

The Graduates' Valedictory Address at the Second Annual Convocation of the Medical Faculty of the University of Bishop's College, April 3rd, 1873.
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MR. CHANCELLOR, MY LORD, MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

Our assembling here to-day is testimony to the fact, that the second session of the Medical department of the University of Bishop's College is at an end.

I look upon this gathering as a sort of "harvest home," (if I may be allowed such a term,) where, as is usually the case upon such occasions, steady, persevering industry receives its due reward. It is an occasion where all is joy and thankfulness, where all goes merrily as the marriage bell. I feel thankful to my fellow students for having done me the honor of electing me to deliver the Valedictory Address, under such happy circumstances, and though I could have wished that the duty had been intrusted to one more practised and able in the art of addressing a large and learned assembly, yet I have not shrunk from the task, but on the contrary have much pleasure in undertaking the proud responsibility which rests upon me. It affords an opportunity of our bearing public testimony to the solid worth of our professors, and of bidding them an affectionate farewell at the close of a most pleasant, instructive and highly satisfactory session.

In reviewing the last six months, I can do so with feelings of unmingled satisfaction. It has in a measure been a period of toil, but the burden has been rendered light by the ever kind and courteous conduct of our worthy instructors. Too much cannot be said in their praise, either as regards professional attainments or kind and considerate behaviour. Condescending and obliging, ever ready to explain some difficult theory or whatever might not be readily understood, they nobly exerted themselves to impart to us a thorough knowledge of our profession, and with unwearied patience have carried the same cheerful demeanor day after day, throughout the entire session. We now tender them our sincere thanks, and bid them one and all an affectionate farewell. Long may they live and may each succeeding year still find them; as heretofore, in the lecture hall, successfully imparting knowledge to the embryo M.D.'s of Canada. We feel that we owe them much, but let them rest assured that their kind and courteous demeanor and untiring zeal during the past session will not be effaced from our memories by the lapse of years, but will ever continue to be a pleasant reminiscence of College days.

To my fellow graduates I would now say a few words. To-day we have reached one of the landmarks in the journey of life; our efforts have been crowned with success, and we have gained the much coveted degree of C.M., M.D. Let us be thankful and sternly resolve to be true to the obligations which we have just taken. We meet in a body to-day most probably for the last time, each one afterwards betaking himself to his allotted sphere of usefulness, but I fain would hope that the friendships formed during the period of our struggles are not to be so speedily ended. Let us hope that in days to come we may sometimes meet and talk over the good old days spent at Bishop's College.

In life, every station has its peculiar obligations, its difficulties and advantages; and the new position that we shall henceforth occupy, although freed from the irksomeness of the past, has many serious obligations, and the manner in which they are attended to and discharged will materially affect our individual success in life. Our mission is a noble one and embraces a wide field of usefulness. It is that of removing or alleviating disease, preserving health, prolonging life, sustaining the cause of religion and morality, and of assisting to form an age of liberality and usefulness.

In none of the numerous occupations of civilized society is it so necessary for a man to enjoy the perfect use of all his physical and mental faculties as in the medical profession, for in practice, important cases occur which demand our prompt attention and decision, and on these attainments the future happiness and welfare of ourselves and those under our immediate care will greatly depend. According to my idea, the chief requisite for the successful practice of medicine is what is called "good sense," by which I mean, the vigilant and ready exercise of the understanding and judgment in all the accidents of practice, and a prompt adaptation of "what we know, to what we have to do." A possession which though partly innate or a gift of nature, is capable of great development by cultivation. In what relates to a practical art, industrious talent with perseverance may acquire and arrange, genius may improve and adorn, but good sense must always direct.

Seeing then, that we shall be liable to be called upon at any moment to accidents, where a steady hand and clear mental faculties can alone be of service, strict sobriety must necessarily be a sine qua non with us throughout life; for on the event of a single hour may depend the fame or infamy of character and the honor or the disgrace of