

their assistants are required for the Turks contingent of 20,000 men, to be under the command of Major General Vivian an officer of some distinction, who has served in the East Indies. Their pay I believe will not be so much, but there is good prospect of permanent employment. What a chance for some of our Canadian doctors! In the *Times* of the 28th Feb is a letter from the correspondent of that paper dated Scutari 15th Feb., in which is mentioned the death and sickness of the many medical men, already referred to. He gives the week's deaths as usual, which number 431, of these on sorting and cutting them up, I find 120 died from diarrhœa, 130 from dysentery, 93 from fever, 49 from frost bite, 15 from rheumatism, and 6 from wounds, and the others from miscellaneous affections; it will thus be seen that medicine and not surgery is the prevailing mode of practice, and in consequence many physicians will be sent there as well as surgeons. A good deal of excitement exists at this moment among the profession in relation to these appointments, some accept and then withdraw, others take some time to reflect, and others again go at once; and many men in really good practice and comparatively easy circumstances, with some nice little appointments, give up all temporarily and go, the years pay at the end of their period of service is to make up for the partial loss of practice on their return.

It cannot have escaped the observation of the profession in Canada, those particularly who read the English Medical Periodicals, that the East India Company have thrown open their appointments to merit alone, to be selected by examination solely, and not by interest as heretofore. This is one of the most liberal concessions made for years, and gives some 60 or 70 young men annually a chance of entering a service which places them in comparative affluence for life. In fact before long merit will be the passport to almost everything going, most certainly in the medical profession at least. There is now an inducement of no ordinary kind to enter the profession, and those who will write and attain to a proper and thorough efficiency, are sure to succeed in obtaining one or other of the many good things. I would most particularly draw the attention of Canadian medical students to these facts, they are quite as eligible as British subjects to compete with the most favoured, educated in this country; merit, and merit alone, being the one just and necessary qualification. So far as I know, as things medical are taught in the University of McGill College, it ought to be their own faults if students do not attain a thorough knowledge of their profession before they cross the Atlantic; but to assist them again, and to facilitate as much as possible their compliance with a certain curriculum of study as required by the East India Company and other great bodies here, all the necessary branches should be taught to save the trouble and expense and great