

and the adhesion of countless great and commanding intellects, for their continuance. Never before did such a multitudinous array of shams and counterfeits meet the gaze of men. And yet, there probably was never a time when the fields of truth were more assiduously explored or explored to better advantage. Medicine, although she has added vastly to her stores of truthful knowledge in every one of her departments within the last half century, has many present shams and counterfeits. Some of the *spurious coin* is remarkably specious in appearance and passes current to a certain extent, but the time *will come*, when the *aqua regia* of experience will expose the baser metal, for, there is truth in the old adage:—"All that glitters is not gold." Mistake not! semblances of truth contain within them the elements of rapid decay. That they exist for a lengthened period, or, indeed, that they exist at all, is entirely owing to the conserving properties of the few grains of truth that are usually mixed up with the mass of error in their composition. For the human mind, to its credit be it spoken, will not tolerate falsehood, merely for falsehood's sake. Truth is indestructible. When, therefore, all the *pathics* at present existing, shall, as such, have passed away into that oblivion to which their numerous predecessors have been consigned, the modicum of truth which each possesses *shall not perish*. It shall then find its appropriate place in that edifice whose foundations are verities, an edifice that has not only stood for ages, storms and tempests, and even the adverse influences of time itself, but has, in these latter days, expanded into such magnificent proportions, exhibits such strength and solidity in its construction, and presents so much beauty and harmony in its arrangements, as to command almost universal confidence and regard:—the temple of legitimate medicine.

Now, gentlemen, would you acquire thoroughly the profession of your choice; a profession of which you may justly be proud, for there can be no higher or more ennobling pursuit, or one more godlike, than to rescue man from the influence and effects of disease. Is it your earnest desire to so acquaint yourselves with the varied stores of learning accumulated in the science of medicine, that you may with confidence assume the great responsibilities which will hereafter devolve upon you as practitioners of the art? Then, enter on your studies with a firm determination to succeed. And if that determination be followed up by energetic action success is certain. There is no one element in a man's character so necessary to his success as energy. Without it the most profound intellect would be almost worthless to its possessor. With it a man of even moderate natural abilities may achieve results that will place his name among the foremost names of the age in which he lives. Let not the siren voice of pleasure lure you from the simple and rugged path of duty. Close your ears, beyond the power of hearing when she whispers enticingly of the mazy dance and its fascinating concomitants. Be equally deaf to her entreaties when she would lead you away to scenes of so called mirth and jollity. Spend not your precious time in dreaming. Four years only have been allotted to you, to go over the vast field of knowledge included within the complete curriculum of this college. Think soberly and earnestly on this fact, and then ask yourselves, if you can afford to fritter away days or even hours in desultory pursuits. If you have any favorite study foreign to the one you are now entering upon, I would strongly advise you