

ART. XV.—*Remarkable Recovery from Severe Injuries.* (Communicated.)

It is very encouraging and gratifying, and no less flattering to the surgical art, to witness, on occasions of serious injury, the fortunate issue, which sometimes rewards a judicious perseverance in attempts to save injured limbs, which a few years ago were deemed beyond the resources of nature and art, and were summarily and unhesitatingly consigned to the knife, as the only means of saving the jeopardized life of the sufferer. Although such attempts of course must be limited to the favorable circumstances of civil life, and cannot be applicable to the camp, or besieged citadel, they nevertheless ought not to be lost sight of; and on many occasions a successful issue may reward our anxious and toilsome efforts. These reflections arose to our minds lately, from having seen a person whom we recollect as a patient in the Montreal General Hospital in 1847, and we deem the case of the unfortunate man worth recording. The history is briefly this:—

Thomas Stratton, a laborer, while employed with another man in sinking a well, close to the Mountain, in the vicinity of this city, and being then at the depth of several feet below the surface, unfortunately caused an explosion of the blast, while in the act of charging it, which caused a serious injury to both men. His more fortunate companion escaped with a fracture of his leg, and as soon as the immediate effects of the shock would permit him, he contrived to clamber up the ladder, out of the well, and scrambled on his hands and knees to a neighboring house for assistance to rescue the unfortunate Stratton from the well, from which he was hauled, by means of the usual apparatus and tackle for hoisting the fragments of stone and earth. The men were then conveyed to the Montreal General Hospital, and placed under the care of Dr. Crawford. When Stratton was examined, besides various severe contusions, it was found that there were *four fractures on his right leg and thigh*, one near the ankle, including both tibia and fibula; a second of both bones, four or five inches below the knee joint, the fractured portion of the tibia near the knee was very prominent, and forcibly pushing forward the integuments. A very oblique fracture of the femur was discovered near the knee, the lower end of the upper portion of the bone being prominent at the inner condyle, while the lower and corresponding portion was forced backwards into the popliteal space; a second fracture of this bone was found, about five or six inches higher up, and might almost be termed a comminuted fracture, from the looseness of a portion of the bone. The limb was shortened several inches. His right knee and elbow were much bruised, but this was overlooked in the