

UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Catalogue

92  
18

FOR THE SESSION 1856-7, AND ANNOUNCEMENT  
FOR THE SESSION 1857-8.

TOGETHER WITH AN

ADDRESS

ON THE

Life and Character of Prof. R. M. Porter,

BY J. B. LINDSLEY, A. M., M. D.,

CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY;

AND

THE VALEDICTORY ADDRESS,

BY T. R. JENNINGS, M. D.,

PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY.

NASHVILLE, TENN.  
1857.

UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

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Catalogue

FOR THE

SESSION 1856-7,

AND

ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR THE

SESSION 1857-8.

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NASHVILLE, TENN.  
1857.





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## Faculty of Medicine.

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*Professor of Physiology and Surgical Anatomy.*

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*Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.*

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*Professor of Materia Medica and Medical Jurisprudence.*

PAUL F. EVE, M.D.,  
*Professor of Surgery.*

JOHN M. WATSON, M.D.,  
*Professor of Obstetrics, and the Diseases of Women and Children.*

W. K. BOWLING, M.D.,  
*Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Medicine.*

WILLIAM T. BRIGGS, M.D.,  
*Adjunct Professor and Demonstrator of Anatomy.*

---

H. KROESCHEL,  
*Janitor.*



## Announcement for the Session of 1857-8.

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MEDICINE is taught in this Institution NINE months annually. There will be two Sessions, but only one public Commencement, as they count for one Course. A Summer Session, commencing the first Monday of each April, continues four months, and is specially devoted to clinical instruction, practical demonstration, and daily examinations. The regular Winter Session opens the first Monday of each November, and Commencement is held early in March following. Students may, however, be examined for the degree in July.

A *Preliminary Course* of Lectures, free to all students, will be given by the Professors, commencing on the first Monday of October; and, at the same time, the Anatomical Rooms will be opened for students, under the supervision of the Professor of Anatomy. The facilities for the study of practical Anatomy are not surpassed anywhere. The ticket for Practical Anatomy is obligatory one session, and it entitles the holder to the privileges of the dissecting-rooms for two winters.

The Tennessee State Hospital, under the direction of the Faculty, is open to the Class, free of charge; and a Clinique has been established in connection with the University, at which operations are performed, and cases prescribed for and lectured upon, in the presence of the Class.

The Candidate for the degree of *Doctor of Medicine* must have attained the age of twenty-one years, and have been engaged in the study of medicine three years. He must have attended two full courses of Lectures in a regular and accredited School of Medicine; the last of which, in this Institution. He must write an acceptable Thesis, and deposit it with the Dean on or before the first day of February, on some Medical subject of his own selection. He must, at the time of receiving the degree, acknowledge the right of the Faculty to revoke it, should he engage in irregular or unprofessional practices.

### F E E S .

The Fees for a full Course of Lectures amount to . . . . .	\$105 00
Matriculation Fee, (paid once only,) . . . . .	5 00
Practical Anatomy, (obligatory one session,) in any accredited Medical College . . . . .	10 00
Graduation Fee . . . . .	25 00
Fee for Summer Course, (credited on the regular winter fees,) . . . . .	50 00

Good board can be procured at \$3 to \$4 per week. Further information can be obtained by addressing

PAUL F. EVE, M.D.  
*Dean of the Faculty.*

## THE SUMMER COURSE

of this department will commence on the first Monday in April next, (the 6th,) and continue four months.

Special attention will be given to Practical and Microscopic Anatomy, to Clinical Medicine and Surgery; and students will have access, free of charge, to the Lectures upon Geology and Natural History, in the Collegiate Department, and it is expected, also, to Lectures on Botany, from a Professor now in Europe.

Daily Lectures, Examinations, and Demonstrations by the Professors.

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## SCHOOL FOR PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY.

A. E. ANSMAN, M.D.,

*Professor of Analytical and Agricultural Chemistry in the University of Nashville.*

This School has a large Laboratory in the Medical College building, which is fitted up with the necessary apparatus and reagents for instruction in Practical Chemistry.

A Course adapted to the wants of Medical Students is given during the Winter and Summer Sessions.

The Course embraces Elementary Practical Chemistry, Toxicology, Pharmacy, Analysis of Soils, Ores, Mineral-Waters, etc., etc.

Ticket for the Course, \$10.

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## TEXT-BOOKS.

ANATOMY.—Sharpey and Quain, Horner, Wilson.

PHYSIOLOGY.—Carpenter, or Kirke and Paget.

PATHOLOGY.—Gross's, or Jones' and Sievekings', Pathological Anatomy  
CHEMISTRY.—Graham, Regnault, Fownes, or Silliman.

MATERIA MEDICA.—Pereira, United States Dispensatory, Royle, Mitchell, or Dunglison.

SURGERY.—Miller's Principles, Erichsen, or Druitt's Modern Surgery.

OBSTETRICS.—Cazeaux, Dewees, Ramsbotham, Davis, Meigs—Ashwell  
on Diseases of Females.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.—Taylor, or Beck.

PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.—Wood.

MICROSCOPIC ANATOMY.—Hassall, or Carpenter.

PHARMACY.—Parrish.



## CATALOGUE OF STUDENTS, 1856-57.

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Alexander, Albert Gallitin	Como, Miss.	J. M. Royston.
Alexander, Hiram W.	Bowling Green, Ky.	J. S. Saunders.
Alexander, Robert David	Green Castle, Ky.	T. J. Jones.
Alford, Benjamin Michael, M.D.	Green Hill*	Uni. Nashville.
Allen, Columbus	Wesobulga, Ala.	R. C. Allen.
Allen, Joseph Farrar	Whiteville	Burford and White.
Alsup, Joseph Franklin, M.D.	Providence	Uni. Nashville.
Altom, John Barnett	Clifton	H. W. Hunter.
Anderson, John Richard	Medon	J. A. Hudson.
Anderson, Von Albade	Tullahoma	T. A. Anderson.
Applewhite, Lewis Jasper	Waynesboro', Geo.	A. C. Hart.
Armstrong, David Hosack	Athens, Miss.	T. T. Armstrong.
Atkins, Samuel	Haynes	
Austin, John Booker	Willow Grove	T. W. Fitts.
Badger, Felix Armon	Nashville	
Baily, John	Snow Hill, Ga.	Williams.
Baker, Henry Williams, M.D.	Erin, Ga.	Uni. Nashville.
Barnes, William Carroll	Irving College	D. J. Barnes.
Barrow, William Bennet	Bayou Sara, La.	
Bartlett, George Thomas	Grand Falls, Mo.	Walker.
Bartlett, Joseph Warren	Fidelity, Mo.	G. T. Bartlett.
Barton, Thomas Swinfield	Readyville	Armstrong & Dickens.
Bass, William J., M.D.	Anderson	Uni. Nashville.

\* Tennessee, when no other State is named.

NAMES.	POST-OFFICE.	PRECEPTOR.
Baxter, John	Farmington	B. W. Nowlin.
Beall, James Washington	Hernando, Miss.	W. K. Love.
Beckwith, Elijah	Nashville	T. R. Jennings.
Becton, Edwin Pinckney	New Danville, Texas	Hamilton & Wendels
Bell, Joel Thomas	Red River	J. R. Bailey.
Bell, Joseph Conway	Belfast	Haywood & Mitchell.
Bell, Marmaduke	Charlotte	J. F. Davis.
Bennett, John Dabney, Jr.	Franklin	P. H. Cook.
Bernard, Thomas H.	Spring Garden, Ill.	J. N. Thurston.
Bidwell, Bell Girard	Coopertown	R. G. Glover.
Blackman, Felix Hays	Nashville	Dr. Blackman.
Black, Samuel Pope	Murfreesboro'	T. C. Black.
Blakemore, William Finley	Fayetteville, Ark.	W. H. Douglass.
Blanchard, M'Duffie	Columbus, Ga.	W. K. Bowling.
Bledsoe, Nathaniel Macon	Chunnenugga, Ala.	R. L. G. Bozeman.
Bogle, Joseph Mays	Fairmount, Ga.	S. M'Offee and Bogle.
Bone, Robert Donnell	Douglass, Texas	Sharp and M'Knight.
Borders, James Culberson	Lagrange, Ga.	J. W. Ashford.
Boyd, Richard S.	Whiteville	Burford and White.
Brannan, Pleasant Green	Roanoke, Ala.	J. H. Davis.
Briggs, James A., M.D.	Bowling Green, Ky.	Uni. Nashville.
Brittain, Benjamin Franklin	Charleston	Cal. Atchley.
Brock, William Eaton	Trenton, Ga.	H. Lindsay.
Brown, Joseph Warren	Nashville	T. R. Jennings.
Brown, S. Turner	Nashville	D. S. Smith.
Brown, Uriah Thomas	Flynn's Lick	J. A. Saddler.
Broyles, William Lowndes	Sevierville	George W. Foute.
Buchanan, John Henry, M.D.	Lavergne	Uni. Nashville.
Buchanan, Robert Madison	Camargo, Miss.	T. F. Gullett.
Buchanan, Thomas Brown	Nashville	A. H. Buchanan.
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Bunch, Francis Marion, M.D.	Ell Grove	Uni. Nashville.
Burks, David Johnson, M.D.	Nashville	Uni. Louisville.
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Childress, William H.	Nashville	W. K. Bowling.
Chiles, John W.	Trenton, Ky.	C. W. Bailey.
Chrisman, Williamson Franklin	Nolensville	Joseph Nelson.
Clark, Birdsey Patterson	Shelbyville	Practitioner.
Clarke, John Fletcher	Maysville, Ala.	F. E. H. Steger.
Clements, Andrew Jackson	Clementsville	W. M. Clements.
Clements, William Montgomery	Gainsboro'	Uni. Louisville.
Cole, James Madison	Norris Creek	H. H. Rives.
Collins, Jeremiah	New York City, N. Y.	James H. Charlton.
Compton, Henry Maclin	Fairfield, Texas	Paul F. Eve.
Connor, William Edward	Richmond, Texas	J. S. Duval.
Cook, William Meridith	Dover	J. W. Smith.
Couch, Robert Weight	Fairfield	J. H. Morgan.
Cox, George Washington	Cornersville	F. H. Pugh.
Craighead, Robert Brown	Cheekville	J. W. King.
Crockett, Rufus Alphonso	Brentwood	John B. Crockett.
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Davis, Joseph John	Chapel Hill	P. W. Davis.
Davis, Joseph Wallace, M.D.	Smyrna	Uni. Louisville.
Davis, Leonidas	Starkville, Ga.	J. B. Gilbert.
Davis, Nathaniel	Fulton, Miss.	A. J. Williams.
Dawson, Reuben Kemper	Santa Fé	E. H. Wortham.
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Dill, James Madison	Readyville	John B. Armstrong.

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Dunn, Jacob Franklin	Line Store, Miss.	J. A. Reid.
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Edwards, Charles Henry	Mitchellville	Duncan and Moore.
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Eve, George Twigg	Yarboro', Ga.	Paul F. Eve.
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Finney, Edward Festus	Providence, R. I.	Paul F. Eve and Wil- liam Coleman.
Fisher, Robert Lial	Bethesda	R. Buchanan.
Fiske, Theophilus	Sparta	M. Y. Brackett.
Fite, James Leonidas	Lebanon	J. H. Lillard.
Fitzgerald, Peter Fletcher	Grenada, Miss.	Gillespie and Hughes.
Fletcher, John Swepson	Murfreesboro'	John W. King.
Flowers, Andrew Jackson	Lawrenceville, Ga.	William J. Russell.



