

crushed and torpid stem by the engraftment on it of the Montreal Medical Institution, of which this school is the direct lineal descendant. To the far-seeing sagacity of the men who accomplished this initiatory work may fairly be ascribed the honor of rescuing from oblivion, if not, indeed, from germinal death, the seedling erewhile committed to a soil not then well prepared for its reception and nutrition by the generous and patriotic James McGill; but there is in every good deed an element of vitality which would often seem successfully to resist inimical influences, and to endue its possessor, as in the wheat-grain long stored away beneath the swathings of an Egyptian mummy, with a marvellous faculty of renascence. Still, we know that the hidden thing must be brought under the sun's genial rays, and skilfully and sedulously cultured. This has been the good fortune of McGill College, which, by the energy, ability and noble devotion of the teachers in its various instructional departments, has attained an eminence beyond the most sanguine expectations of its founder and its early friends. Surely to have lived to see what I have seen, and what I now see, of the growth and prosperity of my *Alma Mater*, is a boon calling for my thankfulness to a gracious Providence. Most truly may I say, "*Nihil habeo quod accusem senectutem*"; for when all this pleasure has fallen to my lot, and when now the consciousness of senile decadence is mitigated by the manifestation of the tender politeness of robust manhood and aspiring youth, must not my present happy experience neutralize all regret over declining mental vigor? May this experience, gentlemen, await you all! It is well worth living for; yes, it is well worth living for, through even a battling, worrying life. Yet, as no pleasure is exempt from some element of associate or resulting pain, so now do some mournful reminiscences press in on my retrospect of the long past, when I view the many blanks in the roll of early friends connected with this school, both in the relation of teachers and pupils. Most truly, "*Pallida mors æquo pulsat pede pauperum tabernas, Regumque turres.*"

Long since have passed away the venerated men under whose instruction I took my seat three and fifty years ago, on the