

When he was twenty, being still unsettled, his eyes turned towards London. He liked the ring of the voice of that mighty city, calling him, "as is her way with all the best men in Scotland." Then he dispatched a hasty letter to his brother William. He received a favorable answer and the kindest of invitations, and in a short time he was in London beside his brother, joining hands and brains—companions in work.

Two greater opposites and extremes could not have met than these two brothers. The one was the direct antithesis of the other. Consequently, many little differences arose between them, which resulted finally in a bitter quarrel, but the two became reconciled again before death.

In September, 1748, the two brothers began to work together. William was delighted with John's dissection and made him assistant in the dissecting rooms. Ottley gives us the following picture of him about this time: "He was fond of company and mixed much in the society of young men of his own standing, and joined in that sort of dissipation which men at his age, and freed from restraint, are but too apt to indulge in. Nor was he always very nice in the choice of his associates, but sometimes sought entertainment in the coarse, broad humor to be found amid the lower ranks of society. He was employed by his brother to cater for the dissecting room, in the course of which employment he became a great favorite with that certainly not too respectable class of persons, the resurrection men; and one of the amusements in which he took special pleasure was to mingle with the gods in the gallery, for the purpose of assisting to damn the productions of unhappy authors, an office in which he is said to have displayed peculiar tact and vigor."

Anatomy was John's principal study. The dissecting room was his little world. From sunrise to sunset he slaved with his scalpel, laying up those wonderful stores of knowledge that come to those only who toil patiently and earnestly. His talents were soon recognized, and in a short time he was appointed demonstrator to the students, one of the highest gifts in the hands of the school. To be sure, the position from an aesthetic point of view was not a very desirable one—"hobnobbing with the resurrection men, slaving all day long in unwholesome air, dissecting, demonstrating and putting up specimens"—but the master loved his work and labored incessantly. In conjuring up in our mind the picture of this man we are bound to acknowledge the validity of Ruskin's strong lines: "It is only by labor that thought can be made healthy, and only by thought that labor can be made happy." Here was a man laboring incessantly with his hands, but his colossal mind kept pace with