

dust of the schools," yet many treasures are being unearthed. Even as those material at Pompeii—to be copied, not equalled; to be adored, and to have many copyists whom the world praises even as *masters*.

Such are thoughts in the quiet hours of study and unceasing research, fully believing with Emerson:—"Men walk as prophecies of the next age. Step by step we scale this mysterious ladder; the steps are actions; and the new prospect is power"—in this fully believing, and that this paper is much superior to my many similar papers sent to and published by the *Lancet* in the earlier seventies, when Dr. Fulton, my dear friend, was editor-in-chief.

SIR CHARLES HASTINGS, THE FOUNDER OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

By JOHN FERGUSON, M.A., M.D., Toronto.

AT this time, when the British Medical Association is before the eyes of the medical profession of Canada, a few words on its founder may not be amiss.

Charles Hastings was born at Ludlow, in Worcestershire, in the year 1794. The family of Hastings was an old one in the county and had given the famous Warren Hastings to the services of the state. Charles was the sixth son of the Rev. James Hastings, rector of Martley, in Worcestershire. He was educated at the Grammar School of Martley. While at school he was very fond of sports and did not show any special fondness for his books. At the age of 16 he was apprenticed to Mr. Jukes and Mr. Watson, surgeons at Stourport. During his apprenticeship he gave a good account of himself, and at the end of two years was sent to walk the hospitals in London. When in his 19th year, his friends put forth his claim for the vacant position of house-surgeon to the Worcester Infirmary, Messrs. Jukes and Watson strongly supporting his claims. He received the appointment by a majority of one vote over his competitors. He held the position until 1815, when he resigned to enter the University of Edinburgh. During the period he was house-surgeon he carried on many scientific investigations along with Dr. Wilson Phillips, of the Infirmary, on the nervous system. He kept careful notes of the cases treated in the Infirmary, and founded its museum. At this early period in his life he displayed great taste for order and method in the work of the Infirmary as well as in his own. From a very early period he showed a strong bent towards scientific study.

When a student in Edinburgh he came under the teachings of Gregory, Munro, Duncan, Hope, and Gordon. In this way he imbibed