Cus417/71.41

(Extract from letter of Dr. James Bovell Johnson)

[Oster]

I knew more of him at McGill - and he was also in charge at the Small Pox Hospital in Montreal - he lived with his cousin a certain Mrs. Francis and I was permitted to go to the Small Pox Hospital in the evenings and was given a dustpan and broom to sweep out the crusts or scales as we then called them from the beds of the sufferers - so much for far off days - yet I never carried away the disease to any in my lodgings, possibly because I had been well vaccinated - I can see old Bovell unearthing from his waistcoat pocket a more or less dirty piece of paper from which he extracted a scab - this was crushed and wetted with water on the under-side of a dinnerplate, my arm was fully scarrified and the mixture rubbed in - Needless to say no dressing was ever applied.