

ARNOLD (R. D.)

Alph.  
bot

AN ADDRESS

BEFORE THE

Georgia Medical Society,

ON ITS SIXTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

JANUARY 9, 1868.

BY

R. D. ARNOLD, A. M., M. D.

RETIRING PRESIDENT.

---

SAVANNAH, GA.:  
PURSE, PRINTER.  
1868.

AN ALPHABET

THE FIRST PART

OF THE

ART OF

TEACHING

TO READ

# AN ADDRESS

BEFORE THE

## Georgia Medical Society,

ON ITS SIXTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

JANUARY 8, 1868.

BY

R. D. ARNOLD, A. M., M. D.

RETIRING PRESIDENT.

LIBRARY

61240

SAVANNAH, GA. :

PURSE, PRINTER.

1868.

# AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED

BEFORE THE

## Georgia Medical Society

ON ITS SIXTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

JANUARY 6, 1893

R. D. ARNOLD, A. M., M. D.

MEMBER, PRESIDENT, GEORGIA MEDICAL SOCIETY

The address of R. D. Arnold, A. M., M. D., before the Georgia Medical Society on its sixty-fourth anniversary, January 6, 1893, is a valuable contribution to the history of medicine in Georgia. It is a history of the progress of the medical profession in this State, and of the efforts of the Georgia Medical Society to advance the interests of the public health. The author, Dr. Arnold, is a distinguished physician and a member of the Georgia Medical Society. He has been a member of the Society since its organization in 1829, and has held the office of President for several years. His address is a history of the progress of the medical profession in Georgia, and of the efforts of the Georgia Medical Society to advance the interests of the public health. The author, Dr. Arnold, is a distinguished physician and a member of the Georgia Medical Society. He has been a member of the Society since its organization in 1829, and has held the office of President for several years. His address is a history of the progress of the medical profession in Georgia, and of the efforts of the Georgia Medical Society to advance the interests of the public health.

## ADDRESS.

---

*Gentlemen of the Georgia Medical Society :*

During the past current year, you appointed a Committee to report a revised Constitution for the adoption of our Society. The report of that Committee was received and adopted, with the exception of one particular provision. I express here to my brethren of the Society my heartfelt thanks that the provision in question was rejected by a large majority.

But amongst the regulations sanctioned by the revised Constitution, was one that the retiring President of the year should deliver an address to the Society. Although I had the honor of addressing you last year, on your Anniversary, as you had selected me for your President for the preceding current year, I now address you in pursuance of the amended Constitution, and only on that account, for I would have gladly consigned the task to some younger member of the profession, with more leisure than I can command. But yet the duty thus devolved upon me is, in many respects, not an unpleasant one. The execution of it brings up memories of the past, which will perish when my brain, in common with the other organs of my physical existence, shall have obeyed the fiat of Almighty God, and suffered organic decomposition.

But limited as the appointed time of man on this earth is, God, in the course of His providence, has given to him a power which has enabled him to transmit to his posterity the record of his actions and of his thoughts. That power is the art of *writing*—the art of letters. Thousands of years have passed since some of the great

geniuses of the world have paid the debt of nature and have descended into their mother earth. Not yet has come upon them that change described by St. Paul, in which all is to be changed in the "twinkling of an eye." But although their bodies may have, long ago, been decomposed, their minds, that is, their *souls* live amongst us, in their recorded and written sentences. "*Non omnis moriar,*"—I shall not wholly die,—was the exultant exclamation of the great poet of human nature in its social phase, Horace; and he saw his immortality in the written records of his great works, as they were periodically hung up in the portico of the most frequented temple of Rome. As I look around me as I am penning these lines, the souls of Homer, Virgil, and Milton, and Dante are personified in their works, and each speaks to me as distinctly, as clearly, as emphatically, as if each was here present in the flesh. To leave the sublime epic writers and to come down to a different gradation of intellect, I laugh with the brilliant LeSage, over his inimitable representations of real life, in the adventures of his hero, Gil Blas. I follow the example of him who was espied by Philip the Second, of Spain, laughing immoderately; when Philip, surveying him from his castle window, exclaimed, "that man is either mad, or he is reading Don Quixote!" And I sympathize with the mistaken chivalry of the genuine gentleman of La Mancha, or almost burst with laughter at his burlesque adventures and at the quaint commentaries and the admirable proverbs of Sancho Panza; or with "downright Montaigne," I re-survey the great world of past letters. To continue the list of geniuses whose lucubrations, and whose scintillations of wit have descended to us by means of "the art preservative of art," that is, of writing, and not, as the mere typographer believes, the art of printing, which is simply the art of more easily multiplying the copies of the winged words which have been arrested and fixed by writing,

would lead me too far for my present purpose. By writing, by fixed and determinate signs, do the great master minds of the past communicate, and form the link which connects them to the ever present. So is the world ever progressive, as each generation can profit by the experience of all its antecedents.

