

Mott (V.)

ADDRESS

No. 10

OF

VALENTINE MOTT, M. D., LL. D.,

EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF SURGERY, Etc., Etc.,

BEFORE THE

GRADUATES OF 1860

box 6

OF THE

UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

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(PRINTED BY REQUEST OF THE CLASS.)

NEW YORK:

MILLER, MATHEWS & CLASBACK, 757 BROADWAY.

1860.

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# ADDRESS

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EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF SURGERY, Etc., Etc.,

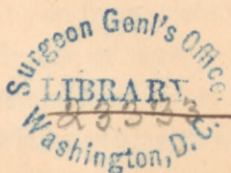
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A ADDRESS

ADDRESS

Gentlemen:  
The relations you have maintained to the Faculty of the Medical Department of the University of New York are now about to change.

This night you become a member of the Institution—Doctors—Medicine—and my colleagues have

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## ADDRESS.

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GENTLEMEN :

The relations you have maintained to the Faculty of the Medical Department of the University of New York, are now about to change.

This night you become Alumni of the Institution—Doctores Medicinæ—and my colleagues have assigned to me the pleasing duty to welcome you into the ranks of the profession, and at the same time to give you, in form, their final advice.

By the regulations of the University, you have henceforth a privileged admission to our annual course of instruction; so that I will not bid you farewell, for we hope that you will frequently revisit our halls—that neither the thirst for professional fame, nor the ambition for power, nor the passion of labor, nor even your devotion to the charities of the profession, will be able to prevent you from occasionally stealing away from the weary duties of every-day life, to spend a little time in the society of your Alma Mater—to derive from her new strength, with which to return to the conflict, which it will be yours to wage with disease and death.

I welcome you into the ranks of the noblest of professions—into a profession whose sole end and aim is the relief of human suffering and the redemption of human life. In every age of the world have its representatives ranked among the wisest and best of men : and in every country, civilized or savage, Christian or Pagan, are they loved and revered. At some period in his life must every man turn to the physician, and implore him, by all things most sacred, to rescue from the jaws of death some one whom he holds most dear ; —perhaps a beloved wife, or darling child ; or, it may be, to avert from himself his own impending fate.

When the angel of death stands by the bedside, under the ashen shadow of his wings, the merchant forgets his ships, and the miser his gold, and the millionaire his possessions—and together with woman in her *gentleness*, and *childhood* in its helplessness, abjectly turn to the medical man for aid, and piteously supplicate him to stand between them and the shaft of death. Then do the most mighty material interests, during such moments, dwindle down into the shortest span !

Your professional lineage may be traced back through a long array of noble names. When we consult history we find that the men who have been the most eminent in any profession, have very generally received their instruction from some eminent source. Self-made men, as they are called, are mostly noted because they are exceptions to this rule. You are the legitimate descendants of the Hunters and Coopers—

of Jenner and Abernethy—of Dupuytren and Larrey—of Black and Gregory—as truly and legitimately descended from them as they were descended from Harvey and Parè and Vesalius, in whose professional veins, to continue the figure, ran the blood of Galen and Hippocrates himself.

May the honors and dignities of the profession, which are now intrusted to you, be safe in your keeping; and may they be transmitted by you in due time, not only untarnished, but enhanced in value to your successors.

You inherit with the profession, certain forms and usages, which have received the sanction of long experience, and which you will find it convenient to retain. Among these is the time-honored custom of writing your prescriptions, and labelling your medicines in a language peculiar to medical science, and unintelligible to the mass of men. Superficial observation and immature experience, may lead you at first to regard this practice as a relic of the dark ages—to feel that the natural power inherent in the Science of Medicine, can require no extrinsic aid—that there are no deformities to be concealed by any cloak. But riper years will show that our art, even in her best estate, is yet young and immature, and that though we are more conscious of her imperfections than any other class of men can be, and are most afflicted by them, yet we love her so well that we would confine this knowledge entirely to her friends. Besides this, what

you have already acquired of the Science of Medicine, and the skill you may hereafter gain by more experience in the art of healing are yours, in *fee simple*—as much property as are houses and lands—and you will find that the more choice you are of this knowledge, and the greater the esteem in which you hold it, the more respect will it receive from the public.

*Closely allied* to the topic of prescriptions, is one, which, though certainly very *personal*, should receive at least a passing notice. I allude to that just, and common place subject—dress. We may consider the outward garb a mere matter of form, as it undoubtedly is, but truth compels me to say that very much of success in life depends after all on a scrupulous observance of just such “mere matters of form.”

