

The profession of medicine seemed a promising field for his ambition, and it was congenial to his tastes besides. The idea soon took root and he decided to appeal for counsel to Dr. Valentine Mott, whose fame was world-wide at that time. As his only claim to recognition he relied on that sympathy a self-made man always has for an ardent and sincere aspirant. Nor was this reliance misplaced. He called upon the great surgeon. Dr. Ross' impressions during that, to him, momentous interview are valuable as a reminiscence of one of the greatest men the medical profession has ever boasted of :

"Dr. Valentine Mott appeared to me a kind, philanthropic man, quite simple in his manners, and unconscious of his professional distinction. He was about sixty years of age at that time ; his general appearance was that of a gentleman of the old school ; his head was large, his face long, full, and expressive of refinement and culture ; his chin and mouth were large and strong, his nose prominent ; his eyes expressive of wisdom, kindness and benevolence, his eyebrows projecting and shaggy, his manner frank but self-possessed. His perceptive powers were keen, penetrating and accurate.

Dr. Ross was received in a most courteous manner, and, as he told his story simply and briefly, but earnestly, the great surgeon listened with encouraging attention. When the recital was ended, he said : " Well, as you appear determined to study medicine, it would be useless for me to try and dissuade you, which I certainly would if I thought I could."

He then gave his visitor some excellent advice, outlined the proper course of study to pursue and generously offered the use of such books in his collection as the student would require.

As Dr. Ross rose to retire the great surgeon added the finishing touch to his remarkable exhibit of kind heartedness, as he said :

" Call again whenever you think I can be of any service to you."

The student did call again on many occasions, and was always received with the same kindness and courtesy, and was sent away with much of practical benefit. The outcome of this venture was an attendance at the evening lectures of the celebrated hydropathist, Dr. Trall, who was then in the midst of his experiments in the line of his hydropathic and hygienic theories that have placed him at the