

CANADA

# MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Valedictory Address to the Graduates in Medicine, McGill College.*

Delivered on behalf of the Medical Faculty, at the Annual Convocation, held in the William Molson Hall of the University, on the 3rd May, 1866. By WILLIAM FRASER, M.D., Professor of Institutes of Medicine.

GENTLEMEN,—This day's ceremony forms the climax of your professional studies—admits you to all the privileges and responsibilities of the profession of your choice. It consequently severs the connection which has existed between us as teachers and pupils. On such an occasion it is customary to offer the graduating class a few valedictory words by way of advice. That duty has on this occasion devolved upon me, and for your sakes, I wish it had fallen upon an abler man.

I will however endeavour briefly to point out, in the first place, what you may reasonably expect as the reward of your past labour on entering into practice; and in the second place, the mode in which you are most likely to attain that object.

Few members of our profession realize the princely fortunes so often acquired by those engaged in successful commercial pursuits—and seldom have they conferred upon them those honours that are so frequently bestowed upon eminent lawyers and warriors. On the other hand fewer members of our profession fail to make a fair and reasonable competency, than in either of the professions mentioned. A still greater reward is the usefulness of your services—the high satisfaction derived from the consciousness of being of use—of being able to do a service much in demand—the well doing of which involves great benefits, and averts great evils. There are few offices more appreciated by mankind than those discharged by the medical practitioner. The rewards which you