

then let memory bring to your mind's eye that poor, suffering, human sister who, with tears of gratitude in her eyes, has returned you her thanks, heartfelt thanks, for the relief you have afforded her pains; or, the moment when some gigantic brother in Adam has prostrated his form before you in the anguish of pain, and your knowledge, the result of your earlier labours, has enabled you to relieve his torture, and you received his expressive grip of gratitude, then you will consider those thanks and that gratitude of more value than fine gold. Let this day be a red-letter day in your calendar, and when the months returning bring back this day of honour, if I may so call it, your Ides of March, pause, think over the past twelve months; see if you have performed your allotted task to your own satisfaction; and then, with augmented strength gathered from past experience and former trials, start again in life's battle with a determination to increase your store of knowledge. Observe facts and record your observations carefully and in order, remembering that it is only by obeying the laws of nature that she will reveal herself and her regulations to you. Learn to write well, clearly, distinctly and to the point. By frequent practice you will acquire freedom of thought, clearness of diction, and force of expression, which will add a charm to your writings beyond their immediate professional importance. To aid you in this, study the writings of masters, other than simply professional authors; for it is considered one of the characteristics of a gentleman that he be well read.

Passing from generalities to your more specific obligations you are called upon to be loyal in all your relations in life. I may divide those obligations under three heads: To yourself, to your profession, and to the public. Firstly, to yourself, because self-preservation is the first law of nature. Secondly, to your profession, because your immediate brethren have a claim to your sympathies greater than others. Thirdly, to the public, as brethren of a common race. To yourself your obligations require you to judge your own actions, words and motives; cultivate knowledge from a love of itself; enlarge your views by frequent conversations and arguments connected with your duties; keep yourself instructed in the current literature of your profession, and think no time or money ill-spent which will add to your knowledge or usefulness; unite with your professional brethren in your neighbourhood to form societies for the reading and discussion of papers and the mutual interchange of ideas; ally your local societies with the Dominion Association, so that we may form a united society which will become a rallying point, such as is the association which has done so much good to the profession in the old mother