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Gilbert, Jackson Marion	Ash Creek, Miss.	J. P. Smith.
Gilbert, Van Buren	Gilbertsboro', Ala.	Theo. Westmoreland.
Gillespie, Henry Allen	Grenada, Miss.	Gillespie and Hughes.
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Glover, Charles Powell	Frémont	James A. White.
Godwin, Samuel Winn	Santa Fé	J. M. Vestal.
Goodlett, Milton L.	Moulton, Ala.	Talmon and Jennings.
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Green, John Lewis	Jackson	John Chester.
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Hughes, James Albert	Pleasant Grove	Welb and Hughes.
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Jillson, Benjamin Cutler	Lebanon	J. H. Lillard.



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Jones, Henry Matthew	Shiloh	C. T. Love.
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Jones, William Francis	Pontotoc, Miss.	Cain and Fontaine.
Jones, W. F., M.D.	Adamsville	Uni. Nashville.
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Kelley, Marshall Dennis	Cornersville	F. H. Pugh.
Kimbrow, William T.	Nollens	W. Clark.
Kindel, William Clark, M.D.	Purdy	Uni. Louisville.
Knott, John Henry	Mooreville, Miss.	James M. Key.
Larey, John Matthew	Spring Bank, Ark.	J. A. Whetstone.
Larkins, James Monroe, M.D.	Charlotte	Uni. Louisville.
Lea, William Isaac	Jackson	R. Fenner.
Lee, David Edward	Blakeley, Ga.	Lee and Vann.
Lipford, Albert Thaddeus	Quincy, Fla.	J. L. Shields.
Logan, Abner, M.D.	Whitesburg, Ala.	
Manly, Caleb A.	Medon	D. D. Newbern.
Marshall, John L.	Franklin	Professor Winston.
Martin, Robert Kennedy	Columbia	R. C. K. Martin.
Martin, Samuel Cornelius	Campbell's Station	J. W. M'Knut.
Matlock, Gabriel Simpson, M.D.	Hickory Flat, Miss.	Uni. Transylvania.
Matthews, William L., M.D.	Columbia	Uni. Nashville.
Mays, William Fergus	Marietta, Ga.	J. F. Groves.
M'Call, Joseph Williams	Roan's Creek	Henry M'Call.

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M'Cullough, Allen Posey	Murfreesboro'	L. W. Knight.
M'Ewen, James Woods, M.D.	Nashville	Uni. Nashville.
M'Ewen, John James	Nashville	J. W. M'Ewen.
M'Fall, Answille Henderson	Centreville, Texas	Practitioner.
M'Garity, Abner Embry	Bowden, Ga.	Westbrook and Shackelford.
M'Kenney, Rane	Fayetteville	S. M. M. Elroy.
M'Knight, Augustus Washington*	Lewisburg	J. D. Johnson.
M'Murry, George Wesley	Charlotte	J. M. Larkins.
Meacham, Andrew Jackson	Frémont	J. A. White.
Meador, Cincinnatus V.	Nashville	J. W. Morton.
Means, William Patton	Cotton Gin, Texas.	T. L. C. Means.
Meriwether, Robert Thomas	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	R. Searcy.
Miller, George Henry	Nashville	T. L. Maddin.
Miller, Nathan	Oakville, Ala.	R. F. Gibson.
Miller, Newton Cannon	Christiana	William Whitson.
Mills, William Bishop	Barton's Creek	E. W. Cunningham.
Minchen, Edward Cook	Nashville	Dublin Apothecary's Hall.
Mitchell, James Lewis	Cottonwood Point, Mo.	Richardson and M'Gaughey.
Mitchell, James Mark	Trenton	Sharp and Mitchell.
Molloy, Adam Clarke	Caledonia, Miss.	James B. Morton.
Montague, Philip Latane	Nashville	J. Compton.
Montgomery, William Chandler	Montgomery	W. Wasson.
Moore, Francis M'Farland	Summerville, Ga.	Surry and Rudicitt.
Moore, James Alexander	Marion, Ala.	R. Foster.
Moore, Hiram Mitchell	Mitchellsville	William P. Moore
Moore, Thomas Solon	Houston, Miller's Box, Texas	J. L. Hill.
Morris, Thomas Erwin	Lockhart's Store, Miss.	C. W. Beaumont.

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\* Deceased on the 25th of January, 1857, of typhoid fever



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Morton, Rufus Hendrix	Bell Buckle	S. Bowling.
Morton, William Ulysses	Enon, Ala.	Banks and Jernigan.
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Murfree, James Brickell	Murfreesboro'	J. E. & R. S. Wendel.
Murray, Stewart Frank	Sparta	A. Johnson.
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Owen, David Franklin	Starkville, Miss.	William H. Merrinar.
Owen, Richard	Nashville	W. K. Bowling.
Padgett, Andrew Andrews, M.D.	Hornersville, Mo.	Uni. Nashville.
Parker, Edward T., Jr.	New Hope, Ala.	J. W. Tennel.
Parker, Lucius Orin	New Lexington, Ala.	J. R. Smith.
Parks, Albert Henderson	Lynchburg	A. L. Parks.
Patillo, Charles Thomas	Whitesville, Ga.	J. M. Hatchetz.
Payne, John Booker	Enon College	T. W. Fitts.
Perdue, James Yancy	Lockport	Dr. Saunders.
Perkins, Newton Cannon	Franklin	C. C. Crump.
Perry, James Franklin	Gallatin	B. F. Moody.
Pettus, David Green	Pettusville, Ala.	T. C. Pettus.
Petway, Robert Gordon	Nashville	A. A. Hatcher.
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Phillips, Peter Sanford	Clopton, Ala.	Dickinson & M'Swain.
Pierce, William Hartwell	Enon College	
Pitts, Ananias	Pulaski	Westmoreland.
Porter, Robert Edwin	Ingleside, Ky.	S. J. Jones.
Porter, Samuel Smith	Nashville	T. R. Jennings.
Powell, Gustivus	Morristown	William R. Dulaney.
Powell, Thomas Kerney	Danceyville	Burford and White.
Pritchett, John Williams	Paris	E. T. & C. C. Taliaferro.
Proctor, George B.	South Union, Ky.	John Patterson.
Prout, William Henry	Tuscumbia, Ala.	R. T. Abernethy.
Provin, John Westerfield	Big Spring	S. B. F. Bass.

NAMES.	POST-OFFICE.	PRECEPTOR.
Ragsdale, James Dedcon	Santa Fé	E. H. Wortham.
Ralston, Gilbert Washington	Smyrna	J. W. Davis.
Ralston, James Reid	Nashville	T. R. Jennings.
Rawls, Jabez Pleiatus	Central Institute, Ala.	Dr. Elliott.
Read, Hubbard Saunders	Hendersonville	S. A. Graham.
Read, James Madison	Middle Ridge, Ga.	A. G. Hulsey.
Rich, Thomas Wilburn	Roundtop	J. A. Fuson.
Richardson, David Mason	Dyersburg	S. Richardson.
Richardson, William Temple, M.D.	Smyrna	Uni. Nashville.
Richmond, Daniel Alexander	Huddleston X Roads	J. B. Richmond.
Rives, George Washington	Nashville	W. C. Blackman.
Robb, William David, M.D.	Scottville, Ky.	Uni. Nashville.
Robertson, Jeffertson H.	Wesobulga, Ala.	F. M. Ferrell.
Roby, Edward Pendleton	Hearnsville, Ga.	C. N. Horne.
Roddy, Thomas Hail	Long Savannah	John L. Yarnell.
Rollings, Robert Henry, M.D.	Hendersonville	Nashville Med. Coll.
Rucker, John Frank	Murfreesboro'	T. S. Smith.
Russell, James Rodgers	Ringgold, Ga.	John E. Park.
Russell, Joseph Thomas	Oak Bowery, Ala.	T. R. Russell.
Russell, Robert Morrow	Van Buren, Ala.	A. J. Vann.
Russwurm, Samuel C.	Jefferson	J. A. Ridley.
Salmon, Ezekiel Young	Forest Home, Texas	G. H. Salmon.
Sanford, James Robert	Covington	L. Hill.
Satterfield, Benjamin Marion	Hartsville	Joseph R. Crenshaw.
Sayers, Robert Baldwin	Franklin	J. B. Crockett.
Scales, Samuel W.	Triune	Samuel Webb.
Scott, Benjamin Bell	Greensburg, Ky.	B. T. Marshall and T. P. Hodges.
Scott, William John	Marion, Ala.	R. Foster.
Senter, William Drewry	Hanna's	J. H. Johnson.
Shackelford, Mordecai Alexander	Esom Hill, Ga.	W. C. Walker.
Shannon, R. M., M.D.	Triune	Uni. Pennsylvania.
Shaw, Henry, M.D.	Shaw's Store	Uni. Pennsylvania.
Sherrill, Robert Amzi	Montezuma	J. F. Sherrill.



NAMES.	POST-OFFICE.	PRECEPTOR.
Shute, Abram De Moss	Nashville	T. R. Jennings.
Siddons, William M.	Mobile, Ala.	S. Davis.
Sims, Elisha Martin	Winchester	Wallace Estill.
Sims, Philander Davis, M.D.	Chattanooga	Uni. Nashville.
Simmons, Caswell	Salisbury	William Jones and N. H. Dunlap.
Simmons, George M'Intosh Troup	Oak Bowery, Ala.	Barnett.
Sizemore, Rufus Hicks	Charlotte	J. M. Larkins.
Slayden, William Martial	Williamsville	W. H. Daniel.
Small, Henry James	Middleton, Miss.	Dr. Wm. W. Liddell.
Smith, Basler Brown	Larkinsville, Ala.	W. M. Bonner.
Smith, Edwin Ball	Franklin	P. H. Cook.
Smith, George W.	Nashville	W. L. Nichol.
Smith, John Archibald	Syllogogga, Ala.	W. Patterson.
Smith, William Spotswood	Chattanooga	M. Smith.
Stanford, William Jonathan	Lawrenceville, Ala.	Crawford and Bowen.
Stanley, Wright Augustus	Franklin	P. H. Cook.
Steger, J. C. W.	Maysville, Ala.	F. E. H. Steger.
Stephens, James Ballam	Shiloh, Ky.	J. O. Sharber.
Stevenson, Elam Augustus	Elkton	Mason.
Stewart, Oscar Wilkerson	Spring Hill, Ark.	Dr. Hobson.
Stovall, Peter Benton	Harrisburg, Miss.	Stovall & Stephenson.
Stubbins, Samuel Barclay	Bowling Green, Ky.	Briggs and Morton.
Sullivan, James Henry	Williamsville	W. A. Moody.
Taliaferro, Mark Hardin	Louden	J. Oliphant.
Talley, Hamilton M'Duffie	Jonesboro', Ga.	J. W. Talley.
Temple, William Preston	Fosterville	P. Frazer.
Templeton, James Baker	Sail Creek	John Hoyal.
Thomas, James	Nashville	
Thompson, John Wesley	Washington	J. Hoyal.
Thomasson, James M'Daniel	Madisonville	J. B. M'Connell.
Tillman, S. S.	Florence, Ala.	E. M'Alexander.
Tomkins, William Rufus	Huntsville, Texas	Keenan and Rentfro.
Torrence, William Matthews	Oakville, Ala.	J. B. Williams.
Trammell, Joseph Dunlap	Greenville, Ga.	Paul F. Eve.

