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EPHRAIM McDOWELL.

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THE HISTORIC OLD BUILDING.

This historic old building, of which the accompanying picture is a good representation, was a model house in its day ; but the ruthless hand of time has robbed it of much of its former grandeur. It has seen "yon weary winter sun twice fifty times return," though yet in a fair state of preservation. Within this building, in the midnight darkness, Ephraim McDowell lighted the torch which has shone forth with resplendent glory in this brilliant noonday of abdominal surgery. Beneath this time-worn roof was laid the foundation for a great revolution in the *ars chirurgica* ; and as a sequence there goes forth a benediction to every hamlet in the known world ; from every hearthstone in Christendom there returns a blessing to the memory and the last resting place of Ephraim McDowell.

"Chirurgica's towers, thy lights resplendent blaze,
Dries woman's tears and lengthens out her days.
McDowell and Sims, of our Columbia's clime,
Began the work, moved onward, nigh sublime.
To woman, then, these blessings shall be given,
Queen of the home, and home the type of heaven."

"Within this home the soul has fared,
And from this throne its ventures dared.
What bounteous visions filled this spot ?
What dreams of pleasure long forgot ?
Nor hope, nor joy, nor love, nor fear,
Have left one trace of record here.

It was within this sacred precinct that the operation was first performed which carried the light of life into the shadows of impending gloom—the message of hope into the realms of despair ; opening the prison to them that were bound and giving beauty for ashes—the beauty of a newborn existence, of youthful and happy maternity, in place of ashes for which the inevitable urn seemed already waiting.

"Within these walls was life's retreat
This space was thought's mysterious seat,"

where the origin of the great thought, and still greater courage, that gave expression to the thought that, without the sanction of precedence,

* The cuts were kindly loaned by Dr. J. W. Keating, the Editor of *The Physician and Surgeon*, Ann Arbor.