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## VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

ON BEHALF OF

# THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE <br> READ AT 

## Bishop's College Convocation,

APRIL $5 \mathrm{TH}, \mathrm{I} 893$.

BY
W. GRANT STEWART, BAA., MD. Professor of Medical Jurisprudence.

## Montreal;

Mitchell \& Wilson, Printers, 1727 Notre Dame Street.
1893.

## VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

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## READ AT BISHOP'S COLLEGE CONVOCATION,

APKIL 5TII 1893

BY W. GRANT STEWART, B.A., M.D.

## Gextlemen,

This is one of the red letter days of your life's history. The long looked for day has come, and you are full fledged MD.'s at last. For four years we have steered your bark through the difficulties and dangers of college life; and now to-day, with. tlying flags and favoring breezes, we send you forth on the wideocean of life as captains of your nown fortunes. You have our good wishes, and with interest we will watch your progress. Your success will be our success; and as you reflect credit on yourselves, in so far will yon reflect credit upon us your teachers and shed a lustre over your beloved Alma Matcr.

You have chosen a profession than which there is none more noble. We congratulate you upon your choice. And if you can only realize the dignity of your calling, and strive ever to be men earnest and true, to be diligent and faithful workers, success will come. The rad to success is no easy one, but ofttimes long and arduous and rugged, but "all things come to him who waits" You will all have to wait and wait patiently, for practice. Don't expect a rush of patients the tist day or week or month that your plate is on the door. But this waiting time need not be wasted time. Read, read and study and ever be students. Don't go away with the idea that all that is worth knowing in Medicine is stored away in your little brain. When
you get into practice, you will find that there are a few things, perhaps many things,-in fact, a great deal-that you have yet to learn, and that you have only be an picking up crumbs of knowledge. This is an age of advance and progress, and no science is making greater strides than Mediciue; then advance with the times, acquaint yourselves with the work of others by reading books and monographs and medical journals. Life is short; select the best and study them well. Bo systematic, and carefully improve your time. Time is uften said to be money; but, as Sir . ohn Lubbock says, "it is more-it is life; and yet many who would cling despurately to life think nothing of wasting time."

Now that you have graduated, you will of course be looking around you for a place to settle in. Don't be in a hurry. Settle, if you can, in a growing place, some place where you will permanently locate and grow with the place. If you move too often it will serionsly interfere with your prosperity and advancement.

Some of you will doubtless settle down in the quiet retirement of country life, far from the ignoble strife and worrying cares of city life, and there in peace and plenty along the cool sequestered vale of life pursue the even tenor of your way and do a good and noble and useful work.

Some of you may make your home in some ambitious village which your foresight sees in years to come a thriving town and busy city where you shall be looked upon as the old and leading practitioner.

Some of you may at once launch out in the busy mart and great city. But wherever you settle, be it in the quiet country, the ambitious village, or the great city, if you would succeed, and I would say here, start out on your career with the determination that you must and will succeed-I say if you would succeed you must commence by being painstaking and earnest students. And "whatever your hands find to do, do it with your might." Life is made up of a mass of little things, but the way to succeed is by attention to the apparently trivial things and doing them well.
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Be always neat and tidy. People do not like an untidy doctor. And always act the gentleman. Am I going too far when I say it will be to your advantage to be total abstainers? I think not. You will be physically, mentally and morally better. If at the commencement of your career you are thought to be a drinking man, mark my words, it will act as a brake to your success, and it will very materially interfere with your progress. Nor is this mere sentiment. Many a young man, whose bark like yours has started out with flying colors, has been sadly wrecked on the rock of intemperance, and his life has been to him and to his friends worse than a failure.

When you locate, try and get near a corner when you can. Don't start in a back street and hide your light under a bushel. Have a neat and tidy office. Yon will find that this will pay. Show people that it is the office of a real hard worker and that of a man who is first and last and always a physician.

