

In a time when grifters are taking advantage of the Corona Virus, for example, speculators selling the blood of the Virus survivors without their knowledge,* price gouging on masks and other equipment, it's important to remind readers that such vile characters have appeared before in history.

The following is from a scene from *The Escape; or, a Leap For Freedom*, (1858) by the great satirist William Wells Brown. The following scene is from Act I.

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*<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/01/world/europe/coronavirus-blood-samples.html?smid=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR0DU6ACBar4tVcAIs9IHZXXna4GxCCO5jDzTTg3DEtMI6ExSN3GPO0ivDE>

Enter Dr. Gaines, R.

Dr. Gaines. Well, my dear, my practice is steadily increasing. I forgot to tell you that neighbor Wyman engaged me yesterday as his family physician; and I hope that the fever and ague, which is now taking hold of the people, will give me more patients. I see by the New Orleans papers that the yellow fever is raging there to a fearful extent. Men of my profession are reaping a harvest in that section this year. I would have a touch of the yellow fever here, for I think I could invent a medicine that would cure it. But the yellow fever is a luxury that we medical men in this climate can't expect to enjoy; yet we may hope for the cholera.

Mrs. Gaines. Yes, I would be glad to see it more sickly here, so that your business might prosper. But we are always unfortunate. Every body here seems to be in good health, and I am afraid that they'll keep so. However, we must hope for the best. We must trust in the Lord. Providence may possibly send some disease amongst us for our benefit.