If we were to lose the records of the past, man would have to begin his training *de novo*, and it would require centuries upon centuries to invent again those material aids to civilization which have been developed in the progress of time, or to elucidate and explain the great moral truths which have exercised the subtlest intellects of Greece and Rome. Look at the wonderful monuments of Egypt! Their history is indelibly written in hieroglyphic characters upon enduring granite. The chevalier Bunsen, the head of the Evangelical school of modern Prussia, in his great work "Egypt's Place in Universal History," has allowed a period of twenty thousand years for the authentic development of her civilization. The solution of the riddle of the hieroglyphics by Dr. Young and Champollion Le Jeun, has restored a long missing link in the chain of the history of the past, and has had its proportionate effect. I allude to these things because of the evident feeling which we all have to learn what has occurred before our time. We seem to realize the idea of the metempsychosis of Pythagoras, and to believe that our souls had, in times past, filled the bodies of some of the warriors and sages of antiquity. Surely, oftentimes a pleasant and a harmless illusion of fancy.

But while I dismiss the too distant past, I feel that we are here to-night to revive recollections more immediately connected with ourselves, to rescue from the forgetfulness in which nearly three generations have involved them, facts which we, as a Society and as members of a liberal profession, would not willingly allow to pass into the gulf of oblivion.

It is right that we, the members of the oldest Medical Society in the State of Georgia and one of the oldest in the once United States of America, should make the effort. You have determined that hereafter we should publicly celebrate our Anniversary, and thus in some measure show our real condition, and the just claims we have on the confidence of the public, as men honestly and conscientiously laboring for the advancement of Truth and Science in our profession.

The principle of association to carry out some common end, appears to have existed wherever social organization has ever made any progress. By no people do associations appear to have been carried to such an extent as by the Romans. They set an example in their treatment of conquered countries which it would be well for some of our self-satisfied legislators at Washington, who pride themselves on their classical acquirements, to study and to ponder over.

The noble lines of Virgil are familiar to many of you :

“ Tu regere imperio populos, Romane, memento :  
 Hæ tibi erunt artes, pacisque imponere morem.  
 Parcere subjectis, et debellare superbis.”

“ Thee, Heaven, brave Roman, formed for high command !  
 Be these thy arts, from thy victorious hand,  
 To make glad nations own their peace bestowed,  
 To spare the suppliant, and pull down the proud.”

The first care of the conquering Roman was to extend the area of civilization, to establish colonies of citizens who should carry with them all the arts and sciences of practical life which existed in Imperial Rome. They built up, they sought to repair the ravages of war, to *restore*, not to *destroy*. Amongst the most efficient means of bringing about this end were the Collegia Opificum of Rome, associations of men following a common calling, who organized themselves for the common purpose of advancing their own private and general interests.

It was from the example of these Collegia that the Guilds of the middle ages were formed ; associations

which not only had a powerful effect on the trade and prosperity of the various cities in which they were formed, but which constituted the entering wedge by which the Feudal System, which had long been an incubus on Europe, was riven into fragments.

In the progress of time, associations were formed amongst all classes. The cause of literature and science has been greatly benefitted by them. Our medical predecessors in this city were not unmindful of the advantages which might accrue to the profession from a well organized association of men pledged to act on well ascertained principles, and to uphold the dignity and character of our profession.

In the beginning of this century, Georgia, the youngest of the old thirteen States, was the least thickly settled in proportion to its area, for while after the cession to the United States of what now constitutes the great States of Alabama and Mississippi, her western boundary was the same as it now is, but her population extended no farther than the Altamaha and its western affluent to the west; Wilkes county was almost the last county on the north, and the whole country to the northwest was wandered over by the native Cherokee Indian. Yet in each of the cities of Savannah and Augusta, then the only two of Georgia, there was a circle of cultivated men in the two great professions of law and medicine, who would have reflected credit on any community. In the traditions of our sister profession, the law, many distinguished names are preserved. In our profession, there existed many men keenly alive to its interest and dignity, and they pursued the most direct and sensible way to ensure them, by establishing a Medical Society. It is to commemorate its foundation, it is to rescue the names of its founders from the partial forgetfulness which the lapse of time entails on most of us however active we may have been in our day and generation, that we determined to celebrate its Anniversary, and as their

legitimate successors to keep alive the fire which had been kindled by them.