In your conduct with your confrères be always straightforward and honest. At the outset of your career you might make a few more dollars by being unprofessional, but remember that life is ahead of you-and, I trust, a long one; nember that the kindly feelings and the respect of your coureres is worth more than a few extra dollars that might be in your pocket. If you are earnest and industrious men you can all gain practices in a legitimate way. Your talents will be appreciated some day. Don't feel disappointed at the rebuffs and snubs you will occasionally meet with. Some people would not have Dr. So-and-So to doctor their cat. Others would not have Dr. So-and-So, he is a mere boy. Don't fret or be discouraged, you are remedying these things fast every day. Live down the snubs and rebuffs. Some day you may yet be the respected friend and physician of that same family, and your advice and counsel may be sought after by your confrères who may now pass by on the other side.

It will be necessary for you to have business tact as well as professional ability. Ofttimes the learned and skilled physician may be left behind in the race of life by some one who perhaps
know much less but who has tact. In Medicine as in business, a man's manner often has a good deal to do with his making his fortune. Don't for a moment think that I would discount skill and talent; but add to these the manners of the true gentleman and the way to success is cert inly easier. Cultivate a cheery, pleasant manner; when you to see your patients carry sunshine with you. "A merry neart doeth good like a medicine." Yöur whole duty does not consist in writing out prescriptions or diagnosing disease. Cultivate the gentle touch of sympathy.

> "Of kindly hauds to feel the pressure true, A word of hope-such trifles will renew The sinking heart, give courage to the mind, And like the soft sweet breath of summer wind Upon a bank of drooping flowers, which blew 'Mid rain and sleet, but now revive anew, So in our lives, such influences kind Will make the sorrowing heart a home of joy, All that oppressed before and caused annoy Seems eased of half its load."

Most of you, no doubt, will start as general practitioners, and I think you do wisely and well. Practise as such for a few years and get a thorough knowledge of general medicine. If then there is any specialty for which you have a preference, devote your time to it. If you would succeed as a family practitioner you must have the mother on your side; if you have not the full confidence of the mother you will be sadly handicapped. She cares not whether you can diagnose a tumor in tie motor area of the brain or remove a kidney. She wants a man who can tell her how to make a poultice and how to arrange all the little details of the sick room. She wants a physician who is affable and pleasant; a physician who will patiently listen to her as she relates in her own way all the real and fancied ills of her baby; a physician who can give that undivided attention as if her baby was the sole and only baby in the world. She wants someone whom her children will love and respect. The man who has these qualities with a fair

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amount of professional ability will often succeed when perhaps a more learned confrère may be 'oft behind.

Do not be stinted in your st vices to the poor. "The poor ye have always with you." We do not always work for the amount of dollars and cents we make out of our profession, and you will find it a pleasure indeed to minister to the poor; and the gratitude one ofttimes receives from the poverty-stricken sufferer is far more heart-satisfying than the rich man's gold. Be kind then to the poor. This is one of the privileges of our noble calling. Remember that kindness to the poor is bread cast upon the waters which will surely return to you after many days.

> "His life is longest, not whose bnneless gums, Sunk eyes, wan cheeks, and snow-white bair bespeak Life's limits; nol but he whose memory Is thickest set with those delicious sceness 'Tis sweet to ponder o'er when even falls."

Emulate the examples of the great men who have preceded you, Sydenham Abernethy, Simpson, Richard Bright, Palmer Howard, George Ross-these are names that shine out on the page of medical history. Of Richard Bright it has been said that he was sincerely religious both in doctrine and practice, and of so pure a mind that he never was heard to utter a sentiment or to relate an anecdote that was not fit to be heard by the merest child or the most refined female. Of all these illustrious names, Geo. Ross perhaps comes closest to us. Although he was not intimately connected with our own school, yet he was a man whose attainments and ability and intellect were retained by no one school. A man he was whose reputation extended from sea to sea. And throughout this continent to-day his memory is respected and his loss mourned by hundreds of successful practitioners. To know him was to love him; to know him was a liberal education. Geurge Ross has gone, but he has left an unsullied name behind him. Such lives are like "rays of sunlight which gladden the world while they shine, but leave it dark and chilly when they depart. Oh! for an art
in the moral sphere, equivalent to that of the photographer in the material, whereby we might seize and fix and perpetuate those rarer rays which stream through the mass of human history like veins of feldspar in a quarry." Take such examples and let your ambition be fired and your enthusiasm be rekindled as you read and think of such great men.

