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## Original Communications.

### PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF DR. WILLIAM BAYARD,

*At the Meeting of the Maritime Medical Association, held in St. John, N. B., July 22nd and 23rd.*

GENTLEMEN,—Yesterday I had the pleasure of verbally thanking the members of the New Brunswick Medical Society for the honour conferred upon me by being placed in their chair; this morning it is my duty, and it is my pleasure to sincerely thank the members of the combined societies for electing me as the first President of this the Maritime Medical Association. Circumstances prevented me from attending your meeting last year, consequently my appointment was as unexpected as it is flattering, and I accept it as a mark of your confidence and good will.

During my long career it has been my good fortune to have met in consultation many professional men in each Province, and I now declare, as I have many times declared, when called upon to refer to them, that they compare favourably with those in any other locality. Therefore I have reason to be proud to represent such a body of gentlemen.

My gray hairs have doubtless aided my selection, but while my life has been identified with St. John I may claim to be a Nova

Scotian, having been born in that Province. I am strongly in accord with those who approve of this union, our interests and our aspirations are similar, combination means power, and what little we possess is individual, none collectively, and I hope that this combination may prove the first step towards that influence which means power.

My second duty is to welcome you to the city of St. John as members of this Association. For, believe me, meetings of this kind tend to cultivate the heart as well as the head, and to promote good will and genuine brotherhood among their constituent members. They also tend to promote the study of medicine. Our mutual intercourse, criticisms, and discussions, form "at once a school and an ordeal," teaching us to become more rigid observers of the medical phenomena occurring in our practice, more careful in our classification of these phenomena, and more perfect in our deductions from them. I am far in the evening of my life, having been an humble worker in our noble profession for upwards of fifty years, during which time wonderful progress has been made in every department of human knowledge, and we can proudly assert that medicine in all its branches has bountifully shared in that progress. The mechanical inventions of the day have conferred vast benefits upon mankind; luxuries are within the reach of the poor that were formerly unobtainable by monarchs. But these benefits and luxuries are small when compared with the diminution of human suf-