

In a bold and comprehensive manner he thus speaks of the Profession :—

Now the physicians of every city make one professional family, and have a common ancestry. To this relationship of our profession, I wish now to draw your attention. I desire to make you feel and believe, no, rather let me say, I hope you already feel that we constitute one brotherhood, going back to the same ancestral root, and looking forward to the progressive rise of a common glory.

Again he says :—

The history of a nation is not to be read in the lives of its generals and politicians merely, but comprehends, as its necessary elements, the history of all classes of the people, and all branches of intellectual, moral, religious, and physical industry. It is high time that our own profession began to look to its rights and duties in this matter; genius, learning, and active beneficence should not be overlooked because they were directed to the preservation, instead of the destruction, of human life.

Such language and such sentiments do honour alike to him who wrote them, and to those for whose benefit they were written. Oh! that medical men would ponder them well, and make them the aim of life, the goal of ambition. We thank him also for rescuing from oblivion the following noble appeal by Dr. JOSEPH STRONG, A. D. 1793 :—

Let us remember, that the learned physician is next to the Creator, because he is the preserver of life; but the unlearned one is next to the Devil, as a destroyer. The physician who is great, can have no rival in fame, and the little one, none in deserved infamy. Let us all be anxious for the enjoyments of our fellow-men; let us forever feel the beckoning invitations of humanity, with hearts prompt to obey its kindly suggestions; and by patient endurance of the fatigues of study and long watchings around the portals of wisdom, seek for that glory which arises from the ample resources of timely beneficence.

Our business is great; if performed nobly, the crown of our joy will not be withheld from us, when glory will be given to all the benefactors. Let us live, and conduct, as though heaven, would be the reward of great physician; the glorious dwelling place of all who are the unwearied labourers of truth, or the practitioners of its extensive precepts. Should we not blush with horror, and be confounded, to behold the godlike Hippocrates, Sydenham, Boerhaave, Haller, and Cullen, who have left on immortal records the fair outlines of medical skill, rise up and call us the reprobates of the art; and join that terrible condemnation which comes armed with the decree of irreversible separation? Let us all be the advocates of universal truth, of the diligent and bold performance of every action to which any virtue may call us. Let us be in full communion with the laws of God, and never prove infidels to the supplicating tone of meek humanity. Let all medical societies prove churches, to patronize truth, and guard all its heavenly ordinances. Let there be a long progeny of descendants from the ancestry of medical learning, that the world, in some distant age, may behold the full-grown form of consummate skill, and no longer lament the untimely ravages of pain. To conclude: may the genius of each physician be ennobled by the fervent stimulus of religious philosophy, and absorb, from every stream of truth, its most precious spirit;—may the glowing virtues in each heart kindle a vestal flame in the soul, which shall shine like the light of peace on the haggard face of distress, and illuminate the mysteries of human existence.