If your mind has been cultivated by a liberal education, so that it differs from that of the day laborer, society will deem it proper that such difference should be designated by a corresponding exterior—that the volume should be bound and labelled in a style appropriate to its contents.

I do not recommend you to assume the big wig and gold-headed cane of former times; nor that you should follow the frivolous fashions of the day to the extremes to which they often go; but I *would* have the representative of our ancient and noble profession, wherever he may reside, always to respect himself and his calling sufficiently, not only to possess the *in-*

*terior*, but also to present to the public the exterior of a *gentleman*.

If you should be commencing business in a new place, this will be peculiarly important; for in the absence of any other knowledge of a man's character, the public can only judge him by his personal appearance. A proper compliance with the requirements of popular opinion in this respect, will also be of essential service to yourself, in facilitating the acquirement of that ease and composure of manner, under all circumstances however trying, so characteristic of the well-bred gentleman, and which so peculiarly designates the accomplished Physician and Surgeon.

If your means are such as to make it improper or inexpedient to use expensive apparel, you can at least take care that your dress is always, whatever may be its quality, clean and whole:—

“E'en from the body's purity, the mind  
Receives a secret sympathetic aid.”

One of the most important points to which we must turn our attention to-night, is that of your relations to other Members of the Medical Profession. You will go to your various fields of labor, feeling that you have enjoyed advantages superior to many of the older practitioners by whom you will be surrounded. And ardent for fame, but *young*; I hope your enthusiasm may not, at any time, be allowed to lead you into such excesses as will embarrass your future pro-

gress. I admire energy of character in young men, and can allow very much for generous impulses. When at your age, I believe I was as hopeful, and active, and ambitious, and, to use an expressive Saxon word, as *plucky*, and if you will believe the late Dr. Physick, as daring as most of you are. And sometimes, on such occasions as this, when addressing Young America, I fancy I feel a little of the former fire still running in my veins.

I well remember how, when a medical student in London, and excluded from Paris, which city I had then never visited, by the Berlin and Milan decrees of Napoleon le grand, with my knapsack on my back, and protected, as I supposed myself, by a letter to the principal Parisian surgeons from the celebrated Dr. Jenner of vaccine renown ;—under this *Ægis*, I was to start on foot, to “run the embargo,” and smuggle myself into *la belle France*, by means of a little Dutch fishing-smack—an enterprise whose only apology can be its worthy intentions ; and which, had it proved successful, might have spared you the trouble of listening to me here to-night.

In such a spirit as this, I say, you will go to your work—a generous spirit, but one not altogether safe, and that needs to be curbed and restrained by the more perfect reason which experience brings, until the lapse of some years has taught you to judge of probabilities by other than mere abstract reasons—to anticipate what is about to happen, not because you think it

ought to occur, but because under the same circumstances you have seen it take place;—in other words, until your judgment is much more mature than it can be now, you must listen patiently and courteously to the opinions of older men, and must allow no expression of dissatisfaction to escape you, if the majority of the community by which you are surrounded prefer their advice to yours.

In consultation with senior members of the profession, you must remember, that though these gentlemen may of some things know less than you—though they may be, in fact, behind the times—*old fogies*; and even though, in the particular case under consideration, they may be manifestly below your own grade of medical acquirement, yet public opinion will compel you to defer to them; and you must do it gracefully, rather as a matter of choice than of necessity—for the decrees of public opinion, gentlemen, whether right or wrong, are inexorable in such affairs as these. Remember, it is the courser of highest mettle and purest blood that chafes least on the curb, and yields most willingly to the rein.

By the Hippocratic oath, which is the basis of medical ethics, the relations which subsist between you and your fellow practitioners are of a closer nature than those which connect you to the members of any other profession. So close was the tie established by the Father of Medicine, that his disciples were not only bound to make common stock of their knowledge,

to communicate freely with each other, and favor each other, as much as lay in their power in business affairs, but the obligation extended, in a modified form, even to the families of medical men, who, other things being equal, were in all cases to be preferred. Do not then allow that spirit of emulation, which will exist between you and your competitors, and which is in truth essential to your mutual success, at any time to degenerate into a spirit of bitter rivalry, or indeed to infuse any measures of animosity into your personal relations. Society looks upon the members of the Medical Profession as belonging to a common family; and hence, as in any other family quarrels, do tend to lower the common dignity in public estimation.