As all the records and books of our Society were destroyed by the United States soldiers who occupied our Hall, where I now address you, I propose to put upon record some reminiscences derived from older members of the profession, and to reproduce in full the Act of the Legislature of Georgia, incorporating our Society, as it is found in Clayton's Compilation, which is now becoming a scarce work, and the Digests now compiled very seldom give any local law except in an abstract. It is entitled

### AN ACT

#### *To Incorporate the Georgia Medical Society.*

WHEREAS, Noble Wimberly Jones, President, John Irvine, Vice-President, John Grimes, Secretary, Lemuel Kollock, Treasurer; John Cumming, James Ewell, Moses Sheftall, Joshua E. White, William Parker, Thomas Schley, George Jones, George Vinson Proctor, Henry Bourquin, Thomas Young, Jr., Peter Ward, William Cocke, James Glenn and Nicholas S. Bayard, have by their petition represented that they have associated in the city of Savannah under the style and name of the Georgia Medical Society, for the purpose of lessening the fatality induced by climate and incidental causes, and improving the science of medicine, and in order to ensure and establish their said Institution in a permanent and effectual manner, so that the benevolent and desirable objects thereof may be executed with success and advantage; have prayed the Legislature to grant them an Act of Incorporation.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia, in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, it is hereby enacted, That the several persons hereinbefore named, and others who are or may become members thereof, and their successors, shall be and they are hereby declared to be a body corporate, in name and deed, by the style and denomination of "The Georgia Medical Society," and by the said name and style, shall have perpetual succession of offi-*

cers and members and a common seal to use, and shall have power and authority to make, alter, amend, and change such by-laws as may be agreed on by the members of the same; *Provided*, Such by-laws be not repugnant to the laws or the Constitution of this State or of the United States.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That they shall have full power and authority under the style and name of the Georgia Medical Society, to sue for, in the name of their President and Vice-President, for the time being, and recover all such sum or sums of money as now are or hereafter may become due the said Society, by any name or style whatever, in any court of law, or at any tribunal having jurisdiction thereof, and the rights and privileges of the said Society in any court, or at any tribunal whatever, to defend, and also to receive, take and apply such bequests or donations as may be made, to and for the uses and purposes intended by the said Society; and shall be, and are hereby declared to be vested with all the powers and advantages, privileges and immunities, of an ASSOCIATION or *Society of people incorporated* for the *purposes and intentions of their said Association*.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall be and is hereby declared to be deemed and considered a public Act to all intents and purposes whatever.

ABRAHAM JACKSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

JARED IRWIN,  
*President of the Senate.*

Assented to, December 12, 1804.

JOHN MILLEDGE, Governor.

In their corporate capacity they nobly fulfilled their purpose of "lessening the fatality induced by climate and incidental causes." At that time, rice was cultivated on the low grounds adjacent to the city, up to the very door-sills of our houses. The members of our Society early took a decided stand, that with a semi-tropical climate, such as ours, there could be no worse or more malignant incidental causes of disease, than the stagnant water which remains on a rice field exposed to an ardent

summer's sun; and the saturated soil which is next exposed when the water is drained off. The first efforts of the Society were directed towards the abatement of this evil. A plan of dry culture was proposed, that is, that the lands then cultivated in rice, which obligates wet culture, should be cultivated solely in such products as necessitated drainage and dry culture. I have always been informed that the opinion as to the propriety of this course was a unanimous one. It has not been left to the present day to discover the prophylactic and hygienic qualities of thorough drainage. Truly has Solomon observed that "novelty is ignorance."

