

which happened to me when in the backwoods of Canada some twenty-five years since. An old man, of some 50 years of age, vaulted upon a horse to ride a short distance. In the act of mounting he felt a pain in the right groin, and observed a small tumor; was seized with pain in the bowels and vomiting; was put to bed; had some warm drink given him, and hot fomentations applied to the bowels. These means did not relieve him; he grew worse, and I was sent for during the night. When I arrived I found that he was laboring under the symptoms of acute strangulated hernia. The tumor in the groin was about the size of a marble; was very painful to the touch, and he declared it came suddenly. He had observed it occasionally some long time ago, but recently it had not troubled him. The taxis was tried, but the tumor was almost too small to handle. Bleeding and the hot bath were tried. (Chloroform was not known in those parts at that time). The symptoms speedily became so urgent that I resolved to operate. I laid open the integuments, divided the fascia, and opened the hernial sac. I found a portion of small intestine caught in the hernial embrace, and evidently strangulated, by its dark color. It was plainly only a section of the intestine, one side of it incarcerated in the hernial sac. I now divided the stricture, and placing my finger upon the bowel I easily pushed it into the abdomen, when the poor man expressed a desire to evacuate the bowels, which acted freely. The wound soon healed, and the man got rapidly well.

Upon reflection, I am led to believe that this very remarkable case of sphacelated femoral hernia above mentioned was of a similar character to the one just recorded. A section of the bowel only had come down into the sac and become adherent, and that the stools passed through the intestine, while this section was adherent to the hernial sac. Whenever irritation of the bowels happened, which seemed frequently to occur, more or less inflammation of the part resulted, but quickly subsided again. The last attack was far more violent than any of the preceding, hence the inflammation of the intestine was more intense, and caused all the symptoms of strangulation, and made it necessary to relieve the stricture. This being accomplished, the symptoms of incarceration subsided, but the vitality of the intestine was too far gone to permit it to regain its tone; hence mortification ensued, and an artificial anus was formed. As the irritation and swelling of the parts subsided, the old man began to regain tone. His health was considerably re-established, the wound commenced healing, and the feculent matter began to find its way into the lower portion of the bowel past the wound by the section of intestine not included in the hernia.

The more the wound healed the more free was the passage by the bowel, until now scarcely any matter passes by the wound, and the