The best result of such contests, can but leave even the successful party on a lower level than it found him. Unseemly demonstrations of this sort will scarcely occur among medical men where both, or even one, conscientiously strives to live up to the requirements of the golden rule, "in all things to do to others, as we would have others do to us,"—the Divine maxim which comprises, after all, the whole code of Medical Ethics.

With the *Ministers of Religion* of whatever denomination you will always, I hope, maintain the most amicable relations. They are generally men of education and refinement, with whom you may easily affiliate. Though it will be yours to deal chiefly with the issues of temporal life, you must remember,

that there are also maladies of the soul. You must not allow too much contemplation of secondary causes to lead you to forget *the great First Cause*, and insensibly *develope in you* the philosophy of materialism. At the bed-side of a dying patient, it will be your duty to study the symptoms of approaching dissolution—*the facies Hyppocratica*—*the subsultus*—*the muscæ volitantes*—with your fingers on his wrist to catch the last dying flutter of his pulse. But during these moments, you may satisfy no impertinent curiosity.

In the presence of the departing spirit, your office ceases. In the retinue of the King of Terrors, you are but a *man like other men*. Least of all can I extenuate any rudeness shown at such a time, to the messenger of spiritual consolations, be he Catholic or Protestant—educated or illiterate—white or black—bond or free—nor should you at any period in the progress of disease, deprive your patient of the ministrations of his accustomed spiritual advisers. Friends may be excluded and conversation interdicted, but those consolations of Religion, that fall “*like the dew upon Mount Hermon*” should always be encouraged.

Actuated by a similar sentiment, *post mortem* examinations, if possible, should always be delayed for some hours after death. Respect for the bodies of the dead is inculcated in all history, sacred and profane. That these bodies are destined to a higher state of existence, is the belief of almost all Christian sects. The ancient Egyptians actuated by this feeling, ban-

ished the embalmers of their dead, to regions far from the haunts of men. We ourselves delight to raise monuments over the ashes of our own illustrious departed, and adorn their last resting places. And I hope, that though in the pursuit of Anatomical knowledge, it has been necessary for you to invade the Charnel House, and literally to contend with the worm over his prey—that such associations have not so far obliterated this amiable natural instinct, that you will at any time be guilty of any seeming impiety to the *manes* of the departed. Into this sanctuary of the dead body, your commission gives you the right to enter.

The Scalpel is the highest power to which you can appeal, and its revelations are beyond the reach of the cavils and the various opinions of men. Where there is any question as to the cause of death, settle it, if possible, by Autopsic examination—and the more delicately you are in the habit of managing this proceeding, the less obstacles will be thrown in your way. Whenever, as the Priest of Medical Science, you enter the Temple, once inhabited by a human soul, let the proceeding be decorous; mar no more than you are required to do, and when you retire, leave as few traces as may be of your former presence.

With the *Legal Profession* your relations will be less cordial than the Clerical. Lawyers have traditional belief that medicine is one of the exact sciences—that there is a faultless form of perfect symmetry some-

where behind the veil which hides the Goddess Isis from their profane vision ; and hence they are rarely able to comprehend how two Medical Men may differ in opinion in regard to the same case, and yet that both may be correct. For this reason, you will find it politic to avoid as far as you conveniently can, being called to witness as an expert, in cases involving intricate issues—and almost any simple case may be made by sufficient refinement of distinctions to involve such issues.

When upon the stand it is best to testify to no more than is strictly requisite—avoiding any apparent attempt to advertise your own qualifications. These legal gentlemen will be disposed to exact of you what they may consider a perfect issue of every Surgical case.

When you may have an unfortunate patient broken to pieces, by some dreadful accident, which quite precludes any hope of complete restoration, this policy will tempt you to desert him to his fate, rather than be instrumental in restoring him to a maimed and mutilated life ; in which condition he is liable at any time to be picked up by some legal adventurer ; and notwithstanding all your former kindness, made to become plaintiff in a suit, in the success of which he has every thing to gain, and you as much to lose. In this way would this kind of legal Practitioner induce you to exact from the rich inordinate fees for your services, and leave the poor to a pitiless death.

When called as a witness in such litigations for mal-practice, I hope you will always maintain those liberal and just doctrines in regard to the responsibility of medical men, under which you are yourself willing to practise. And that under no circumstances, even should the defendant be your most unrelenting rival, will you be induced to swerve from them.