NAMES.	POST-OFFICE.	PRECEPTOR.
Trevathan, Henry Harrison	Paris	E. T. & C. C. Taliaferro.
Trotter, Tillman Richard	Hay's Creek, Miss.	J. D. Trotter.
Turner, George Thomas	Decatur, Ga.	E. N. Calhoun.
Turner, William Ambrose	Nashville	A. Graham.
Turner, William Marshall	Holt's Corner	J. M. Watson.
Turney, Hopkins L., Jr.	Winchester	Wallace Estill.
Underwood, Joseph	Valleystore, Ga.	Joseph Underwood.
Ussery, B. W., M.D.	Clarksville	Uni. Pennsylvania.
Vaughn, David Ashley	Murfreesboro'	S. B. Bowles.
Vaughan, Henry Blanton	Laguardo	F. H. Gordon.
Vaughan, John Winston	Lexington, Mo.	John Vaughan.
Vernon, Miles Hicks	Medon	Uni. Nashville.
Vernon, Samuel Milton	Columbus, Miss.	Practitioner.
Walker, Joseph A.	Columbia	John P. Spindle.
Walker, U. G. Mitchell	Cahaba, Ala.	H. A. Bignon.
Walker, William Roadman	Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation.	J. P. Evans.
Warnock, Robert Adams	Morgan, Ga.	Simms and Gullett.
Waterfield, Alexander Patterson	Murray, Ky.	T. P. Humphries.
Waters, Mark Smith	Bethel	C. Edmondson.
Watt, William Irwin	New Hope, Ala.	J. B. Russell.
Wedgworth, Middleton	Hollow Square, Ala.	J. B. Gresham.
Welb, John Wesley Fletcher	Liberty, Miss.	J. D. Caulfield.
Welch, William Myers	Bolivar	John N. Moring.
Wells, Robert	Pulaski	T. J. Critenden.
Westbrook, John Madison Richard	Danville, Ga.	M. L. Barron.
Westbrook, Patrick Henry	Starkville, Miss.	J. M. Rogers.
Wethers, Jacob Palmer	Summerville, Ga.	Scurry and Rudicil.
Whitson, Harmon Hiland	Laguardo	Cowan and Vaughan.
Whitthorne, Andrew Jackson	Bellmonte	G. M. Whitthorne.
Wilkins, Fabius M.	Totten's Wells	William Marr.
Wilkinson, James Franklin	Oak Bowery, Ala.	M. C. Wilkinson.
Wilkinson, John Francis	Nashville	W. K. Bowling.
Williams, Joel Hubble	Maryville	J. Stone.



NAMES.	POST-OFFICE.	PRECEPTOR.
Williams, Robert Nichols	Nashville	T. R. Jennings.
Williamson, James M.	Trenton, Ky.	C. W. Bailey.
Winstead, Harrison Whitfield, M.D.	Nolensville	Uni. Nashville.
Wilson, James Barnett	Rome	J. L. Thompson.
Wilson, Le Grand James	Wall Hill, Miss.	G. A. Wilson.
Winston, Jesse Biene	Valley Head, Ala.	Paul F. Eve.
Wisdom, Landon Coke	Wisdom's Store, Ga.	Centre and Stephens.
Witherspoon, Elias Boudinot	Smithville, Miss.	A. S. Dowd.
Woldridge, Andrew Jackson	Franklin	J. W. Morton.
Wood, Benjamin Saffarrans	Trenton, Ky.	Runyan & Dickinson.
Woodson, Thomas U.	Hanna's	Uni. Louisville.
Woodson, Miller A.	Perry, Ga.	C. T. Woodson.
Woodward, William Ward	New Lexington, Ala.	Smith and Land.
Wooldridge, Madison Brasher	Williams P. O., Ky.	P. J. Bailey.
Wooldridge, Wilson Wayne	Williams P. O., Ky.	T. A. Yarrell.
Wocley, Robert Boyle	Kilmichael, Miss.	H. P. Turner and P. S. Boon.
Woolfolk, Julian Rupert	Cotton Grove	B. Woolfolk.
Wooten, David Douglass	Carthage	A. H. King.
Wright, Thomas Augustus	Berkley, Ala.	A. G. Pickens.
Wright, William Alexander	Greenville, Ala.	U. H. Cook.
Wright, William Andrew	Boon's Hill	T. Porter.
Yarbrough, John Murray Holland	Shelbyville	R. A. Coldwell.
Yoe, James Monroe	Hillsboro', Texas	M. W. Armstrong.
Yowell, Joel Elijah	Lewisburg	J. D. Johnson.

## SUMMARY.

Tennessee, . . . . .	225
Alabama, . . . . .	59
Mississippi, . . . . .	41
Georgia, . . . . .	34
Kentucky, . . . . .	23
Texas, . . . . .	11
Arkansas, . . . . .	7
Missouri, . . . . .	5
North Carolina, . . . . .	3
South Carolina, . . . . .	3
Louisiana, . . . . .	1
Rhode Island, . . . . .	1
Illinois, . . . . .	1
New York, . . . . .	1
Cherokee Nation, . . . . .	1
Massachusetts, . . . . .	1
Florida, . . . . .	1
New Jersey, . . . . .	1
Total, . . . . .	<u>419</u>

## RECAPITULATION OF THE SIX SESSIONS.

MATRICULANTS.		GRADUATES.	
First Session, . . . . .	121	First Session, . . . . .	33
Second Session, . . . . .	152	Second Session, . . . . .	36
Third Session, . . . . .	220	Third Session, . . . . .	71
Fourth Session, . . . . .	294	Fourth Session, . . . . .	93
Fifth Session, . . . . .	339	Fifth Session, . . . . .	85
Sixth Session, . . . . .	419	Sixth Session, . . . . .	137
	<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
Total, . . . . .	1545	Total, . . . . .	455



## CATALOGUE OF GRADUATES. 1857.

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NAME.	STATE.	THESIS.
Alexander, A. G.,	Mississippi,	Spinal Irritation.
Alexander, A. R.,	Alabama,	Ectrosis.
Alexander, H. W.,	Kentucky,	Treatment of Inflammation of the Neck of the Uterus.
Alexander, R. D.,	Kentucky,	The Lateral Operation of Lithotomy.
Bartlett, G. T.,	Missouri,	Typhoid Fever.
Baxter, John,	Tennessee,	Malaria.
Becton, E. P.,	Texas,	The Symptoms and Differential Diag- nosis of the Greater Exanthemata.
Beckwith, Elijah,	Tennessee,	The Human Integument.
Bennett, J. D., jun.,	Tennessee,	Typhoid Fever.
Bernard, T. H.,	Illinois,	Pneumonia.
Blanchard, McD.,	Georgia,	Hernia—Simple, Complete, Inguinal.
Bledsoe, N. M.,	Alabama,	Puerperal Fever.
Bogle, J. M.,	Georgia,	Cold Water, as an Auxiliary in the Treatment of Diseases.
Brown, J. W.,	Tennessee,	Abortion.
Broyles, W. L.,	Tennessee,	Life of a Physician.
Childress, W. H.,	Tennessee,	Typhoid Fever.
Chiles, J. W.,	Kentucky,	Pneumonia.
Chrisman, W. F.,	Tennessee,	Pathology of Fever in General.
Clark, B. P.,	Tennessee,	Nitrate of Silver as a Remedial Agent.
Compton,* H. M.,	Texas,	Physiology of Menstruation.
Couch, R. W.,	Tennessee,	Acute Hepatitis.
Cox, G. W.,	Tennessee,	Anatomy and Physiology of the Kid- neys.

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\* Valedictorian.

NAME.	STATE.	THESIS.
Crockett, R. A.,	Tennessee,	Iodinium.
Daniel, W. G.,	Texas,	Pneumonia.
Davenport, H. S.,	Georgia,	Malaria.
Davis, J. J.,	Tennessee,	Næva Materna.
Driver, J. M.	Tennessee,	Delirium Tremens.
Dupree, E. M.,	South Carolina,	Anasarca.
Edwards, C. H.,	Tennessee,	Amenorrhœa.
Edwards, W. W.,	Alabama,	Uterine Hemorrhage.
Faris, William,	Tennessee,	Milk Sickness.
Faucette, J. R. G.,	North Carolina,	Puerperal Fever.
Field, C. G.,	Tennessee,	Acute Rheumatism.
Finney, E. F.,	Rhode Island,	Surgical Cases presented to the Class, Session 1856-7.
Gilbert, Van Buren,	Alabama,	Hemorrhagia Uterina.
Green, C. M.	Arkansas,	Acute Rheumatism.
Griffin, J. A.,	Tennessee,	Physical Education.
Gudger, L. P.,	North Carolina,	Cholera Infantum.
Haraway, W. E.,	Alabama,	Typhoid Colo-Rectitis.
Harrison, W. A.,	Alabama,	Veratrum Viride.
Hayes, J. M.,	Alabama,	Menstruation.
Haynes, W. A.,	Tennessee,	Malaria.
Holt, J. A.,	Tennessee,	Dysentery.
Holt, W. I.,	Alabama,	Pneumonia.
Horn, J. R. R.,	Tennessee,	Specifics in Medicine.
Howlett, J. S.,	Tennessee,	Puerperal Peritonitis.
Hoyte, J. W.,	Tennessee,	Hernia.
Huddleston, J. W.,	Tennessee,	Enteric, or Typhoid Fever.
Hughes, B. M.,	Mississippi,	Puerperal Fever.
Hughes, F. M.,	Tennessee,	Typhoid Fever.
Jenkins, J. R.,	Alabama,	Mania-à-Potu.
Jillson, B. C.,	Tennessee,	The Phenomena of Vision.
Johnson, S. B.,	Kentucky,	Signs of Pregnancy.
Johnson, S. W.,	Tennessee,	Enteric Fever.
Jones, Ebenezer,	Arkansas,	Remittent Fever.
Jones, H. M.,	Tennessee,	Discrimination in the Practice of Medi- cine.



NAME.	STATE.	THESIS.
Kindel, W. C.,	Tennessee,	M. D.
Kelley, M. D.,	Tennessee,	The Anatomy of the Liver.
Knott, J. H.,	Mississippi,	Asthma.
Larey, J. M.,	Arkansas,	Pneumonia.
Larkins, J. M.,	Tennessee,	M. D.
Lee, D. E.,	Georgia,	Typhoid Fever.
Lipford, A. T.,	Florida,	Inflammation.
Manly, C. A.,	Tennessee,	Erysipelas.
Marshall, J. L.,	Tennessee,	Dysentery.
Mayes, W. F.,	Georgia,	Gonorrhœa.
McCall, J. W.,	Tennessee,	Small-Pox, or Variola.
McCord, D. B.,	Alabama,	Symptoms of Typhoid Pneumonia.
McCullough, A. P.,	Tennessee,	Inflammation.
Miles,* J. L.,	Alabama,	Paralysis of the Third Pair of Nerves, consecutive to Neuralgia of the Fifth Pair.
Miller, G. H.,	Tennessee,	Dysentery <i>per se</i> .
Miller, N. C.,	Tennessee,	The Diversity of the Human Species.
Miller, Nathan,	Alabama,	The Blood.
Mills, W. B.,	Tennessee,	Signs of Pregnancy.
Mitchell, J. L.,	Missouri,	Malaria.
Molloy, A. C.,	Mississippi,	Bilious Fever.
Montgomery, W. C.,	Tennessee,	Opium.
Moore, H. M.,	Tennessee,	Typhoid Fever.
Morris, T. E.,	Mississippi,	Acute Dysentery.
Owen, D. F.,	Tennessee,	Pathology of the Joints.
Owen, Richard,	Tennessee,	The Influence of Soil and Climate on Man.
Parker, E. T., Jun.,	Alabama,	Neuralgia.
Parker, L. O.,	Alabama,	The Influence of the Imagination upon the Fœtus in Utero.
Patillo, C. T.,	Georgia,	Sleep.
Perkins, N. C.,	Tennessee,	The Anatomy and Physiology of the Liver.