> "Lives of great men oft remind us We can make our lives sullime, And departing leave behind us Footprints in the sand of time."

You are now going forth to fight disease and death. Remember that prevention is better than cure. One of your great duties will be to try and prevent disease. "To what extent the prevention of disease, the prolongation of life and the inprovement of the physical and nental powers may be carried, we do not know. Yet, that the average length of human life may be very much extended and its physical powers greatly augmented; that in every year in this commonwealth thousands of lives are lost which might have been saved; that tens of thousands of cases of sickness cecur which might have been prevented; that a vast amount of unnecessarily impaired health and physical debility exists amoug those not confined by sickness; that these preventable evils require an enornous expenditure and loss of mosey, and impose on the people unnumbered and immeasurable calamities, pecuniary, social, physical, mental and moral, which night have been avoided; that means exist within our reach for their mitigation or removal, and that measures for prevention will effect more than remedies for the cure of disense, will probably be admitted by everyone who has carefully studied the sulject."
"Disease and death are parts of the plan of creation," so says Cathell. "Disease daily attlicts millions of earth's children in every clime, while death on his pale horse is busy from pole to pole. Fear of the former and dread of the latter are parts of human nature, and these (fear and dread) cause mankind everywhere to employ physicians; the prince in his palace, the
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peasant in his cottage, and the beggar in his hovel : the citizen in his mansion, the laborer in his shanty, and the felon in his dungeon; the millionaire conqueror; the lord and the serf; the sailor on the pathless ocean and the soldier on the tented field; the purple of authority, the ermine of rank, and the rags of squalor; the man of religion, the man of law, and the man of science; the Christion, the Jew, and the Pagan; the pale-faced Caucasian, the painted Feejee, and the oily savage on the burning plains of Africa; the tatooed, naked, fierce and brutal New Zealander, and the sinewy savage of our own far West; those in the blood-chilling Arctic regions, and those in the pestilential swamps and jungles of the tropics, man, man, man! sick and suffering man everywhere turns to our guild for relief. Yea, we stand at the gates of life as humanity enters the world, and at the gates of death as it goes out of it. And the children of Adam everywhere at noon and midnight, from helpless infancy to old age, in dread of the sick-bed and death-bed, the hearse and the grave, turn their eyes and their hearts to the physician whenever sickness seizes or death threatens to hurl the spear which strikes but once."
" Bear therefore the greatuess of your trust and the responsibility of your almost divine mission. Remember at all times that every phase of your conduct, every word you ntter, every look, every nod of your head, tremble of your tongue, quiver of your lips, wink of your eye, and shrug of your shoulders will be observed and considered. Therefore strive to make your manner and your methods as faultless as possible, and strive to do the greatest absolute good for each one of your patients."

Genclemen, I could not close withont givinur you the words of an eminent surgeon on the spirit that should animate the true medical man: "Our manners should ever be the expression of the habitual frame of our mind, and the habit and temper of mind which should animate us in our ministrations to the sick. I can in no way so well indicate as by reverently paraphrasing the words which so expressively tell us of the Divine Physician's
tender care and true sympathy for us in our soul's sicknesses, namely, we must be touched with a feeling of their infirmities. The refining and elevating influence of such true sympathy will keep us from ever making our noble office subservient to any ignoble end; and though it may interfere with our becoming rich, yet it will raise us into a hight, and purer atmosphere above the petty vexations and disnppoinuments of professional life. For what if by our work we become neithei rich in worldly wealth nor great in the world's esteem? Surely a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold; and though we may achieve no social distinction, we may, by the Divine help, one day find, as many have found who have now gone to their rest, that the conscientious discharge of our duty in that profession which brought us neither wealth nor rank has been to us none other than the house of God, aye the very gate of Heaven."

Gentlemen, in saying farewell I want to give you one parting injunction-Always remember that Bishop's College expects every graduate to do his duty. Farewell.


