

those of you who are animated by a legitimate ambition to reach the front rank in your profession. The highest excellence in any walk of life can only be attained by a few; but ordinary talents, with persevering industry, may enable all to be respectable in their calling. With less than this you ought not to be satisfied; while the highest excellence ought ever to be your aim. But at this you will not aim, and will indeed fail of being even respectable, unless you estimate your profession highly. He that thinks meanly of his profession, is one of whom that profession has just cause *to be ashamed*. Every calling that is needful for the well-being of man is honorable; but as yours is specially directed to lessen human suffering, and in many ways to increase the sum of human happiness, and in both respects is very much needed in the world, it is a highly honorable vocation. Indeed, you are to stand among those whose proper function it is to aid in drying up the fountains of human woe. In a world in rebellion against God, we should rather wonder at the amount of good we taste, than the ills we endure, and should rather be astonished that our world is not utterly blasted by His curse than that it should be blighted by His frown. But although sin hath brought many ills on man, yet a merciful God hath not left us without remedies. Not to speak at present of the *grand remedy* for the spiritual maladies of the soul, why should we overlook the rich provision which, as the God of Providence, He has made for lessening the temporal sufferings of man?

Many of the miracles which the Saviour wrought, were not more decisive proofs of his Messiahship than beautiful illustrations of the Divine benevolence. Nor can we think of the numberless means among material agencies which your *art* can employ, for removing or mitigating disease, without being struck with evidence of the same gracious benevolence.

Now, when the medical profession is entered on and its duties performed from right motives, its members may be said to be co-workers with God in his beneficence to a suffering world. If this high view—which is really the true view—were taken by all medical men, it would not only furnish for them a set of pure and lofty motives from which to act, but would enable them to prosecute their scientific inquiries, and to go through their laborious duties, with wonderful diligence, fidelity, and success.

When fanaticism, or cant, is a well-grounded charge, it is one