

fortunate event had taken place, which was at the end of the island, about thirteen miles from Montreal. Arrived at the Ferry-House, at about half-past six o'clock P. M., we there found our patient with his left leg and thigh bandaged up, and were informed that about noon, his gun, which was resting with the muzzle close to his knee, was discharged, by his dog running against it, and the whole of its contents were lodged in his thigh. On examination, we found the charge had entered on the inner side of the left knee, about an inch from, and a little below, the patella. It had taken a direction upwards and outwards and lodged itself on the outer part of the thigh, immediately under the skin—about two inches and a half from the knee-joint. The patella was uninjured, but the lower end of the femur, to the extent of about two inches, was completely crushed, and broken up into small fragments. The patient was a gentleman of about 30 years of age, of a florid complexion, of a sanguine-nervous temperament, and of very active personal habits. He had always enjoyed excellent health, but for the last six weeks, had been very closely engaged in business, which had occupied him in his counting-house, from a very early hour in the morning till very late at night. His pulse, when we saw him, was 96, and not very full.

In consultation with Dr. Simard, an intelligent practitioner from the neighbourhood, it was determined, that as the extent of the injury entirely precluded all possibility of saving the limb, amputation should be resorted to, without loss of time, with the view of preventing, if possible, the subsequent occurrence of those dangerous symptoms which are so apt to take place after injuries of this nature. It was also determined that it would be highly imprudent to remove our patient to the city before the operation, as we considered that the delay which would necessarily be incurred, by having to send to Montreal for a proper conveyance, and the additional nervous irritation that would be excited by the performance of a journey of thirteen miles, under such circumstances, would materially interfere with its successful result. An immediate operation was therefore determined on, and on our views having been communicated to the patient, he at once yielded to the necessity of the case and consented to its performance.

There being no proper accommodation for him where he then was, he was conveyed to the house of Mr. Ross, on the Isle of Bourdon, where he could be conveniently attended to; and at six P. M., I proceeded to remove the limb by the circular operation at the lower third of the thigh—four vessels were tied, and the integuments were brought together by three sutures.

The stump had a good appearance, and the end of the bone was well covered. The limb seemed somewhat fuller of blood than usual, which probably arose from some impediment to the venous circulation caused by the original injury. Our patient, who had borne the operation with remarkable fortitude, was then placed in bed, and an anodyne of 60 drops of laudanum was administered.

For the three first days every thing went on well, the patient remaining free from fever, and expressing himself as quite comfortable; pulse generally about 90.

On the 23rd, four days after the operation, the bandages were removed for the first time: the wound looked remarkably well, with slight suppuration, but the patient complained of the pain caused by the dressing. Pulse slightly accelerated but soft—tongue moist and clean—bowels acted on by an anema—urine copious—had slept well during the night, but was observed by the person who sat up with him to be restless during it, often changing the position of his head, and moving his arms about—to have an anodyne at night.

24th.—Passed a restless night, and complained of uneasiness in the stump—had disturbed dreams about his business during the night. Stump was dressed in the presence of Dr. G. W. Campbell, who had been requested to attend, and found looking well, but the operation of dressing again gave rise to a good deal of irritation. Pulse quicker but soft and compressible—skin moist—tongue clean—bowels open—urine copious and clean. On the evening of this day, an unusual noise being heard in his room, I (having remained in the house) was immediately called, and found him giving utterance to a loud, prolonged, and somewhat shrill, moaning cry; his mouth was drawn considerably to the right side, and he seemed to be suffering from a pretty severe spasmodic attack. These symptoms however soon subsided, and during the rest of the night he slept, but rather uneasily.

25th.—Countenance anxious—body bathed in perspiration—pulse 116, small but soft—tongue moist—bowels open—urine copious—has had a rigor terminating with a hot stage and copious perspiration. To have small doses of quinine with acid four times a day, and to be allowed London Porter with oysters.

26th.—Stump dressed again to-day, and the wound appeared healthy. Countenance slightly flushed—pulse and secretions as yesterday. Had a glass of Dow's ale instead of porter, as there was no porter in the house. Dr. Campbell suggested the propriety of discontinuing the prescription of yesterday, which was accordingly done.

28th.—Report the same as yesterday and on the 26th.