\* Graduated July, 1856.

NAME.	STATE.	THESIS.
Petway, R. G.,	Tennessee,	Death by Hanging.
Perry, J. F.,	Tennessee,	The Quack.
Pierce, W. H.,	Tennessee,	Adult Circulation, Physiologically con- sidered.
Porter, S. S.,	Tennessee,	The Roller Bandage.
Powell, Gustivus,	Tennessee,	Congestive Fever.
Pritchett, J. W.,	Tennessee,	Typhoid Fever.
Procter, G. B.,	Kentucky,	Menorrhagia.
Prout, W. H.,	Alabama,	Pneumonia, <i>per se</i> .
Ralston, G. W.,	Tennessee,	The Circulation.
Ralston, J. R.,	Tennessee,	Inflammation.
Read, J. M.,	Georgia,	Intermittent Fever.
Richardson, D. M.,	Tennessee,	Phthisis Pulmonalis.
Rives, G. W.,	Tennessee,	Death.
Roddy, T. H.,	Tennessee,	Scarlatina.
Rucker, J. F.,	Tennessee,	Dysentery, as it appears in its three Pathological Aspects.
Russell, J. R.,	Georgia,	Intermitting Fever.
Russwurm, S. C.,	Tennessee,	Hysteria.
Sanford, J. R.,	Tennessee,	Intermittent Fever.
Scott, B. B.,	Kentucky,	Typhoid Fever.
Senter, W. D.,	Tennessee,	Stomatitis Materna.
Shackleford, M. A.,	Georgia,	Gossypium.
Shaw, Henry,	Tennessee,	M. D.
Sizemore, R. H.,	Tennessee,	Pneumonia.
Small, H. J.,	Mississippi,	Amenorrhœa.
Smith, B. B.,	Alabama,	What of Theory!
Steger, J. C. W.,	Alabama,	The <i>Portio dura</i> , or Facial Nerve.
Stevens, J. B.,	Kentucky,	Puerperal Fever,
Stewart, O. W.,	Arkansas,	Pulmonitis.
Stovall, P. B.,	Mississippi,	Acute Dysentery.
Taliaferro, M. H.,	Tennessee,	Indigestion, or Dyspepsia.
Thomasson, J. M.,	Tennessee,	Typhoid Fever.
Trammell, J. D.,	Georgia,	Colo-Rectitis.
Trevathan, H. H.,	Tennessee,	Acute Peritonitis.
Turner, G. T.,	Georgia,	The Ætiology of Malaria.



NAME.	STATE.	THESIS.
Turner, W. A.,	Tennessee,	Rubeola.
Turner, W. M.,	Tennessee,	Foetal Circulation.
Torrence, W. M.,	Alabama,	Inflammation.
Underwood, Joseph,	Georgia,	Bilious Remittent Fever.
Vaughn, D. A.,	Tennessee,	Cancer.
Vaughan, H. B.,	Tennessee,	A few reported Cases of Uterine Hemorrhage.
Walker, U. G. M.,	Alabama,	The Physician.
Warnock, R. A.,	Georgia,	Dysentery.
Waters, M. S.,	Tennessee,	Hepatitis.
Wells, Robert,	Tennessee,	Alcohol.
Whitson, H. H.,	Tennessee,	Intemperance as a Cause of Disease.
Westbrook, J. M. R.,	Georgia,	Copulation Productive of Abortion.
Williams, R. N.,	Tennessee,	Scarlatina.
Williamson, J. W.,	Kentucky,	Man, Anatomically and Physiologically considered.
Wood, B. S.,	Kentucky,	Cynanche Trachealis.
Wooldridge, M. B.,	Kentucky,	The Medical Student.
Wright, T. A.,	Alabama,	Chloroformization in Midwifery.
Wright, W. A.,	Alabama,	Inflammation.

Total, 137.

# UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE.

## COLLEGIATE DEPARTMENT.

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### Western Military Institute.

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THE ANNUAL SESSION of this College is divided into two *Terms* of Twenty Weeks each, without intervening recess. The First Term commences on the First Monday in September, and the Second Term on the Fourth Monday in February.

In the regular Collegiate Course, the ancient reputation of the University for sound scholarship and classical learning will be maintained. A parallel Course of Science is established, in which students are graduated as *Bachelors of Science*; or they may select a course including Modern Languages, Mathematics, Civil Engineering, English Literature, etc., and receive certificates of proficiency. A Preparatory School is attached, in which boys are thoroughly trained.

By the aid of Military Discipline, effective government is established, and health, physical culture, good order, and industrious habits are promoted.

The best efforts of the Faculty and Trustees are pledged to make the College meet the wants of the South.

Tuition, Boarding, Washing, Fuel, Rooms, Servants' Attendance, and use of Arms, Furniture, Towels, and Bedding—each Cadet to supply himself with candles and one pair of *good* blankets—\$100 per term. Surgeon's Fee and Medicine, \$5 per term of twenty weeks.

Engineering, French, Spanish, German, Drawing, Book-keeping, and Fencing, each \$10 per term of twenty weeks. Students are required to keep their expenditures within moderate limits, extravagance in this respect being sufficient cause for dismissal from the College.

For further information apply to

B. R. JOHNSON,  
Superintendent.

March, 1857.



AN ADDRESS

ON THE

Life and Character

OF

ROBERT M. PORTER, M.D.,

LATE PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE.

BY

JOHN BERRIEN LINDSLEY, M.D.,

CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY.

DELIVERED AT NASHVILLE, NOV. 8, 1856.

PUBLISHED BY THE CLASS.

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NASHVILLE, TENN.:

PRINTED BY E. VALLETTE.

1857.

UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE, TENN.,

NOVEMBER 13TH, 1856.

To the Chancellor of the University:

DEAR SIR:—At a meeting of the Class of the Medical Department of the University of Nashville, it was resolved that a committee be appointed, consisting of one member from each State, to solicit you to furnish the Class with a copy of your very excellent eulogy on the Life and Character of our much-esteemed Professor R. M. PORTER, deceased, in order that we may publish the same. As constituting that committee, we therefore very respectfully and most earnestly solicit a copy of said Address.

Very respectfully your obedient servants,

E. M. DUPREE, S. C.,	E. F. FINNEY, R. I.,
P. B. STOVALL, Miss.,	WM. R. WALKER, Cherokee Nation,
J. COLLINS, N. Y.,	BEN. S. WOOD, Ky.,
A. R. ALEXANDER, Ala.,	W. G. DANIEL, Texas,
A. T. LIPFORD, Fla.,	G. T. BARTLETT, Mo.,
JNO. B. FINLEY, Ark.,	N. C. MILLER, Tenn.,
McD. BLANCHARD, Ga.,	W. B. BARROW, La.,
J. R. G. FAUCETT, N. C.,	T. H. BERNARD, Ill.

GENTLEMEN:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 13th instant, requesting, in behalf of the Medical Class, a copy of the Address delivered before them.

With high appreciation of this honor, I very cheerfully comply with the request.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

J. BERBIEN LINDSLEY.

To E. M. DUPREE, }  
and others, } Committee.

NASHVILLE, Nov. 14th, 1856.



## ADDRESS.

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THE fashion of this world passeth away; and it matters not how eagerly and earnestly we are devoted to the pursuits of this present life, or how successful and useful in carrying forward enterprises of value to our fellow-men, and productive of honor, esteem, and enjoyment to ourselves; death must inevitably come and interrupt it all. The work ceases not: the world goes on; but our part is finished. So it has been with all men through all time. So it will be with us. The cessation of life will rob us of the bright sun, the resplendent earth, the joyous air, and the cheering companionship of birds and beasts and men, and suddenly bring all our plans and purposes, hopes, expectations, and fears, to an end.

This great fact, this marvellous change—the greatest that can happen to any of us, and which is sure to happen to each one of us—is, of all things upon earth, the most difficult to realize and bring home to our own consciousness. It is perhaps best comprehended when those with whom

we are most intimately connected by ties of kindred, or by association in business or position, are called away. Then do we feel the reality, the nearness, and the certainty of this change; and though human reason and science cannot tear away the dark veil enveloping its character, we can yet rejoice that a beneficent Creator has given us a revelation which clears up the mystery, and pours a flood of light into the gloomy recesses of the grave.

Such is the lesson taught us by the providence of God since last we publicly assembled as a corps of teachers and pupils. One of our number, active, earnest, faithful, sanguine and devoted in the carrying out of this undertaking, has been removed in the prime of life, in the midst of labors of high value to his family, friends, and fellow-citizens; and it is now our province to learn wisdom from this appointment of God, and to draw encouragement and profitable instruction from considering the life and character of our late lamented colleague. No greater riches can any man leave his family, friends, associates, than the memory of a character lovely in all its aspects, and of a life stainless in all its course. This is an inheritance which prodigal heirs cannot squander, which the lapse of time only brightens, and which will descend beyond all contingency to those who may own his blood or name, even to remote generations. Such was the character possessed by our late colleague, and such the tenor of his life in our midst.



Well knowing that I could bring before you no example better calculated to stimulate, encourage, instruct and guide you in the difficult career upon the threshold of which you now stand, than that of Professor Porter, I the more willingly comply with the request of the Medical Faculty to give, on this occasion, an account of his life and character. Though simple and unadorned, our aim will be to make this account truthful and correct.

How uncertain, may we well exclaim, are the arrangements of men! how sure the appointments of God! Less than five months since, he was preparing to fulfil the duty assigned him by the Faculty of addressing the class at the opening of this session, upon some topic connected with medicine: now another occupies his place at the desk, and himself is the subject of discourse.

ROBERT MASSENGILL PORTER was born April 12th, 1818, in this city.

His father, Alexander Porter, emigrated to this country in August, 1793, from Donegal county, in the north of Ireland. He was of that sturdy race of people, the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, which has furnished to our South-western cities and towns so large a number of prudent, sagacious, enterprising and honorable citizens. He first settled in Wilmington, Delaware; then in East Tennessee; and finally in Nashville, where he was for many years a success-

ful merchant. He died of the Asiatic cholera, at Dresden, in the Western District of Tennessee, in April, 1833. His brother, the Rev. James Porter, a Presbyterian clergyman, was distinguished for his learning, ability, and zeal for his country's rights, as he conceived them. Rather than conceal or renounce his political opinions, he preferred to lose his life; having been condemned to an ignominious death by the unjust and hasty sentence of a court-martial, during the troubles in Ireland, in 1798. The two sons of this zealous patriot were cared for by their Tennessee emigrant uncle, and one of them afterwards became widely known as an able jurist, and as United States senator from Louisiana. Firmness of purpose, energy, prudence, diligence, honesty, seem to have been characteristic of this family.

Massengill was the maiden name of Dr. Porter's mother, who was of an influential family in East Tennessee.

