

leged to live at the beginning of the century which by common opinion belongs to Canada—an era which is to witness the transformation of an obscure colony into one of the great nations of the world. Our illimitable natural resources and opportunities are attracting attention from all quarters of the globe. Ever alert, financial, commercial and industrial interests have quickly grasped the situation, so that on every side we see an extension of enterprise, a broadening of foundations and a perfecting of organization to meet rapidly-growing requirements and to take advantage of the golden opportunities which the future has in store.

It therefore appears a fitting time to glance at our own profession,—its past history, present condition and future prospects. As an index to our hopes it is instructive to recall the transformation which a century has produced in the country which is so frequently compared to our own. At the beginning of the last century the United States had a population of about 4,000,000. The first medical school in that country, now the Medical Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, had been established only thirty-five years; the Medical Department of King's College, N.Y., now Columbia, thirty-three years; Harvard, seventeen years, and the Medico-Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, eleven years,—all struggling institutions whose influence at that time had produced no effect on the medical world at large. In the whole country there were but two general hospitals, one medical journal (*The Medical Repository*, New York, 1797); and the only medical libraries were one each in connection with the hospitals of New York and Philadelphia. For the education of medical students the old apprentice system was still largely in vogue.

Reflection on the position of the profession in our own country, our medical laws and institutions, at a corresponding period in national development, is indeed reassuring and must impress us with a deep sense of the gratitude we owe those worthy pioneers, the military surgeons, who at the beginning of the last century were laying the foundations of the profession in this province. We of the present generation are reaping the advantages of the high ideals by which they were actuated, and of the strenuous efforts they put forth to establish and maintain in a struggling colony the honorable character and traditions of the profession of the motherland. From the view-point of the present it would be not only instructive, but inspiring, to look back and consider for a moment what manner of men they were, these pioneer surgeons,