was distributed to doctors to alert them that Barton had opened an establishment where “Vegetable Medicinal” articles can be reliably acquired. Barton states: “It is a fact known to myself and some other practitioners here, that gross mistakes have arisen in the collection and vending in this city, of medicinal vegetables...”

Barton wrote that through this new establishment on the Northeast corner of Chesnut and Tenth Streets in Philadelphia, he will also continue to accumulate "authentic materials for the continuation of the *Vegetable Materia Medica of the United States*." First published in 1817, Barton wrote and illustrated the two-volume *Vegetable Materia Medica of the United States*, containing a botanical, general, and medical history of medicinal plants indigenous to the United States. A very scarce circular letter, OCLC locates no copies; a single copy is identified in the collections of the College of Physicians, Philadelphia.

[BTC#399191]

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