Dr. Porter's youth was spent at home, and his school and college education received at Nashville—the former, under the instruction of Moses Stevens, a gentleman who will be long remembered in this region as a thoroughly accomplished, devoted and successful instructor of youth. He was then for four years a member of the Undergraduate Department of the University here, where his teachers were President Lindsley, Dr. Troost, Professors Hamilton and Abednego Stephens—none of whom are now living, but whose pupils occupy many posts of honor and usefulness, and still delight



to recall with praise and gratitude these respected names. His academic course was marked throughout by exact and punctual attention to all the exercises and studies assigned him, by great proficiency in the various branches taught, and by a handsome uprightness of conduct, which won for him the warm esteem of his instructors, as one in whose future usefulness they would reap the reward of their zeal and disinterested love of a profession irksome in its nature, and most niggardly inadequate in its material compensation. His uniform correct deportment, open, ingenuous, and gentlemanly manners, gave him also a high place in the affections of his school and classmates. He seems while at college to have paid special attention to the exercises of the Societies, speaking, debating, and writing. When a member of the Senior Class, he represented the Erosophian Society, at the "Spring Speaking." His oration on this occasion, on "American History," made a strong impression on many who heard it as indicative of learning, judgment, and refined polish, which would certainly secure future eminence to the writer. Among my earliest recollections of college life is a distinct remembrance of the remarks made about this speech, which, by the way, was one of eight delivered by young men of unusual brilliance and promise, a larger proportion of whom than is usual with the actors in college exhibitions, have redeemed the promise thus given and justified the expectations thus raised.

He received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in October 1836, and in November entered the Law Department of Harvard University at Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he remained for nearly two years, under the tuition of the distinguished jurists, Story and Greenleaf. He commenced the study of Law with many misgivings as to whether his aversion to public speaking and mingling with men would ever allow him to pursue the practice. However, he was young, and had means, and no subject was better fitted to engage his attention as a branch of useful and entertaining knowledge. On the 29th of August, 1838, he was graduated as Bachelor of Laws, without being present at the Commencement. After leaving Cambridge, he pursued his legal studies for nearly a year in Louisiana, with his cousin, Judge Alexander Porter.

He then returned to Nashville, and on December 4th, 1838, was married to Mary Wharton, daughter of William Williams, Esq., of this vicinity. The following letter from Judge Story, addressed to him on this occasion, may be regarded as illustrative of the friendly interest in his welfare with which he always succeeded in inspiring his teachers:

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 17, 1839.

MY DEAR SIR: I have transmitted your Diploma, which I brought from Cambridge, to the Hon. Mr. Bell, according to your suggestion. Allow me to congratulate you on your



admission to the Bar, and still more so upon your marriage. It is a source of sincere pleasure to me that you have thus become allied to one of my early friends and classmates, whose purity of character and high intellectual qualities have always commanded my warmest respect and praise. Give my kindest regards to your wife, and assure her that I shall ever take the liveliest interest in her welfare, and that I feel proud that one of my own pupils, every way deserving of her affection, has had the good fortune to obtain her hand. May you live together in happiness many, many years, and possess, what is above all price, that mutual devoted love, which gives the highest charm to prosperity, and softens, and soothes, and cheers the heart even in the darkest hours of adversity.

Pray give my truest respects to Mr. Williams, and assure him that as we are descending into the vale of life I feel it among my best consolations, that, distant as we have been from each other, I have been enabled to hold a place in his friendship.

I am affectionately your friend,

JOSEPH STORY.

This marriage, the fruition of an early formed and devoted attachment, was destined to shed happiness upon only a brief portion of his days, as Mrs. Porter lived but a few months after their union: she died March 21st, 1839.

His hopes of domestic happiness and plans of life, thus rudely broken in upon by the hand of death, inclined him to seek retirement from the world, and taught him a severe, but doubtless salutary lesson, on the vanity of all human expectations. He connected himself with the Presbyterian Church in this city, and in June, 1840, became a student in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, New Jersey. Here, pursuing his studies with his usual diligence, he won a high standing among the six score young men then assembled in the halls of the Seminary, from every portion of the Union. I visited Princeton while he was there, and found him a general favorite for his amiable and noble qualities, and highly respected for his scholarship. On the 15th of May, 1843, he received the certificate of having completed the entire Theological course to the satisfaction of his professors—the two Alexanders, Samuel Miller, and Charles Hodge.

He did not, however, apply to Presbytery for license to preach; but at once turned his attention to the study of the profession which was to be his true calling, and which had been his father's choice for him. He went to Philadelphia, and commenced the study of Medicine under the preceptorship of Dr. Hugh L. Hodge, professor in the University of Pennsylvania. He brought to the study of this comprehensive and difficult science, a mind not only well disciplined by legal and theological studies, but also stored



with much information derived from them of great value to the physician, and by far too often slighted by medical men. Particularly was his theological course of service, as having led him to pay great attention to the mental and moral nature of man. If there is any one defect in the curriculum of medical education more prominent than all others, it is a neglect of these subjects. Man is too much treated of as a mere material mechanism, and the mysterious but mighty influence of the passions, affections, and intellectual powers upon his physical nature, too little understood or recognized.

In consideration of his intention to prosecute his studies abroad, the Medical Faculty waived the rule requiring three years' study, and admitted him to the Doctorate, at the Commencement of the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, held April the 4th, 1845.

He immediately set out on a professional visit to Europe, that he might profit by the facilities offered in the continental capitals of pursuing special studies, and also that before confining himself to the drudgery of the practice of medicine he might see something of the Old World, and get whatever of good could be derived from foreign travel. He arrived in Paris on the 24th of May, and went to work studying the language, perfecting himself in Anatomy, and prosecuting various private or special courses of instruction, particularly on subjects belonging to practical medicine and surgery.

While in Europe, whether making long sojourns in the cities, or merely tours of observation, he was ever the diligent student, wasting no time, making medicine his first business, yet taking a lively interest in other matters worthy of note. The works of the great masters in architecture, sculpture and painting, the manners, customs and condition of the people, and the beautiful or sublime scenes of nature, all enlisted his eager attention, and afforded him great enjoyment.

One characteristic belonging to him in a marked degree is fully and strongly displayed in his European correspondence—an intense American feeling. Far from being dazzled by the splendor of accumulated ages, there seen in monarchical wealth and power, enormous armies, fairy-like palaces and churches, immense collections in art, science and nature, and varied, well-furnished institutions of learning, he looked beyond this gay and glittering outside, and saw within the signs of decrepitude, weakness, and decay. Hence he turned with increased affection and longing to his native America, with enlarged views of its capability for a happy and glorious destiny, and with earnest hope that upon its soil a nation should flourish with all the high civilization and art of the European world, but without the defects inherited from an ancient barbarism.

After visiting Italy, Germany, England, Scotland, and Ireland, he returned to the United States, in December,



1847, and soon afterwards opened an office in Nashville. He doubted much the propriety of selecting his native in preference to a distant city, as his home; but having made the choice, he resolved to apply himself to his profession, and patiently bide his time. When, nearly four years subsequently, the Medical Department of the University was established, his professional reputation, as well as previous well-used advantages for a thorough training, led the Trustees and Physicians projecting the school earnestly to solicit his acceptance of the important chair of Anatomy and Physiology.

On July 14th, 1852, he was united in marriage to Mrs. Felicia Grundy Eakin, widow of the late William Eakin, Esq., and daughter of Felix Grundy, late United States' Senator from Tennessee. She is left to mourn his loss, with one little boy, around whom are clustered many hopes.

On July the 1st, 1856, he ceased to live, after an illness of six weeks, and with a perplexing complication of symptoms. The case was doubtless rendered fatal by the imbibition of a blood-poison taken into the system May 27th, from dissecting an offensive subject, while lecturing to the summer class then assembled. He seems always to have been exceedingly susceptible to injury from the offensive attendants upon the dissecting-room, almost amounting to an idiosyncrasy. In his letters from Philadelphia and Paris

we find repeated mention of his having thus been made sick, and compelled for a time to suspend his anatomical studies.\*

But though the immediate cause of his death was extraordinary, and out of our apprehension, yet the main cause is common to us all. The time appointed for him to go the way of all flesh had come. This closes our brief narrative, and all similar narratives—yours and mine after a little time, perhaps a very short time. Had it not been that I feared to weary your patience, his varied correspondence would have furnished rich material for a fuller and more interesting, because more detailed, narration.

Having thus imperfectly followed Prof. Porter through his long and thorough and costly preparation for the duties of active life, and his brief professional term of service, we

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\* The statement here made, in regard to the cause and nature of Dr. Porter's last illness, is based on an opinion expressed by the undersigned, who was Dr. P.'s attending physician. Its correctness is proved by the history and the symptoms of the disorder. Dr. P., on the 27th of May last, when the heat of the weather was and had been for some days extreme for the season, opened, in presence of his class of pupils, a body far advanced in putrefaction, and made it the subject of anatomical demonstration during a period of two hours. The odor emitted was so offensive that some of his audience were driven to the windows, and others without the room. On the succeeding day he was seized with a chill, followed by a fever, the malignant character of which clearly attested its extraordinary origin. One of the most remarkable of his symptoms, as most indicative of the source of his disease, was the presence, without intermission, as he himself described it, of the odor in his nostrils, and the taste in his mouth, of the effluvia of the dissecting-room, in their most offensive forms.



come now to note the result, and to see what manner of man he was in society, and how he fulfilled the duties of the most difficult and responsible of the learned professions, and discharged the obligations of a high public station. We shall find that he had not labored thus long in vain, and that all his varied training was admirably fitted to prepare him for the position he was destined to occupy.

As a member of society in a city of note and influence in the extensive region of country to which it is naturally the capital, his deportment was such as in a remarkable degree to secure the good will and high appreciation of the entire community. Of a diffident and retiring disposition, he was averse to taking any steps that would bring him prominently before the public. And doubtless many of his friends, who knew how faithfully he had used his rich opportunities for mental improvement, were disappointed at the modest, quiet, and unpretending manner in which he commenced his professional course. He was as devoid of all pretension, and as little disposed to show off, as the most sensitive maiden could possibly be. He possessed, however, sterling qualities of heart and head, which more than counterbalanced what, in this age of earnest competition and active pushing ahead, can hardly be esteemed a failing or defect, but from its rareness must rather be considered a virtue, resulting from the consciousness of high qualification and merit, and from a proud and noble independence of spirit. These qua-

lities gave him among his fellow-citizens a repute and esteem which any one at the close of a long life might be proud to have attained.

He was of an amiable and kindly disposition; the last person to wound, by act or word, his neighbor. Where he could not speak well, he preferred to remain silent. Where he had it in his power to do good, he did it quietly and without ostentation. His left hand knew not what his right did. Hence in his daily walk he made many friends, and no enemies.

He was a man of strict integrity and uprightness. His word was as good as his bond. If he swore to his own hurt, he would not change. He would at any time rather be injured in property than injure another. He was truly a specimen of that noble old-fashioned scriptural honesty of principle and conduct, without which no one can be a really good member of society, or worthy to possess the confidence of his fellow-men; and without which human society itself is but a collection of impostors, a den of thieves.

He possessed a clear head and sound judgment, which gave weight to his opinions, and secured to him the utmost confidence of those associated with him as friends, relatives, or colleagues. All such persons—and the list was numerous—regarded him as a wise and safe counsellor, and never regretted having followed his deliberately-given judgment. Indeed, he was not inclined to render an opinion hastily, but



would generally ask time to think upon the matter; and then you could not alter his opinion, and the event would prove its accuracy.

He was a man of firmness and decision. Cautious, but sure in arriving at a conclusion, conviction or purpose, when once formed he adhered to it with the utmost tenacity. There was no fickleness of purpose or action with him. Difficulties would not deter him, nor labor turn him from his plan. This is seen in the diligence and zeal with which he pursued the study of anatomy. Though again and again made sick in the dissecting-room, he again and again returned to the loathsome work, but attractive study, until he had become an accomplished surgeon and anatomist. As it regards practical success in life, this decision of character happily counterpoised his diffidence and aversion to public display. Without it, his thorough professional preparation, and advantages arising from wealth and position, would have been of no avail.

