

THE  
British American Journal.

---

MONTREAL, NOVEMBER, 1860.

---

THE LATE A. F. HOLMES, M.D. AND P.

Having in our last number briefly stated the particulars connected with the death of this esteemed member of the Profession, we now address ourselves to a detail of his life, which cannot be deemed otherwise than one of unremitting labour for the advancement of that Profession, of which he was a distinguished ornament, as of general beneficence to that public by which he was surrounded. It is a confessedly difficult task to do justice to a theme like this, but imperfectly executed though our task may be, we feel nevertheless bound to discharge the duty.

Dr. Holmes was born in Cadiz, whither his parents had been taken prisoners of war in a vessel, which had been captured by a French frigate, on its passage to this country. This occurred in the year 1797, and in 1801 the family reached Canada, his father first setting himself up in business in Quebec, from which city he afterwards removed to Montreal, where the son was sent to the school of the late Dr. Skakel, which afterwards became the Royal Grammar School, and which in conjunction with like schools, in Quebec and Cornwall, under the charge of the late Dr. Wilkie in the former place, and in the latter of Dr. Strachan, now the venerable and venerated Bishop of Toronto, who was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. Urquhart, —turned out a bright galaxy of scholars, whose classical attainments have not been since surpassed if equalled by any educated in this country. After pursuing in this school, for a number of years, his classical studies, he was articled as a pupil to the late Dr. Arnoldi, one of the late principal physicians of this city, and in due time left for Edinburgh for the completion of his professional studies. Here with that conscientiousness for which he was so characterized, he prosecuted his studies with unexampled ardour, and on August 2nd, 1819, he graduated at that celebrated University, then and for many subsequent years, the “prima inter pares,” after having previously obtained his Surgeon’s Diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons of the same city, on the 23rd March, 1818. During the year 1818, he was admitted a member of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh, and on the 12th July, 1819, in anticipation of his leaving that city, he was chosen an extraordi-