

period of training is over, and you leave these walls to begin the great battle with disease and death, you may be well armed and equipped for the contest. With moral principles strengthened by habits of industry and perseverance, with your intellect free from prejudice, clear seeing, well furnished with scientific and practical knowledge; with your faculties disciplined for the work you have to perform, you will show yourself not unworthy of this University or of that profession which is confined to no people and to no country, but whose object is the relief of evils common to the whole human family.

Do not, gentlemen, think that I have painted in too glowing colors the profession whose study you this day enter upon. Morally and intellectually I cannot over-rate it; and now, when toil and exertion is required, I would cheer and encourage you, by reminding you of the very great intrinsic gratification which these studies may afford, and of the nobleness of the objects for which they prepare you.

A late writer says "it is the fashion to decri our profession, to call it a poor, a degraded profession. If it be poor and degraded, is that the fault of the calling or of those who practice it? Is the art of healing in itself less noble, because its practitioners, too often unsustained by a consciousness of their own dignity, have not raised it to the place in society which it ought to hold? Poor it may be! Slighted it may be! but degraded it cannot, shall not be, so long as its foundation is science, and its end the good of mankind."

Montreal, 2nd October, 1872.