He was a man of Christian faith and hope, and consequently of pure, unblemished life and morals. From a mother's lips he first learned the lessons of Christian piety; which at school and college were again enforced, and afterwards confirmed by the experience of early manhood teaching him the vanity of human plans and wishes. Like all of us, he had his times of doubt and difficulty; for who can mingle in this changeful, fleeting, uncertain, varied

world of men, and not be puzzled, perplexed, amazed, troubled at the mystery of life? But the root of the matter was in him, and he not only died but lived as a Christian. When this is said, all is said: no higher eulogium can be passed upon a friend, companion or associate. Nor need we wonder that a whole community was filled with grief at his untimely end; that those who knew him intimately, and those whose knowledge was that of mere ordinary acquaintance, were so concerned when they heard of his dangerous illness, and manifested such sorrow when they learned that he was no more. From early childhood have I known this goodly city, and truly can, with all who thus know it, bear testimony that it is a place where feelings of good neighborhood and kindly sympathy have ever abounded; and never was there a more striking manifestation of this fact than on the occasion of Dr. Porter's illness and death. Then was it seen how strong is the hold which an ingenuous and profitably spent season of youth, followed by an upright and Christian walk in life, can give one, even in the prime of life, upon a large community, who have either witnessed his youth or been companions of his manhood.

As a physician, the character of Dr. Porter will furnish a subject for profitable and instructive study. He combined in a high degree those qualities and attainments which give dignity and grace to the profession, which from the remotest periods of history have procured it great honor among



men, and which, so long as humanity continues subject to physical ailments, will continue to secure it a first place in the esteem and respect of society.

He had exalted views of his profession, as to its dignity, responsibility and utility. He did not undertake either the study or the practice of medicine merely because it furnished the means of gaining a comfortable or easy livelihood, but because it gave opportunities for making extensive progress in knowledge, and of doing good continually and disinterestedly to his fellow-men. It was with him as it is with all men who truly succeed in the professions called liberal. He loved his profession for its own sake, he studied it for its own sake, and practised from the same motive. This is the peculiar honor and reward of the learned professions, Theology, Law and Medicine. As branches of human knowledge, they are in the highest degree attractive; teaching the mysteries of Divine and human nature; showing the rights and duties man owes to his fellow; or explaining the wonders of man's physical conformation, and the secrets of disease, health, and cure. As conferring that power which ever accompanies the possession of knowledge, they are also invested with a singular charm; those who are proficient, having the happy consciousness of being able, under God, to furnish peace and consolation to the desolate and afflicted, of procuring justice for the wronged and oppressed, and of restoring

health and soundness to the diseased and suffering. These considerations more than compensate the earnest, true-hearted minister, jurist, or physician, for the fact that his calling does not open the way to the acquisition of great wealth and luxury, in any thing like an equal degree with those pursuits which are connected with the material wants and welfare of men.

Entering the profession with these views, Dr. Porter faithfully and conscientiously prepared himself for the discharge of its arduous and responsible duties. Notwithstanding his ample and extensive course of study previous to commencing that of medicine, he neither abridged nor hurried through with his medical education. On the contrary, he devoted to its prosecution more time than do the majority of those who enter upon the practice at the present day. He knew that the offer of his services to the public as a physician would render him liable at any time to be called upon to act in cases where not merely a few days more or less of sickness and pain, but often the patient's recovery and life, would depend upon his knowledge and judgment and skill. This was, in his estimation, a most grave and weighty liability, not to be hastily assumed or carelessly discharged; so he did not commence the practice of medicine until he had made himself well grounded in its principles, and had seen and studied thoroughly the varying phases of disease. Even then we find him shrinking back,



and writing, "As the time approaches, I dread more and more to commence practice."

After getting fairly under way as a practitioner of medicine, he still retained his habits as a diligent student, and was careful to preserve his knowledge of elementary medicine fresh and bright, always ready for use, and also to keep pace with the improvements in this progressive art and science. He knew too well the necessity of continued study to the maintenance of an active, fruitful, vigorous intellect, to allow himself to become a mental sluggard. He was too ambitious, as well as too conscientious, to be willing to sink to the low level of the mere routinist. The duty of working earnestly to keep up with his profession was, in his eyes, of equal importance with that of preparing for it at the outset.

Thus loving his profession, and thus devoting himself to its studies, we would naturally expect to find him not deficient in faithful attention to the necessities and wants of the sick. Prompt to attend their call, punctual to his engagements with them, he bore himself with such graceful ease, and kindness, and gentleness in the sick-room, and yet with such self-possession, and evident assurance of being at home *there*, as to win the confidence as well as love and gratitude of his patients. And although, as a practitioner in a city with an able faculty, well established in their respective spheres, and where he labored under the disadvantage of being at home, he was still but a young

doctor at the time of his decease, he yet had the satisfaction of knowing that these qualities were highly appreciated by the public. For notwithstanding his utter aversion to show, and refusal to push himself forward, few physicians in Nashville have, in the same term of service, obtained so wide and influential and valuable a practice.

He was equally faithful and correct in the discharge of his duty towards his brethren of the same profession. A high-toned gentleman, he was far above any of those unworthy practices by which members of the profession too often degrade themselves, in endeavoring unduly to advance their own interests at the expense of their fellow-physicians. He avoided, as he would a plague-spot, every approach to any thing like depreciation of the skill, knowledge, or ability of others, in order indirectly to exalt his own. In his intercourse with their patients he was scrupulously guarded, that he might by no possibility impose himself upon them, or utter any word that would undermine their confidence in their physicians. In his personal behavior to his fellows he was kind, respectful, courteous, and was a favorite with the profession of the city. Having no envy or jealousy in his composition, he was ever ready to accord to others their due meed of praise for learning and skill, and not unhappy at witnessing their well-earned success. Few men have, in turn, met with so hearty and cheerful a recognition of professional ability and worth.



An amusing incident, occurring early in his professional life, is related of him, which well illustrates his conscientious faithfulness to his patients, and at the same time his energetic contempt for unprofessional meanness, and characteristic determination not to be imposed upon. He had a case of dislocation, which he could not succeed in reducing. After several attempts, he very honestly told his patient, that although he had failed, yet the injury could be and ought to be remedied, and advised him to send for another doctor. Accordingly Dr. ——— was called in. So delighted was he to be sent for in a case which Dr. Porter had given up, that he must needs make the circuit of the city to let his medical acquaintance know how great a man he was. Some of them, astonished that so poor a stick should be called upon to supply the lack of service of a man of Porter's recognized ability and skill, mentioned to the latter how his substitute was endeavoring to make capital at his expense. The Doctor at once called for his buggy, drove to his out-of-joint patient, ordered him down on his back, and in a trice had his arm in place. Dr. ——— arrived soon after, and to his astonishment found that Dr. Porter had not failed.

Among the characteristics of the good physician there is one, the most lovely for its moral beauty and excellence, the most noble for the self-sacrificing spirit it demands, and the most divine because of the vast amount of misery it

relieves without money and without price, which is especially the glory and the crown of the medical profession. It is a devotion to the wants of the poor with the same zeal, patience, attention and care, as though they were the richest of the land; a devotion, too, ever most needed and most practised in times of extensive epidemics and frightful pestilences; a devotion which demands for the physician's calling the courage and self-immolating spirit of the soldier, without being sustained by the stimulus of company, and excited to action by the pomp and circumstance of war; a devotion than which humanity calls into play and requires none higher.

This element of the physician's character belonged in an eminent degree to Dr. Porter. He seems to have regarded it as one of the highest privileges of the profession, and was ever ready to recognize his obligations to work accordingly. He admired and applauded this devotion in others. He was ready to practise it himself. While a medical student he writes from Paris: "But I must be allowed to pay a tribute of respect to certain members of that [the Roman Catholic] denomination—the Sisters of Charity. They have won my admiration. They serve in all the hospitals here, and I have seen them so often administering consolation to the sick and the dying, that I cannot look upon them with other than feelings of the highest regard. A short time ago I was following an eminent physician through



his wards at the hospital, and we came to the bed of a patient whose face was covered with the eruption of that loathsome disease, the small-pox. The sight was hideous. By his side was standing a beautiful girl, with all the bloom and freshness and modesty of youth upon her cheek. I paused a moment to admire her devotion, and then hurried away to escape the contagion."

A few years have passed away: the scene is changed from the banks of the beautiful Seine, with its crowded population, to the banks of the distant but no less beautiful Cumberland. His own dying-hour is at hand. He is called to leave every thing that makes life desirable—family, friends, estate, and honorable usefulness. His bedside is surrounded by those who weep as kindred and intimate associates; and there too are the Sisters of Charity, devoted in their kind offices, and as earnest in their grief as though they watched by the bedside of a brother. And so it is; for they are there not because he has need, but because they have so often met him ministering to the sick poor, and combating the dreaded pestilence with like faith and zeal as themselves.

But time will not permit me to dwell upon these points as I would wish. As a summing up, I may say that the professional character of our late colleague has always seemed to me to come as near as possible to a realization

of the principles of the Hippocratic oath, combined with a humanizing Christian element.\*

We must now very briefly refer to Dr. Porter's public life as Professor of Anatomy in the University of Nashville, and as one of the founders of its flourishing Medical Department.

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\* This famous ancient code of Medical Ethics, drawn up by Hippocrates, or at least as ancient as his times, is thus rendered in Smith's Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities: "I swear by Apollo the Physician, by Æsculapius, by Hygeia and Panacea, and all the gods and goddesses, calling them to witness that I will fulfil religiously, according to the best of my power and judgment, the solemn promise and the written bond which I now do make. I will honor as my parents the master who taught me this art, and endeavor to minister to all his necessities. I will consider his children as my own brothers, and will teach them my profession, should they express a desire to follow it, without remuneration or written bond. I will admit to my lessons, my discourses, and all my other methods of teaching, my own sons, and those of my tutor, and those who have been inscribed as pupils, and have taken the medical oath; but no one else. I will prescribe such a course of regimen as may be best suited to the condition of my patients, according to the best of my power and judgment, seeking to preserve them from any thing that might prove injurious. No inducement shall ever lead me to administer poison, nor will I ever be the author of such advice; neither will I contribute to an abortion. I will maintain religiously the purity and integrity both of my conduct and of my art. I will not cut any one for the stone, but will leave that operation to those who cultivate it. Into whatever dwellings I may go, I will enter them with the sole view of succoring the sick, abstaining from all injurious views and corruption, especially from any immodest action, towards women or men, freemen or slaves. If during my attendance, or even unprofessionally in common life, I happen to see or hear of any circumstances which should not be revealed, I will consider them a profound secret, and observe on the subject a religious silence. May I, if I rigidly observe this my oath, and do not break it, enjoy good success in life and in my art, and obtain general esteem for ever: should I transgress and become a perjurer, may the reverse be my lot!



As a teacher of Anatomy, Dr. Porter very ably discharged his duty to the class. His preparation for the lecture was always carefully made and in good season. He was punctual to his hour, never keeping the class waiting, nor missing the place assigned him in the programme of lectures. His style of lecturing was by no means fluent and ornate, as was to be expected from his diffidence and reserve, but it was characterized by clearness, exactness, and a minute acquaintance with his subject. He thus succeeded in enlisting the interest of his large classes in the dry branch he had to treat, and held them attentive to his course throughout. Those students who were in earnest about learning—as, to their praise may it be truthfully said, are the far larger proportion of a medical class—held his instructions in high esteem.

He possessed great ability as a writer, as is attested by his articles in the Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery, which were very widely copied. He was also a neat, cool, dexterous, and successful operator in surgical cases. These attainments added much to his standing with the students, and, had his life been prolonged, would doubtless have given him eminent rank as an author and surgeon.

