

things scorn with the true spirit of a man to make use of idle gossip or calumnious reports, even against your bitterest foe. Although to-day's ceremonial invests you with the doctor's robe, and puts a period to your college career, I would yet remind you of the imperative necessity of continuing to be earnest and industrious students of all that relates to your profession. Every day additions are being made to the already large stores of knowledge we possess, and you cannot remain stationary without discredit to yourselves and injury to your patients. As a matter of duty, no less than of interest therefore, you must keep pace with the progress of science, and read with care and attention the medical journals and other publications of importance. Hitherto the medical profession of our country has had but little share in furthering the progress of science, and but very few have achieved more than a local reputation at best. There are good and sufficient reasons for this of course, but we should look forward to the time when we may proudly point to names as great as any that have made themselves renowned in the old world. To our Symes, our Fergusons, Jenners and Pagets. This may appear like boasting, but I would ask does any one believe the fields of science are exhausted, or that treasures great as any hitherto discovered may not await us in the future? I dare say if a polished Roman philosopher had been told the day would come when his countrymen would be glad to sit at the feet of teachers from savage Albion, he would have listened with disdain. Astronomers tell us that the face of the heavens is slowly but ever progressively changing. That even those bright stars which by their apparent fixity in space, serve as a type of immutability, are notwithstanding their apparent unchangeableness, pursuing their solemn march through space, towards their ultimate removal from our view, and that other stars now only visible as faint specks to the curious eye of the philosopher will take their place. So likewise the great universal law of progress seems to be acting ever in the world of thought. Great luminaries of science which served for centuries as centres around which lesser minds were contented to revolve, have passed away and other and brighter constellations have appeared from dark distant regions barely known, or even dreamed of in the old time, to enlighten, and instruct, and guide the nations of the earth. May we not then without temerity entertain the hope that this great country of ours, but just emerging from the reign of barbarism, is yet destined to furnish minds which shall by their heaven implanted wisdom, add new glories to the firmament of science, and yield us truer and more enlarged conceptions of that wisdom and power which climb as