In your professional relation to the *Ladies*, it can hardly be necessary for me to enjoin that gentleness of demeanor which alway characterizes the thorough bred Physician and Surgeon; and to the feminine part of the public, mostly distinguishes him from the uneducated Empiric. Addison says, "Rusticity—broad expressions, and forward obtrusions, offend ladies of education; and make the transgressor odious to all who have merit enough to attract regard."

This sex is characterized by great mobility of the nervous system, to which you will allow much. Even the paroxysms of Hysteria are in themselves the nervous manifestations of disease, and I hope you have, each of you, sufficient kindness of heart, to allow yourselves to be called out of bed at night, to alleviate such cases, without manifesting any annoyance. It is the female sex who have been doomed from the beginning to suffer most of pain, and to confer on man his highest bliss.

Your firmest friends and most ardent admirers will be from their ranks. When convinced that an operation is necessary and right, woman more readily

than man, submits to surgical aid; bears the torture with greater resignation, and manifests afterwards more devotion to her deliverer. As her medical adviser you will be admitted to the innermost recesses of her heart. And if you should in a thoughtless moment, take criminal advantage of her confidence, *society* will justly visit your transgression, *upon you*, with greatly increased vengeance, in that you were her physician.

To you as a medical man, will be committed many a secret, which must always remain buried in your bosom. Your mind will resemble the lion's cave in the fable, into which many strange animals could be traced, but out of which none ever came.

If you, unfortunately, prove insufficient for this trust, the community by which you will be surrounded, will be in perpetual turmoil. There is an unwritten history continually being deposited in the bosom of the medical profession, which exceeds in romance the famous revelations of Asmodeus, to disclose which, would be to "scatter fire-brands, arrows, and death."

You will desire to forget many incidents, and singular as it may seem, you will gradually acquire power in great measure, so to do. By the Hippocratic oath medical men were required to keep sacredly the secrets of their patients, and to this day public opinion sides in a manner not to be misapprehended, with the physician, who even in a court of justice refuses to divulge any thing of a confidential nature, which has been intrusted to his keeping.

*During the early period* of your professional life, you will be frequently called upon by women, who have allowed themselves too much liberty in their private relations, and you will be earnestly importuned to avert from them their impending shame. Even married ladies will not hesitate to ask you to excuse them from the inconvenience of a family. You will be offered large fees at a time when you very much need the emolument, and you may be strongly tempted to comply with their requests. But you must remember, that the laws of religion and morality alike forbid you to interfere; that your own self-respect, is worth more to you, than any amount of money; that compliance with their request would, in the end, only secure the contempt of themselves, and that if the matter became public, as such matters are very likely to do, it would destroy your reputation as a man of principle and honor in the community.

By the oath of Hippocrates you are strictly forbidden to resort to this kind of practice, and the common consent of the profession at the present day, only allows the production of premature delivery in cases of imminent physical necessity.

But when applications of this kind are made to you, you are not required to disclose them. You will regard them as coming within the pale of professional confidence; and though unable to extend relief, yet you must forbear, by any public word or act, to increase in any measure the burden of the unfortunate.

*In acquiring business*, you will be much indebted to your *friends*. There is no such thing in life as absolute independence of the services of our fellow-men. Whatever a young physician's merits may be, before his skill can obtain a trial at the hands of the public, he must be indorsed by men whose acquirements and standing are already known. You can never become entirely free from obligations to your preceptors.

The very first clause of that oath to which I must so often allude to-night, is in these words :

“The master that has instructed me in the art, I will esteem as my parent, and supply as occasion may require, with the comforts and necessaries of life.” Though it is scarcely to be apprehended that you will ever need to comply with the extreme part of this requisition, yet the spirit of gratitude which it inculcates must ever be one of the brightest jewels in your character; and the expression of that spirit on all proper occasions, will be but *adorning yourselves*. To those of your friends in the laity who may particularly interest themselves in your success, special thanks will be due. And under no circumstances must you ever allow a debt of this nature to be forgotten. In fine, be cautious in forming new relations, and ever faithful in maintaining the old.

“Thine own friend, and thy  
Father's friend, *forsake not.*”

Some hints in regard to the further prosecution of

your studies, may perhaps be in place. The science of medicine is of all branches of natural science the most progressive; and the one from whose loins all the others have sprung. When we remember that scarcely three centuries have elapsed, since the discovery by Harvey of the circulation of the blood; on which basis the whole of our present system of Physiology and Pathology is built, it seems wonderful, that so magnificent a structure should have arisen in so short a time.