In his personal intercourse with the students, Dr. Porter was kind, affable and dignified. He was not popular in the ordinary acceptation of the term; for in the class, as in the community, he was above seeking popularity. He was

what is far better, beloved and respected. I doubt whether among the many hundred young men to whom he lectured during his five sessions, there was one whose good will he failed to gain. They knew him to be reliable, honest, faithful, conscientious in the discharge of his obligations to them; that as such they could count on him. This is the character and the only character, that ever gains the permanent high opinion of a medical class. Brilliancy, show, popular manners, may make a great impression at first upon a large number of young men, strangers at the school, and eager for growth in knowledge; but without force of character and substantial attainment, the hold thus acquired is soon lost, and the professor rapidly sinks to a lower even than his true level.

In addition to mere teaching by lecture or recitation, there is still a higher function fulfilled by a teacher towards his class, which unhappily is too little regarded, indeed, is generally overlooked, and yet cannot, from its very nature, remain unaccomplished, but must be either well or ill performed. Every one who stands to a class in the capacity of an instructor, imparts to that class something of his own spirit and character. This is a great fact, and holds true whether the class is composed of a single individual, or of hundreds; whether its members are children, youth, or grown-up men and women; whether the subjects taught are of a material or intellectual nature, of a



professional, political, or religious character. This, which has not inaptly been termed unconscious tuition, is outside of the matter taught, and arises altogether from the relation inseparable between teacher and pupil, by which mind is brought in contact with mind, and quietly, imperceptibly, unwittingly, but infallibly, influenced by that contact. Upon this fact depends a chief responsibility resting upon all who in any way undertake the great work of teaching. The divine may preach most scriptural truth, charity, faith, hope; but if he is a narrow-minded, prejudiced man, though his sermons are free from bigotry, his people will yet become bigots. The political orator may declaim eloquently of patriotism, of truth, and justice: if truly honest and sincere, and in earnest, his efforts on the rostrum will produce a highly useful and elevating effect upon the thousands who hear him. If, on the other hand, he is a mere pretender, whose great aim is office, then do his harangues merely train up heated partisans, and set to work unholy strife and contention. These are familiar illustrations, which might be readily multiplied from the primary school upward; and the more we multiply them, the more will we be satisfied of the truth, that mere knowledge of his branch, and aptness to communicate that knowledge, is, by all odds, the least important half of a teacher's qualifications for his work, instead of being all, as is too commonly imagined. In the dignity and weight and influence of this unconscious tuition

Dr. Porter was pre-eminently happy, and its effect was seen in a marked manner upon the class every winter. This is just what we would expect to learn, if the character we have given him as a man was faithfully drawn. And the best proof that our portrait, though roughly sketched, was not exaggerated, is the fact that his influence upon the class was so great and useful, and as such recognized, acknowledged and appreciated by us all, pupils and professors, from the commencement of the school.

We have now reached the last point we have to consider in Dr. Porter's history,—his relations to the Faculty and School of Medicine in this University. When, six years since, he was consulted upon the subject in the very incipency of the undertaking, he at once saw the great necessity for such an institution in this region of country, and was well assured of its certain and speedy success upon the plan proposed. He gave his hearty endorsement to the enterprise of putting in operation a new department of his venerated and loved Alma Mater. But with his characteristic diffidence, and backwardness about speaking in public, he doubted much the propriety of accepting a chair in the school. Even as early as in 1835, while at college, he wrote to a brother in reference to the study of the law, "I am very deficient in one thing essential to a public speaker, 'brass,' and I believe will never get the better of it." This same want of confidence still alarmed him; and it required



great determination to enable him finally to remedy the deficiency.

His objections, however, were overcome by reminding him that with Anatomy he was familiar; that this was one of the leading chairs in the school, and could be filled by no one who was not a faithful, accurate, and laborious student of the branch; and that fluency of speech was secondary to other more important requisites, which were combined in him. He agreed to undertake the work, and from that day forward labored with great zeal and success to advance the interests of the school. Born in Nashville, a graduate of its University, he was imbued with a warm attachment to the scenes of his boyish and youthful days, and a desire to contribute his share towards making his native city not least in renown and influence among her sisters. His extensive travels and thorough personal knowledge of European and Northern institutions had only given him a more lively appreciation of the advantages of this position, and of the ability and fitness of Southern men to develop the schools best fitted to meet the educational wants of their own region.

Hence he was willing to venture largely of his means, time, and labor in the undertaking, much preferring failure on a broad, liberal scale, to success on a moderate, insignificant plan.

As a member of the Faculty, his course was uniformly

such as to justify the language employed by his colleagues on the occasion of his death: "that they recognized in that event" the loss of a chief pillar of an institution which his learning, discretion, and sound judgment so largely assisted in founding and developing. He knew what a great seat of medical learning should be; how extensive the buildings, how costly and varied the means of illustration required. He therefore wished nothing done on a niggardly, illiberal scale; but every thing so planned and executed that additions could continually be made until the school should become in all respects complete. Time, he was perfectly aware, was needed for its growth; but time, without a proper basis, he was equally aware, could perfect only an abortion.

He was also well conversant with the disposition of his own Southern people; their high-minded notions; their contempt for all (to use their peculiarly significant by-word) *picayune* establishments; their desire for great and influential schools at home; their growing indisposition to be tributary, for medical and other learning, to a people who so little comprehended and sympathized with their institutions, customs, and feelings. He therefore heartily endorsed the ground assumed by this Faculty at the outset, that no toil or sacrifice should be spared, on their part, to make the school inferior to none in the Union, and that such inferiority should not, even by implication, be recognized; that



it should be their work to organize and commence the school on the right basis, being sure that afterwards it would go on to grow and flourish, whether they retained their original, or any positions in it, or not.

The history of the Medical Department of the University has indeed been most remarkable, for the rapidity with which it has found favor with the profession, and assumed the position due to a well-endowed and firmly-established school. Though at its foundation but one of numerous medical colleges in the country, and though since that time some six others have been commenced in the same field, it has become, in the brief period of five years, one of the three leading schools of the United States. Its organization and policy have been, however, not less singular than its history, and have no doubt contributed greatly to the latter. It was organized as an integral branch of an old and noted University, with far more liberal and just views on the subject of medical education than have ever governed a similar Board of Trustees. Its Faculty of six members, none of whom had ever lectured to a medical class, accepted their positions that they might make it a school worthy of its name, and to which Southern young men would not be ashamed to crowd. They claimed no inheritance in their chairs: they were all willing to work long and patiently, if necessary, to build up the school: they were all ready to re-organize and re-arrange, so as to add to their number

distinguished teachers, when they could be had, or as the wants of the school required. In conformity with this elasticity of plan, the celebrated Professors Drake and Cobb were at different times invited to join in the enterprise. Both expressed their strong assurance that a brilliant career awaited the school, and their regrets that pledges made at other places prevented their identifying themselves with its early history. These distinguished men are the only ones who have ever declined offers of position from the school. Others from more southern States than Kentucky, however, were found, who heartily enlisted in the work, and increased the number of professors to seven during its first and to eight during its fourth session.

All who are intimately acquainted with American schools of medicine, know full well that they are institutions of a very complex nature, requiring indispensably several elements of success besides great teaching ability in the Faculty. The elucidation of this statement would furnish curious and profitable matter for an hour's discussion. To the initiated the mere statement is sufficient. Now in all matters connected with the business and internal affairs of the school, our colleague's sound judgment, extensive acquirement, and reliable character, has, from its first conception, been of the greatest service; and while the Medical Department of the University of Nashville remains an ornament and a glory to this city and State, so long will it keep



fresh the memory of the patriotism, learning, and ability of Robert M. Porter.

Standing in this sacred desk, and with the audience before me composed in so great part of young men and youth, I cannot close the duty assigned me to-day without urging upon your attention several important practical conclusions strikingly enforced by the history of the life and character we have been considering.

We have in Dr. Porter's life an example of the truly self-made man; that is, of a man who, not by the force of extraneous circumstances, but by the exercise of his own intellectual and moral faculties, rises to eminent usefulness and honor in his day. This is the proper definition of the self-made man, though somewhat different from the ordinary notion of one who makes his way in life notwithstanding opposing obstacles and difficulties, such as poverty, want of friends, and limited means of gaining knowledge. This latter notion is entirely too limited, and by implication unjust and erroneous. Poverty, instead of an obstacle, may rather be considered an aid to success, furnishing as it does a most powerful motive for exertion. And he who makes his way notwithstanding that he is poor and unknown, and has few helps to learning, does so because he faithfully uses the powers of mind, body, and soul which God has given him. Diligence, activity, energy, prudence, lead to wealth and renown; uprightness, meekness, and other virtues, to

esteem and honor. Now the young man who on his entrance into life is blessed with fortune, friends, and all the advantages of education, will never make his way, will never have rank and station in society as successful in public or private life, unless he brings into active play precisely the same qualities. And, par excellence, he should rather be styled self-made, who, though possessing wealth and friends, and a satisfactory station in society, by the exertions of those who have gone before him, diligently applies himself to work, and makes himself somebody on his own behalf, while all the time the natural laziness of human nature, untasked by necessity, would urge him to inaction.

Professor Porter was left, by the death of his father when quite a youth, pretty much master of his own movements, and with a handsome competence secured to him. Yet you have seen how hard he worked. Year after year he passed in as faithful application to his various studies, as though he had no property and no friends to help him through the world. "I abominate doing nothing," was his energetic expression at Princeton. This steady application and faithful trueness to himself made him—and nothing less will ever make any of you, young gentlemen—distinguished from the common herd of inert, sluggish men who eat, drink, sleep, live and die. Genius will not make you: wealth is only an impediment in your way, unless,



with almost unearthly watchfulness, you guard against its siren seductions: able teachers, books, time for study, all are mere circumstances, favoring your progress, but of no avail without self-control, self-reliance, and earnest personal effort.

The great value and utility of a long and varied course of instruction and of thorough preparation, as enabling its possessor to take at once a high rank in his calling, is well exemplified in the case before us. Our young men are in too great haste to get to work, and hence multitudes of them enter upon the active work of life after very slender training for the same. A lamentable mistake, condemning them for ever to a position of mere mediocrity, unless they afterwards—which is rarely the case—master the principles upon which their callings depend.

Again, we see most strikingly enforced the fact that it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. We may plan and arrange the future course of our lives ever so surely and wisely, as we think, but for the most part our plans are altogether changed by circumstances beyond our control, or else the details are quite differently arranged, and in many cases we are brought to engage in the very pursuits which we have been endeavoring to avoid. We have seen how Dr. Porter would not enter upon the duties either of the lawyer or the minister, because he dreaded public speaking: he consequently devoted himself to medicine. Yet

this very pursuit brought him into a position where it was his almost daily function to address large audiences of young men, (for half the year,) and just as much compelled him to overcome this natural distaste as would either of the other professions, and under circumstances more difficult and trying than usually attend the beginner in those professions. Still no portion of his days was really happier, or furnished more satisfaction to himself. Man may devise, but God directs.

Lastly and most forcibly of all, this history teaches us the utter uncertainty of human life.

Dr. Porter was, with one exception, the youngest of a Faculty composed of eight members: he was of robust stature, a strongly-knit frame, and bade fair to enjoy many years to come. At the time of his decease he was arranging his affairs so as to make him independent of the drudgery of his profession, and give him leisure for perfecting himself as a teacher and for scientific research. Five months since, and we all predicted for him length of days, prosperity, and long-continued usefulness. A brief, unforeseen, and unusual disease, rapidly and suddenly changed all this; and nothing now remains to us but the memory of a life well spent.