It was proposed to prohibit the culture of rice within a radius of one mile from the city limits. But the rice lands were valuable, and the culture of rice was the most profitable one to which the land could be applied. It could not be expected that the owners of these lands should be the only ones to suffer pecuniary loss in the effort to improve the health of the city. It was accordingly proposed to buy out the right of wet culture, *i. e.*, to pay a stipulated price per acre for the land, and take a lien on it that it never should be allowed to be cultivated in wet culture. But this was objected to for a long time by the owners who saw that the land would be greatly depreciated in value by such an obligation, as it involved not only the abandonment of the culture of rice, but the necessity of keeping the land well ditched and drained even if it were not cultivated. Some years passed, and the plan was still in abeyance, but always actively pressed by our Society. Success crowned their persevering efforts. About the year 1817, the land owners came to terms; and in consideration of the sum of forty dollars per acre agreed to bind their lands forever from being cultivated in wet culture. The city of Savannah had then a population of 4,000 people, half blacks, and she paid the sum of \$200,000 to carry this project into effect; a noble monument of the liberality

of her citizens, and a high tribute to the estimation in which our profession was held, when a sum so large in proportion to her population, was freely given in support of what many still maintained was a mere theoretical idea. But it was a practical idea. Never were more decided results produced from any given cause.

In my early student's life I knew personally some of the physicians who had practised here prior to the introduction of the dry culture system. My preceptor, the late Dr. Wm. R. Waring, had been one of the most ardent advocates of the measure, and had, as a young man, distinguished himself by a series of essays devoted to proving the efficacy and prospective benefit of it. Drs. Bartow, Sheftall, J. C. Habersham, and Posey had all practised in the city before the adoption of the measure. There was but one belief amongst them all, that was, the undoubted and positive improvement in the type of the climate fevers, their diminished frequency, and their lessened mortality. Nothing is more fixed in medical belief, than that the cause of malaria can be removed by thorough drainage. But unfortunately, this subtle poison can be wafted for miles, when there is no material obstacle to stop its transmission, and while we can materially mitigate its effects and produce great improvements in certain localities, we never can eradicate the cause from the entire country, until our increased population would enable us to drain our whole country, as the fens of Lincolnshire in England are drained, where what were formerly pestilential bogs have been converted into fertile fields, and the malarial emanations from the soil which even in that temperate climate produced the most obstinate fevers and agues, have entirely ceased.

I repeat, then, that the dry culture system in the vicinity of Savannah is a monument to the perseverance and good judgment of the early members of the Georgia Medical Society. They were men of mark in their day. Some of them had participated in the Revolution of 1776,

which failed of being a Rebellion, simply because it was successful.

“Treason ne’er succeeds, they say,  
Pray, what’s the reason?  
When it does *succeed*,  
They never call it Treason.”

Our predecessors were in the fortunate category of successful Revolutionists, asserting and maintaining the right of every people to select their own government, provided they are able to do it. If they are not, might becomes right, and “*væ victis*,” “woe to the conquered,” is too often the doom of the conquered. Unfortunately for *us*, *we* know how this has been carried out.

First on the list of the original corporators of our Society stands the name of Noble Wimberly Jones, President. The name of Jones is an historical one in the annals of Georgia, both in a political and a literary point of view. A distinguished physician and an ardent patriot, (meaning, with all deference to existing governing powers, an asserter of the right of the people to choose their own mode of government,) he occupied the front rank in the estimation and confidence of his fellow-citizens.

John Irvine, the Vice-President, was an educated gentleman, and although he left no lineal descendants, his collaterals were amongst our best citizens.

When I come to the name of John Grimes, I must pause awhile. He died at the early age of 35, in 1815. Seldom have I been more interested in the history of any man, not known to me personally, than I have been in his. I have conversed frequently with those who had employed him as a family physician; I had heard scores of anecdotes about him, which I cannot repeat here; I had heard from Dr. Waring, the most emphatic encomiums upon him. When a student in Philadelphia, the distinguished Dr. Physich had advised him to settle in Philadelphia. A native of Middle Georgia, he refused

to abandon his native State, and selected Savannah for his residence. Never did a man acquire a more brilliant reputation or a more successful practice. I have always classed him as a man of genius, not merely a man of talent.

Lemuel Kollock was the Treasurer. In my boyhood I knew him. Independently of his acknowledged standing as a physician, I recollect him as a dignified and courteous gentleman. He is worthily represented in both capacities by his son, our honored past Vice-President.

Dr. Cumming was an Irishman of a high education. He abandoned medicine, and was a successful merchant in after times; was for years, the President of the Branch Bank of the United States in this city. He was destroyed in the ill-fated Pulaski, in 1838; but years and fortune had crowned him. He left a worthy representative in his son, one of Savannah's most intellectual citizens.

James Ewell moved to the city of Washington. He is the author of "Ewell's Medical Companion," which, while it cannot receive the sanction of a regular physician, yet contains much valuable information as to the indigenous medicinal plants of our country.

