

fame which time can never obliterate. His grandfather was a physician in Connecticut, and at his death his promising nephew, now eighteen years of age, inherited his grandfather's medical library and a sufficient legacy to enable him to acquire a medical education. He had made arrangements to pursue his studies in Edinburgh, when the war with Great Britain prevented him. About this time the medical department of Yale University was opened, and young Kirtland was the first student on its matriculation roll. Subsequently he graduated at the University of Pennsylvania, and in 1815 returned to his native place, where he practised medicine for two years and a half, devoting all his leisure moments to the study of natural science, for which he had developed a passion which influenced all his after life. He next removed to Durham, Conn., where he enjoyed an extensive practice for several years, when the death of his wife and child again unsettled him, and he removed to Poland, Conn. Five years later he was elected to the Legislature, where he served three terms, after which he was called to fill the chair of Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati, which he did with distinguished ability for five years, when the duties becoming irksome to him, he resigned the position.

When in 1848 the first Geological Survey of Ohio was organized, Dr. Kirtland was appointed to superintend the natural history department, and in due time presented a series of reports which attracted general attention. He labored diligently among the Fishes, Birds, Mollusks, Reptiles and Insects of Ohio, sketching many of them with his own pencil and describing them with an enthusiastic fidelity. During his researches he collected a large and valuable cabinet of specimens with the design of forming a State Collection, but Ohio refused the substantial aid which this enterprise required, and as his collections had been made largely at his own expense, he retained possession of them and they were ultimately donated to the Cleveland Society of Natural Sciences, where they are now treasured as a priceless heritage.

In 1837 Dr. Kirtland had purchased a choice fruit farm five miles west of Cleveland, and had there settled, as it proved, for the remainder of his busy life. Four years after this he was appointed a Professor in the Medical Department of the Western Reserve College, in Cleveland, a position he filled with honor for twenty-one years. In 1861 Williams College conferred upon him the degree of L. L. D., in recognition of his services, and many learned societies during his lifetime delighted to do