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Original Communications.

ANNUAL MEETING DOMINION MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, ST. JOHN, N. B., AUG. 22nd and 23rd, 1894.

President's Address:—Dr. Harrison,
Selkirk, Ont.

Gentlemen of the Association:—

My first duty as well my pleasure is to thank you for the honor you have done me in placing me in this position; an honor as unexpected as it was unsought. In fact I might well have great misgivings as to my ability to fill it, for I need not tell you the mantle of my many predecessors has not fallen on my shoulders and I should not have accepted it had I not felt that I could rely upon your assistance and indulgence.

The subject of my address has been one of grave consideration. I might have taken the history of medicine or surgery but it is trite, and has been worn thread-bare. The history of the developments and improvements dur-

ing the last one, two or three decades in this age of books and journals is the property of the whole profession, especially of those who take enough interest in its progress to attend this meeting. It was with a good deal of difficulty that I took as my theme my personal experiences and observations in medicine extending over upwards of half a century.

Over fifty-seven years ago with my father, the late Dr. Harrison I settled near the shore of Lake Erie. The country at that time was an unbroken forest with merely a thin and scattering fringe of settlements on or near the lake. The soil was heavy clay and the surface very gently undulating. The water supply mainly derived from the rainfall. The water courses were more or less obstructed by the debris of the forest so that the swamps held their moisture all summer or until dried by slow evaporation or percolation. At this time miasmatic diseases were so prevalent that very few passed a summer without an attack of ague, and bilious fever was common