

Hannibal, a Cæsar, and a Napoleon? What embalmed the memories of Newton, of Milton, and of Herschell? What was it that enabled Arkwright and Watt and Stephenson to revolutionize the physical world? What was it in our own profession that has rendered the names of Sydenham, and Harvey, and Hunter, and Jenner, "familiar in the mouth as household words"? It was,—take it as the most solemn truth which the history of these men proclaims,—that they possessed earnestness of purpose. To them life was no plaything, time was no bauble. So it should be with you, so with all, in every calling in life, who desire to achieve success. Earnestness of purpose will overcome defects of early education, it will compensate for the lack of genius, and it will give pledges of success which will prove the true harbingers of greatness.

And now, gentlemen, in conclusion, what is to reward you for your toils and struggles? Not wealth,—for in no other profession are large fortunes so rarely amassed. Not heraldic honours,—for no coronet has ever graced the brow of a physician. Had such been your ambition you should have plunged among the "glorious uncertainties of the law" to "perplex and dash maturest counsels," have marched amid the "pomp and circumstance of gloriouse war," or mixed in the noisy turmoil of party politics. No, gentlemen, your reward must be sought in the consciousness of having contributed to the welfare and happiness of your race, in the respect and esteem of your fellow-men, and in the knowledge that you are humbly following in the footsteps of the Great Physician who went about continually doing good.

Go, then, gentlemen, on your mission of mercy. Do battle honestly and manfully in the cause of humanity; and when at last—worn out or stricken down—you fall with the harness on; though for you may not resound the boom of cannon or the blast of trumpets, yet your memory shall not lack the more touching tribute of the grateful sigh and the silent tear.