

CANADA

MEDICAL JOURNAL.

---

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

---

*Valedictory Address to the Graduates in Medicine and Surgery, McGill University. Delivered on behalf of the Medical Faculty, at the Annual Convocation, held in the William Molson Hall of the University, on Thursday, 28th March, 1872. By JOSEPH MORLEY DRAKE, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine.*

GENTLEMEN GRADUATES IN MEDICINE,—It is, believe me, not in mere compliance with an established custom, with no vain formula of idle words that I, on the part of my colleagues and myself, offer you our most cordial congratulations on this occasion. You have just received the highest honour this faculty has to bestow—the degree for which you have so long and so earnestly laboured, and which you have at length fairly and honourably won. May it acquire fresh honours in the possession of each and every one of you, and thus deserve to be regarded with ever increasing esteem by your successors. Together with that friendly interest and sympathy which all right minded persons must feel, on witnessing the setting forth on life's journey of so many youthful pilgrims. We, as your teachers, experience much personal pride and satisfaction, as we wash our hands of a task, which though laborious enough at the time, promises a most pleasing reward in the future. Most or all of us no doubt, will watch your career in a spirit not altogether unselfish in its character, triumphing in your success and sympathizing in your trials. With an earnest desire for your welfare, I would wish to offer a few words of parting counsel, which I trust may be neither useless nor altogether unacceptable.

You have chosen a profession whose duties are indeed arduous and responsible, but a profession which is second to none in point of usefulness. "Ennobled by endless examples of the most heroic self sacrifice, and offering full scope for the exercise of the highest intellect, the purest philanthropy, the proudest ambition." There is perhaps no other calling which should in itself tend to