

the presence of members of the profession so much more distinguished in every branch of the profession than myself, though somewhat accustomed to public speaking, I should have great hesitation in attempting to give an annual address, were it not that I know that the motto of the very honorable profession to which we belong is everywhere recognized to be "Deeds, not words." Hence you will not expect from me any lengthened observations in relation to subjects of which so many of you are infinitely better qualified to treat than the gentleman upon whom you have conferred the great and undeserved honor of making him the first President of the Association. But in retiring from the chair in which you have so kindly placed me, I would do great injustice to my own feelings if I did not avail myself of this opportunity to express to you the great importance I attach to this meeting of the Association. In October last, in Quebec, the Association was formed by some 166 prominent members of the medical profession, representing all parts of the Dominion of Canada. At a time when a political union of the Provinces had been accomplished it was thought advisable to unite more closely the members of the profession in the Provinces, so that they might become better acquainted with each other, and might consult respecting the best means of elevating the profession and advancing its interests, and thereby advancing the interests of the people of this great Dominion. The business of the first meeting was necessarily of a preliminary character. To committees of able and intelligent members of the profession was entrusted the duty of submitting, at this most important meeting of the Association, the results of their deliberations, in order that the great body of the Association might deliberate upon the important matters presented to them, and take such measures as they believe conducive to the advancement of the great object they have in view. I say I would do great injustice to my own feelings if I did not avail myself of an occasion like this to express the deep importance which, in my judgment, attaches to this meeting—an importance to which my feeble language cannot do adequate justice. I regard it as important, because I hold it to be a meeting of members of a profession the most noble, the most unselfish, and the most influential of any secular profession or calling. (Cheers.) The most noble because our lives are devoted to the god-like work of relieving human suffering, and of contributing to that which is felt to be the most important object—not only the relief of human suffering, but the preservation of human life, whenever it is possible that human means may aid in its preservation. The most unselfish, because it is the only profession which, I believe, uniformly give its untiring services, without fee or reward, wherever suffering humanity demands attention and consideration at our hands. (Cheers.) The most influential, because, knowing, as it does, no distinction of creed, no distinction of nationality, no distinction of class, no distinction of party, the members of our profession form the connecting link between all creeds, all nationalities, all parties, and all classes, requiring as they do, a liberal education; requiring as they do, in order to the successful discharge of the high duties of their profession, no ordinary amount of talent; passing as they do from one class to another, from members of one political

party to another, they have an opportunity of exercising a moral and political influence which I believe is fully admitted to be certainly second to that of no other profession. (Applause.) It is not strange that, engaged as they are in the relief of suffering humanity, connected as they are with that which bears most deeply and most seriously upon the human mind of anything that can bear upon it, that they should acquire the influence they do. Who can witness the anxiety with which the parent, husband, brother, sister or friend turns to the medical adviser without knowing and appreciating the immense influence that he must necessarily and naturally acquire? He is looked for not only to relieve the body, but also to relieve that deep, mental anxiety, which perhaps is greater than any other feeling that the human mind can experience. It is this which gives the medical profession an ascendancy and an influence which devolves upon them a responsibility more deep and more important than it is possible for me to express in any language I can offer. It is necessary not only that members of this profession should be learned, in order to discharge the important duties of a profession which requires the deepest and most accurate knowledge, but they should also be good and patriotic—inspired by a lofty patriotism that will prompt them to avail themselves of the great opportunity that Providence has thrown in their way of advancing the best interests of their country, and to do all they can to elevate intellectually and morally the communities in which they are placed. (Cheers.) The members of the medical profession are oftentimes without those advantages which are enjoyed by members of the other professions. Those of the camp, the senate, the bar, and the pulpit, may have to encounter difficulties, but they have the sympathy of numbers to sustain them. Their ministrations, their official duties are performed in the presence of large numbers of people. They have an excitement calculated and qualified to sustain them in the discharge of the duties to which they are called. Without these stimulants, the members of the medical profession have to encounter fatigue and danger, and oftentimes what is worse to bear, ingratitude for the most earnest and most successful labours it is possible to perform. (Cheers.) The soldier, it is true, goes out to battle and exposes his life, but the excitement of the struggle, the hand to hand contest, sustains him, and well he knows that if successful the Victoria Cross will decorate his breast. The medical man exposes himself to dangers equally great, to pestilence more deadly than the most murderous fire to which the soldier can be exposed, and unsustained by the excitement which attends the soldier, he steadily, manfully, nobly discharges his duties in the most effective manner to his fellow man, knowing that no distinction awaits his success, knowing too, as I have said before, that perhaps he may be very poorly compensated or his services very poorly appreciated. (Loud Cheers.) But, though we have not the advantage of those who engage in commerce, who though they may have to undergo toil and anxiety, yet reap the rich reward of wealth, yet we have the proud consciousness to sustain us of discharging the highest and holiest duties that man can ever be called to discharge,—that of promoting the happiness and comfort of his fellow man. (Cheers.)

One of the most important subjects that will