

as the documents state, "d'une necessite plus pressante, et d'un usage plus frequent." For twenty years thereafter, there were but five (5) surgeons in what is now the largest city in the Dominion ; their names are given, and a writer of that period wonders how so many could have subsisted. But to prevent any possibility of interfering with each other's interests, (would that their successors had continued to be as scrupulous !) they threw their whole earnings into one common fund, and, by a contract of association, their books, furniture, food, merchandise, furs, and the fruits of the earth, instruments of surgery, medicines, and their whole revenue, and also contracted that none of them should go into debt for a greater sum than five coppers, and that only in case of urgent need. At the end of four years their books were balanced and each one received an equal share. It was also stipulated that if either of them died before the expiration of the term, all his interests belonged to the survivors. Those men, and their early successors have passed away, and so arduous was then the struggle for existence, they have left no written record. Pale faced women from old France exercised the healing art more than two hundred and fifteen years ago, when Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Ontario were unexplored wildernesses. At two spots—Montreal and Quebec—were they to be found, screened by palisades from the Iroquois—warding off their encroachments with the one hand, and with the other, by kindness giving evidence of their love of Him who healeth our diseases and redeemeth our life from distruction.

The science and art of surgery has been so steadily progressing since then, that I know not what most to draw attention to, in the few remarks time will permit me to make. The field over which my thoughts have wandered, in making a selection is vast and various. It embraces the accumulation of many thousand years of patient toil, each country—even our own—adding something to the general store, till it approaches a precision, and a definiteness, a completeness not yet—perhaps never to be attained by