

CANADA

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Valedictory address to the graduates in Medicine, delivered on 4th May, 1869, by R. P. HOWARD, M.D., L.R.C.S.E., etc., Professor Theory and Practice of Medicine, University of McGill College.

GENTLEMEN GRADUATES.—It is again my turn to address to you a few parting thoughts in the name of the Faculty, upon whose teachings you have been attentive listeners for so long a period. You have this day received the testimony of your teachers to your qualification for the high degree you have been patiently working for, for the last four years; and the University, by the hands of its Principle, has conferred upon you severally the title Doctor of Medicine and Master of Surgery. Knowing as I do the difference between such a title, obtained after a complete course of instruction in conformity with the requirements of this University and a careful examination by its officers, and one granted by custom or assumed on possession of a simple license to practice, conferred by a Licensing Board, I heartily congratulate you upon the attainment of this the object of your ambition. You will often look back with pleasure upon the time you have spent as students, not alone on account of the pleasing associations the retrospect will recall, but also because it will remind you of much hard work, honestly done, and many opportunities faithfully improved.

This day gentlemen, you have attained your majority, and have slipped the leading strings, by which you have hitherto been held, and are about to direct your own course without further supervision. To-day your Alma Mater, sends you forthwith her seal affixed to your commission, to pursue the responsible and difficult work of caring for the life and health of your fellowmen. How sacred a thing is human life! Who shall dare trifle with it? I know not a better stimulus to industry in the acquisition of medical knowledge and skill, and a more likely quality to secure professional success than a realization of the sacredness