Moses Sheftall is one of the original corporators, whom it was my privilege to know personally. He had been a very successful physician, and was noted for his treatment of our climate fevers, when malaria was at our very doors; and those fevers were most virulent. He has left descendants amongst us who worthily represent him, although not his *name*, for they are female. When I first made his acquaintance I was a student, but I never can forget his geniality and kindness.

Joshua E. White was more distinguished as a literary man than as a physician. His immediate descendants left the city many years since.

William Parker was one whom I knew personally. After a prosperous career as a physician, he retired from practice, and enjoyed a green old age which seldom

falls to the lot of the physician ; with an ample competence, with the love and respect of the community. Our Society, as a body, attended his obsequies in the year 1838.

Thomas Schley was from Middle Georgia. I can gather no particulars about him. He was a member of the large and influential family of that name in our State.

George Jones was well known to me in my younger days. He abandoned the practice of medicine, qualified himself for that of law, and was raised to the bench of the Superior Court of the State of Georgia, and hence, in my knowledge of him personally, was distinguished as Judge Jones. He has left lineal descendants amongst us, all from the original N. W. Jones, who have always proved the truth of the French proverb, that "*Noblesse oblige*," which I translate freely—a gentleman cannot forget himself.

George Vinson Proctor was a marked man. My only personal recollection of him is, when I was a boy I saw him going up our bluff on his return from fighting a duel across the river, which was a way that gentlemen had about that time, and in these parts. From those who knew him well I have always heard that he was a very high-toned gentleman and a man of unquestioned ability in his profession. He served during the whole war of 1812 as a Surgeon in the Army of the United States.

Henry Burquoin was of an old family here. He was a prosperous man and stood well in the community.

Thomas Young, Jr., was an amateur practitioner, but he was a man of the highest culture, educated in the best schools of his native country, Scotland. He ever maintained the reputation, up to the time of his death, of being one of the most accomplished scholars of our city.

Peter Ward was a Southern man. He left no lineal descendants, but his collaterals now maintain their original social position.

Of William Cocke I can obtain no trace.

James Glenn belonged to an old Georgia family, but he removed to Pennsylvania shortly after the organization of the Society, and was a prosperous practitioner there for many years.

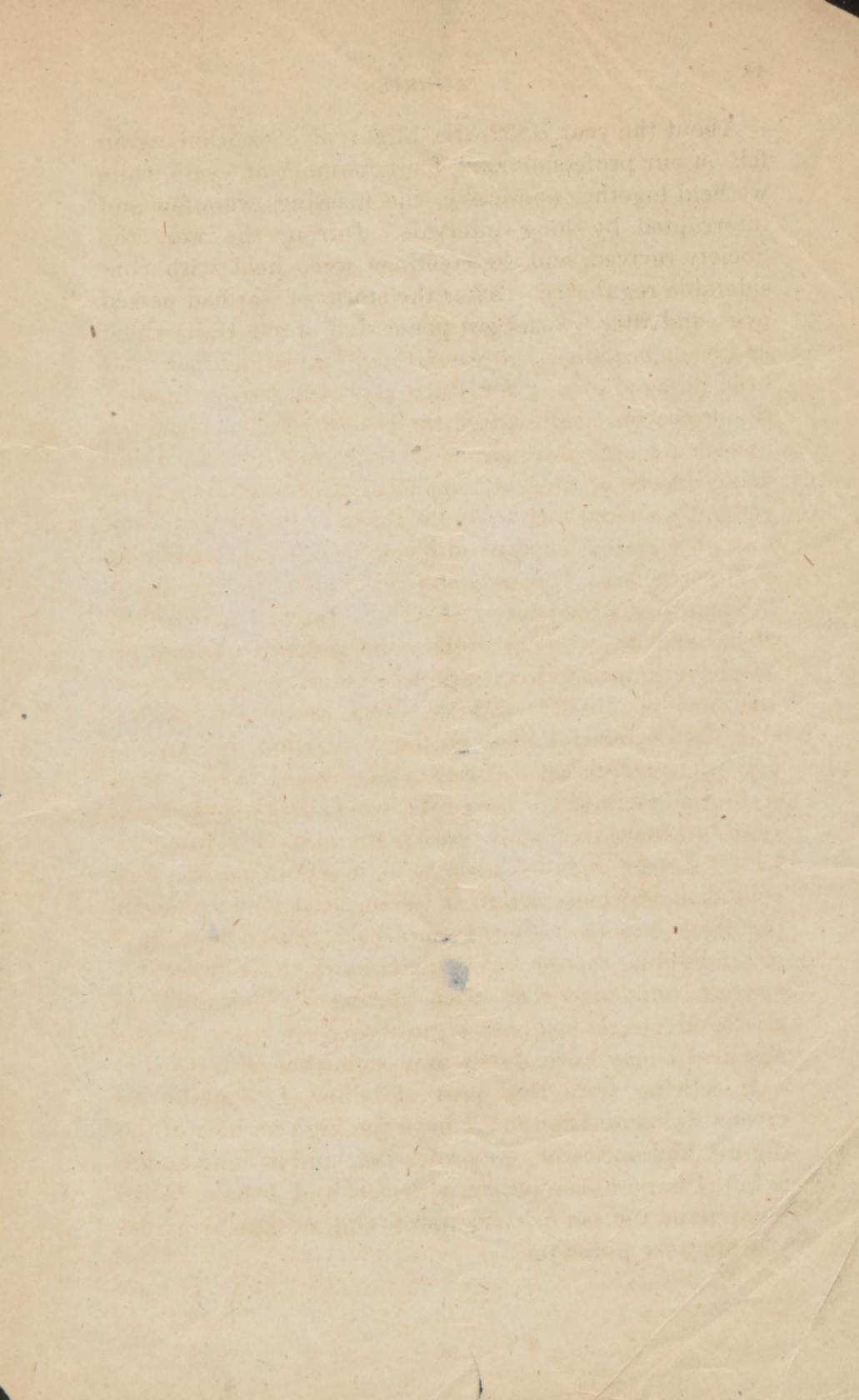
Nicholas S. Bayard was known to me only by tradition, as he died previously to my return from school at the North. He left an irreproachable character behind him, and his son was for many years a leading and respected merchant in this city.