What other three centuries in the world's history, can boast of so grand a result? To Harvey it is scarcely possible to ascribe enough of honor. His great discovery not only conferred an obligation on his own age, but in all succeeding ages; for his inestimable gift will be preserved by the profession throughout the lapse of time. To Harvey you owe the power to go forth from this institution, the members of a liberal profession; the power to meet in counsel and agree on some method of practice; the power to stand by the bed-side of disease, and assume the issue without self-abasement. To Harvey, is every patient, of every medical man, since his time in reality indebted; and to him will every patient be indebted, until the final extinction of the medical profession, at the universal dissolution. *Glorious name!*—worthy to be associated with that of Hippocrates—and like his adorned with the honors due a medical divinity.

Nor can I in this connection omit to mention the

name of John Hunter, who two centuries later, first dared to arrest this mysterious current; first dared to snatch from the hand of nature her caduceus; and with it, decree new distributions of the vital flood. To John Hunter, do the thousands of men who have been rescued by his device, and who are yet to be rescued by it, owe whatever is pleasant and to be desired, in a life redeemed from instant death, in its most horrible and appalling form.

It was not my good fortune to listen in person, when a student in London, to the instructions of this great man, as he had at that time been dead for some years; but associating as I did, with men who had been intimate with him, I derived from them some knowledge of his personal peculiarities. To the singularly clear faculties of mind with which he was endowed by nature, he added untiring industry. The Conservator of his vast museum, Mr. Cliff, informed me, it was his uniform custom to place on Mr. Hunter's table two whole candles, which he in the morning as uniformly found had been consumed. In Lecturing, Hunter, from a defect in his early education, was much confined to his notes; and so rapid and comprehensive were his methods of thought, that his manuscript frequently failed to represent them. My great preceptor, Sir Astley Cooper, who had once been a student of Hunter's, remarked to me, that Hunter would sometimes pause abruptly in his Lectures, unable to make out the sense of his own writing, and impatiently

exclaim, Gentlemen! I knew what this meant last night, but I'll be d—d if I do now.

To that iron will, which with tireless industry, would burst through the barriers of poverty, and in the light of its own genius, march steady up to the highest place in Medical Science—to a place so much in advance of his own time, that his Brother-in-Law and Biographer, Sir Everard Home, was unable to comprehend it. And one of the first Naturalists of the day, Professor Owen, is gathering up and preserving fragments of Hunter's manuscripts, believed by Home to be worthless. To the iron will, with Heaven-inspired genius, and ceaseless perseverance of John Hunter, do I ascribe all that may be of earthly glory and renown!—Harvey's discoveries might have been made by accident: John Hunter's were the necessary result of the highest faculties which God vouchsafes to man!

The advances which Operative Surgery has made since Hunter's time, have been mostly connected with the circulatory system. At his death, no man could tell where the practice of his operation must stop. The domain of the ligature since that time, has been gradually extended to regions, nearer and still nearer the heart, until the lapse of the first quarter of the present century, saw the *ultima thule* reached in the ligation of the Innominata from above, and the Aorta, from below. Both of which operations were not then, and have never since been successful.

You are *young* and *sanguine*, full of ability to labor, and ready to despise difficulties; and are inquiring in what direction you shall turn your energies. New and important discoveries generally occur in quarters where they are least expected. You will not be likely then to turn your attention to the circulatory system.

*As we know* in fact less of the Physiology of the nervous system, than of any other of the more important parts of the human frame, it is not improbable that the next signal advances in medical knowledge, will be made in that direction. A great and original discovery in the Physiology of the nervous system—such another as that of Harvey in regard to the blood, would no doubt give rise to another and corresponding advance in Surgical Art.

Our knowledge of the functions of the *Generative* System, when compared with what we know of the Circulatory, is still very imperfect. And it is probable that any marked advances of Physiology in this direction, would also open a new field to Surgical Art.

