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GENTLEMEN,—My first duty is to thank the members of the Canadian Medical Association for the great, and I may add, entirely unsought, honor of being called upon to serve as its President. Having been absent from last year's meeting, my election to this important position at that time was still more a source of surprise, but nevertheless of much gratification. If a simple loyalty to this Association, as one of the rank and file, and humble efforts to sustain it by regular attendance and an occasional contribution, entitle me to any recognition, I may fairly claim that much. To more than that I lay no claim, and I know it is only the indulgent good-will of my friends and fellow-members which has procured for me this great honor—one which I can assure them I duly appreciate, and I shall always endeavor to give them no reason to consider their kind confidence misplaced.

He whose duty it is to address officially an important meeting of this kind may well claim to be overwhelmed by an *embarrass de richesses*. No restriction is placed upon his choice of a subject, and the field is practically limitless. To

select is indeed difficult, and even when that difficulty has been overcome, there remains the still greater one of so presenting it as to be deserving of your attention. Following after so many eminent predecessors, it is, I can assure you, no false modesty, but a sense of genuine incapacity for the task which has been constantly present with me.

It may not be amiss, on an occasion like the present, to take a hasty survey of the general standing and prospects of the profession in the Dominion, and to consider whether it be progressing as it should. In a young country like this, progress is exceedingly rapid in almost every department of life—in trade and commerce and agriculture; in the building of cities and the opening of great lines of railway, extensive systems of telegraphy, and other public works on a commensurate scale; in the establishment of public schools and the foundation of universities; in the consolidation of the professions, and giving them their proper status; and a comparatively few years work changes which are rapid indeed in comparison with the more steady ways of older and more settled parts of the world. When we think that the Confederation, just like this Association of ours, is only even now of age—that up to that time we were but a few weak provinces, with diverse interests, and without any common bond—and that to-day, only twenty-one years later, we are a vigorous and lusty young nation, with territories extending across a whole continent, and touching on either side the two great oceans of