I feel proud that I can give such a record of our original founders. It shows that they were men of mark, and that we require but to imitate their example socially and professionally to leave the same untarnished character to those who are to succeed us.

But our Association has had its trials, and at times in its history, it seemed as if our profession were about to forego the advantages accruing to them from the liberal act of incorporation which created them a Society, and to dissolve the bands which united them as one body. I entered upon the practice of my profession in the year 1830. At that time I found our Society in abeyance. Divisions had sprung up amongst some of our leading physicians, and the meetings of the Society had been wholly discontinued. There was a lamentable state of affairs in our profession. The old rules were disregarded; they had no tribunal to which they could appeal in case of differences of opinion; every man stood, to use a common expression, "on his own hook." In the year 1837, a reform took place. Some of us, and I do claim to have taken an active part in the business, induced the older members of the profession, who were members of the Society, to re-organize and to admit the younger men who were not members into the Society. Much zeal and energy were displayed and the Society moved on with renewed vigor. For many years, the meetings were fully attended and many interesting essays were read and many animated debates were held.

About the year 1852, the blight of dissension again fell on our profession, and for a number of years while we held together nominally, the meetings were few and interrupted by long intervals. During the war, the Society revived, and the meetings were held with considerable regularity. After the storm of war had passed over, and after we had got possession of our Hall, which had been occupied by the United States' soldiers and been pillaged of our furniture and our entire library, the profession again closed their ranks and determined to seek strength in union. We have all felt the beneficial effects of this action. Our weekly meetings are generally looked forward to with interest. The discussion of a stated medical subject brings entertainment and instruction. Our frequent comminglings draw closer the bands of friendship, and dull the edge of prejudice. Social ends as well as professional ones are attained. We have sought to keep up our Society to the highest standard of Medical Ethics. The promotion of that end has a beneficial effect on the profession in general and each individual member in particular. We are thus setting an example to the profession at large, and I am proud to state that never during my now long practice, have I known our profession to be in a more harmonious condition and more actuated by elevated views as to its practice. Before closing, I must be allowed to express my individual thanks to you for the many manifestations of your confidence in so often placing me at your head as President. It has been a gratifying reward to me for any zeal I may have shown as a co-worker with you.

In retiring from that post of honor, I shall by no means sink into inaction. I have too high an idea of the dignity and duties of our profession, and as long as life is left, I hope to co-operate with you and I hope to see you pursue the same harmonious and successful career you are now pursuing.



AN ADDRESS

LEOPOLD

1847

1847

1847

1847