*You* are about to enjoy comparative leisure.—Your medical business will occupy but a small part of your time, and this period of your lives may be made as valuable as any other equal portion.—Your education thus far is of value, rather because it has taught you, how to study, than for any positive knowledge which you have acquired. The course of instruction in the Medical Colleges of this country, conveys at best only

the most necessary part of Medical Education. It is often urged that the *Curriculum* should be more extended, and more thorough. But ours is comparatively a young nation, with a sparsely settled territory; and hence our Medical Policy must yet be, to diffuse as much as possible a knowledge of legitimate medicines in opposition to the practices of Empiricism and Charlatanry. Though you go down into the battle incompletely armed, yet you are supplied with the means of completing your equipment.

Besides your Medical Books, and superior to them, when once you have acquired the power to read it, the great Book of Nature, written by the pen of Omniscience himself—lies open before you. The structure of the lower animals, and of plants, is as much a part of the uniform plan of the Divine Architect, as is that of man. The pious Chrysostom in his work says:—

“περι προνοιας ει γαρ διαφορα τα γενομενα αλλα μιας εισιν αναδοτατος.”

“ Though things created are different,  
Yet they are all of one goodness.”

Not only are the lessons to be derived from these sources, but they are often of the highest service in advancing our knowledge of the human system. As man stands at the head of the animal kingdom, his organs are generally of the most complex form; and one of the methods of ascertaining the true uses of any organ, is by following it through its various modifications in the lower classes of animals.

It was through the portals of comparative anatomy that John Hunter entered upon his triumphal career; and the museum which he founded and endowed with the most of his property still exists, and, under the direction of Professor Owen, annually effects more for the advancement of a general knowledge of animal structure than any other institution in the world. Take, then, some one organ, such as the Heart or Liver, and in a series of dissections follow it through its diversified modifications in the various animals with whose habits you are familiar. It will be, at least, a pleasant recreation, and may result in a positive addition to the stock of human knowledge.

Of the *medical properties* of our indigenous plants much remains to be disclosed. The new continent possessed, at the time of its discovery, a *Flora* quite independent of that of the old world. America has given to mankind, *Maize* and the *Potato* for sustenance, *Tobacco* as a *solace*—Peruvian Bark and *Spigelia Marylandica* as medicinal agents, and we are not to suppose this catalogue as yet complete.

It was a favorite sentiment with our great countryman the late Dr. Benj. Rush, that there might be a plant growing unknown to fame, on the banks of the Monongahela or Potomac, of as potent remedial power over Phthisis Pulmonalis, as mercury over syphilis, or quinine over ague.

During the last few years, the science of Botany has been enlarged by the addition of two new depart-

ments of great philosophic interest—the Physiology of plants, and their Geographical distribution. The materials for advancing both these very interesting branches are abundantly at your disposal. That wondrous process by which the Creator clothes the earth in living green, will annually go on under your observation; and most of you will be continually riding over regions in which the primitive distribution of plants is as yet unaffected by the presence of man.

It was to obtain just such conditions that Humboldt incessantly journeyed.

Your profession has always held the first rank in the armies of natural science. The world is indebted to it for a great deal more than the mere treatment of its diseases. To Dr. Black we owe the steam engine, for Watt was his instrument maker, and thus obtained his first hint of the power of steam. To Professor Galvani we owe the magnetic telegraph; and the science of Geology is about to owe to medical men, the clue to its incorporation and organization.

In this department the accumulation of isolated facts has gone on, until soon some intellect must arise, powerful enough, and comprehensive enough, to construct the edifice. The best key as yet to the solution of this apparent confusion, is a knowledge of the organic remains enclosed in each system of rock, and the key is in the bosom of the medical profession—make yourselves familiar with its powers, and go on in the fear of God to unlock and disclose to aston-

ished man, the awful secrets that the Creator has locked up from the beginning, in the foundations of the world. But let none of your studies interfere, for a moment, with that faith in the Redeemer of men, which when you come to descend into the valley and shadow of Death, will prove a light to your feet and a lamp to your path. It will be a blessing to you through life to believe that whatever else may be false, the *Bible is true*—that the Son of God is your elder brother—that He has become the first fruits of them that slept—that He has ascended up on high, and sat down at the right hand of his Father, bringing life and immortality to light, and in this way giving the greatest of gifts unto men. To believe that the Author of the universe is your Father—that His power and care extend to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field—and how much more shall they enrich *you*, every hair of whose head, he has assured you, is numbered in his sight.

Go forth, then, gentlemen, to your labors. May the spirit of HIM who spent His life in healing the sick, in giving sight to the blind, and who restored to life the widow's son, actuate you in all your ways, and may the blessing of God rest upon you.

VALE ET VALEQUE.

