Dominion
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Original Communications

REMINISCENCES OF DR. G. V. N. RELYEA, OSWEGO, N.Y.

(Formerly of Belleville, Ont.)

I remember you once intimating that you would like to know something of my antecedents. Well, verily. Briefly, I was born in Guilderland near Albany; worked on a farm until twenty. My education was what all farmers' sons get—three months' schooling in the winter, and not infrequently taught by a drunken Irishman. Not content to be a farmer I went to an academy for three months, worked again during the summer and then taught school for three months. Next I took a situation in a grocery, did not like that, and then found an opening for a clerk in a dry goods store; worked six months for my board and another six months at $250 a year. After one year's experience as clerk I had the presumption to go into business. Bought out an establishment, $4,000 stock; hired a clerk and for one year pushed it with my usual vim. At the end of the year took stock and found myself minus several hundred dollars, and in three days more was out of business again and looking for pastures green. Got a situation in a publisher's office as secretary, cashier and proof-reader. While holding this situation, a young medical student came to the city (Albany) to attend lectures at the Albany College. He was preparing to become a dentist and urged me to join him. I was open for almost anything that offered. Having leisure as a clerk I commenced to study, and when opportunity occurred, went with my friend to the college; had access to the dissecting department. There was only one dental college at that time, the Baltimore College, and that was only two years old. I had no money; and the cost of travelling, my board, fees, etc., etc., etc., put it out of my power to go, so I went with J. S. Wood, M.D., Dentist. Attended

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