In this large audience, now listening with sympathizing interest, composed of every age, from the college lad to the venerable and revered patriarchs of our district, there is not



one of whom we can say, Thou shalt be next: there is not one to whom we can say, To-morrow is thine. One fact alone is certain, that but a few years shall elapse ere every one now here shall have ceased to live: ere the grave shall be our home, and this glorious world, with all its pomp and splendor, variety and beauty, a thing of naught to us.

Were this the end, then on all such occasions—and often do they come—we would be compelled in sorrow to exclaim, Vanity of vanities! vanity of vanities! all is vanity!

But this is not the end. Whatever may have been the fears and hopes and uncertain beliefs of the sages of Greece and Egypt, of Persia and India; whatever are the gloomy apprehensions or vague doubts of nations now flourishing in other portions of this earth, we have a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto we do well that we take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place; which teaches us that they that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

As our friend, preceptor, and brother gave heed to these great truths of God's word, and though untimely, as men say, called away, yielded a willing, contented, trusting obedience to the unlooked-for summons, so let us herein imitate his example, and we too shall find that our faith and hope are built upon a rock.

"The soul decays not: freed from earth  
 And earthly toils, it bursts away:  
 Receiving a celestial birth,  
 And spurning off its bonds of clay,  
 It soars and seeks another sphere,  
 And blooms through Heaven's eternal year.

"Do good, shun evil: live not thou,  
 As if in death thy being died;  
 Nor Error's siren voice allow  
 To draw thy steps from truth aside:  
 Look to the journey's end—the grave!  
 And trust in Him whose arm can save."



## APPENDIX.

[From the Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery, August 1856.]

### Death of Professor R. M. Porter, M. D.

SINCE our last issue, the grave has claimed our friend and colleague, Dr. R. M. Porter. Those who have so often looked upon his manly form and pleasant face in the amphitheatre, in society, and at the sick-bed, will see him no more for ever. Of all the men we have ever known, he was the most unobtrusive and unpretending. A scholar, in the most circumscribed and rigid acceptation of the term, and MASTER in ALL of the learned professions, he walked about among men with maiden modesty and the frankness and simplicity of childhood. A nobler heart never pulsed in the bosom of man, for he was the very soul of honor. The last of the following resolutions of the Faculty will explain why we do not extend this article. Full justice will be done this truly great man by a far more able hand than wields this pen, which, nevertheless, is ready to exalt the memory of one whom as a man we loved, as a colleague we admired in full and abiding confidence, and, as a brother, had our warmest sympathies and our most exalted regard.

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT TO THE MEMORY OF DR. ROBERT M.  
PORTER.

At a meeting of the physicians of Nashville, Dr. Boyd M'Nairy being called to the chair, and Dr. G. A. J. Mayfield appointed Secretary, on motion of Dr. J. D. Winston, the Chair nominated a committee to draft resolutions in relation to the death of the lamented Dr. ROBERT M. PORTER, consisting of Drs. Atchison, Morton, and Nichol, who reported the following, which was adopted :

WHEREAS, It has pleased Divine Providence to remove from our midst our friend and brother, Dr. Robert M. Porter; we, who have shared his toils, and witnessed his unsparing devotion to the highest and holiest duties of a self-sacrificing profession, may be permitted to voice our grief for his untimely loss. He has been cut down in the prime of manhood, in the ripeness of intellect, and in the zenith of usefulness. In him, suffering humanity has lost a friend, society an ornament, and science an ardent devotee. With wealth, he preserved the meek spirit of a Christian; with learning, the modest simplicity of a child: neither pride of place nor consciousness of superior intellectual attainments ever made him forgetful of those kindly courtesies and gentle amenities which so distinguished his private and professional intercourse. In early life, he entered the academic halls of his native State, and won



the highest honors ; going thence to Cambridge, he entered upon the study of law, enriching his mind with its broad principles : he then turned his attention to the higher walks of Divinity, where the purity of his heart found its congenial affinities. But that modesty for which he was distinguished, deterred him from the pursuit of a profession requiring a prominence from which he shrank : he next turned his attention to the study of medicine, and in its quiet and unobtrusive walks, its labors of love, and unheralded triumphs over disease and death, found that theatre of action best suited to his unpretending modesty, active philanthropy, and Christian benevolence. As an expression of our appreciation of his worth as a man, his ripe attainments as a scholar, and usefulness as a physician, be it, therefore,

• RESOLVED, That in the death of Dr. R. M. Porter, society has lost an exemplary Christian, science a bright ornament, and our profession one of its most honored and esteemed members.

RESOLVED, That while we refrain from obtruding stereotyped expressions of condolence upon the afflicted family, we may be permitted to mingle our sincere sympathies with their deep sorrow for a bereavement so untimely, so mournful, and so irreparable.

RESOLVED, That in testimony of respect for the deceased, we wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Dr. J. D. Winston then moved the publication of the proceedings of the meeting in the city papers; and Dr. Morton, the furnishing with the same the family of the deceased; both of which motions were adopted.

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THE Students of the Medical Department of the University of Nashville having met for the purpose of giving expression of their feelings in reference to the death of the lamented R. M. Porter, Professor of Anatomy; C. H. Gunn, of Massachusetts; J. W. Brown, of Tennessee; J. M. Driver, of Louisiana; L. J. Applewhite, of Georgia; J. R. G. Faucette, of North Carolina; N. Miller, of Alabama; G. T. Bartlett, of Missouri; E. M. Dupree, of South Carolina; D. H. Armstrong, of Mississippi; and W. G. Daniel, of Texas, were appointed by the Chair to draft resolutions, who reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, We have received the painful intelligence of the death of our beloved Professor, R. M. Porter, M. D.:

RESOLVED, That we submit with all becoming humility to this dispensation of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, while we deeply deplore the loss of so estimable a man.

RESOLVED, That in the loss of Dr. Porter, the profession



is deprived of one of its brightest ornaments, the Medical Department of the University of Nashville of one of its most efficient teachers, his family of an affectionate husband and parent, and the community at large of one of their best citizens.

RESOLVED, That his private, public, and professional character all evince the belief that in his removal from this life of usefulness, Divine Providence has called him to that "building of God—that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

RESOLVED, That we tender to the surviving relatives of Dr. Porter our heartfelt sympathy in this their sad bereavement.

RESOLVED, That we deeply sympathize with the Medical Faculty in the loss of their most worthy colleague, Dr. R. M. Porter.

RESOLVED, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Medical Journal and city papers, and that a copy be sent to the family of the deceased.

W. H. CHILDRESS, of Tennessee, Pres't.

H. M. COMPTON, of Texas, Sec'y.

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At a meeting of the Medical Faculty of the University of Nashville, held at 11 o'clock, A. M., on the 1st day of July, 1856, it was announced to the Faculty that their

colleague, Professor R. M. Porter, M. D., had that morning, between the hours of 7 and 8, after a severe affliction of more than two weeks' duration, departed this life.

Drs. W. K. Bowling and T. R. Jennings were appointed a committee to draft resolutions expressive of the feelings of the Faculty in relation to this sad event; whereupon, the chairman of this committee reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted by the Faculty:

WHEREAS, It has pleased God that our fellow-citizen, friend, colleague, and brother, R. M. Porter, should die, and be known no more among men in the flesh, we have thought it right and proper, in justice to his memory, to pass the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That in the death of R. M. Porter we recognize the loss of a chief pillar of an institution which his learning, discretion, and sound judgment so largely assisted in founding and developing.

RESOLVED, That in the many relations which our late colleague sustained toward us, he so bore himself that our affection, regard, and confidence were strengthened and deepened by each passing year; that to a mind deeply imbued with medical learning, he added the pleasantness of the accomplished gentleman, and was in all things what the good everywhere delight to honor.



RESOLVED, That the Chancellor of the University be requested, at the opening of the next session of the Medical Department, to deliver a public address upon the life and character of our departed friend and brother.

The following is taken from the Resolutions of July 19, 1880, being a communication from the Hon. Henry A. Hooper, D. D., of Philadelphia:

Of the late Dr. Porter of Nashville.

Members, Honors: The General Assembly of our Church was never entertained with a more munificent kindness than that displayed by the citizens of Nashville in the spring of 1855; and among the numerous mansions thrown open to them on that occasion, none was the seat of a more refined and generous hospitality than the home of Dr. Robert M. Porter. One of yourselves and herewith will me to the unfeigned cordiality with which he received his guests, to the anxiety of his manner to his hearty sympathy with every thing pertaining to the interests of the Church, and to the pure and noble feeling which reigned in his family circle, the charm of which was felt by every one who entered it.

Dr. Porter was in truth an ordinary man. As a physician, he stood in the front rank of his profession. His colleagues in the Medical Department of the University of

THE following is taken from the PRESBYTERIAN, of July 19, 1856, being a communication from the REV. HENRY A. BOARDMAN, D. D., of Philadelphia :

### The late Dr. Porter, of Nashville.

MESSRS. EDITORS : The General Assembly of our Church was never entertained with a more munificent kindness than that displayed by the citizens of Nashville in the spring of 1855 ; and among the numerous mansions thrown open to them on that occasion, none was the seat of a more refined and generous hospitality than the house of Dr. Robert M. Porter. One of yourselves can bear witness with me to the unaffected cordiality with which he received his guests, to the amenity of his manners, to his hearty sympathy with every thing pertaining to the interests of the Church, and to the quiet *home-like* feeling which reigned in his family circle, the charm of which was felt by every one who entered it.

Dr. Porter was, in truth, no ordinary man. As a physician, he stood in the front rank of his profession. His colleagues in the Medical Department of the University of



Nashville, in which he occupied the Chair of Anatomy, deplore his removal as that "of a chief pillar of an Institution which his learning, discretion, and sound judgment largely assisted in founding and developing." The physicians of that city, assembled to bemoan their common loss, say of him, in a tribute honorable alike to the living and to the dead, "In him, suffering humanity has lost a friend, society an ornament, and science an ardent devotee. With wealth, he preserved the meek spirit of a Christian; with learning, the modest simplicity of a child. Neither pride of place nor consciousness of superior intellectual attainments ever made him forgetful of those kindly courtesies and gentle amenities which so distinguished his private and professional intercourse. In early life he entered the academic halls of his native State, and won the highest honors. Going thence to Cambridge, he entered upon the study of Law, enriching his mind with its broad principles. He then turned his attention to the higher walks of divinity, where the purity of his heart found its congenial affinities. But that modesty for which he was distinguished, deterred him from the pursuit of a profession requiring a prominence from which he shrank. He next turned his attention to the study of medicine, and in its quiet and unobtrusive walks, its labors of love, and unheralded triumphs over disease and death, he found that theatre of action best suited to his unpretending modesty, active philanthropy, and Christian benevolence." "In his death," they add,

“society has lost an exemplary Christian, science a bright ornament, and the medical profession one of its most honored and esteemed members.”

The loss of such a man is a public bereavement, and so the city of Nashville regards it. A prominent gentleman of that place says, in a private letter: “I never have known so much interest and anxiety shown by our citizens at the illness and death of any private citizen, nor so large a funeral procession.” Dr. Porter had endeared himself to all classes of society; and Nashville must have been very false to its reputation as a city of high and generous culture, if it could have suffered one whose professional eminence was equalled only by his private worth, to go down to the grave without manifesting the deepest sensibility to the loss.

The writer of this notice may be permitted to add, that he has never known a man of more unaffected modesty than Dr. Porter. His sensitive nature recoiled from the admiration, and even from the gratitude which could not fail to wait upon a life of so much beneficence. It was his happiness to guide the young along the intricate paths of science, to rescue the sick from the iron grasp of disease, to “visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction,” and to “do good to *all* men as he had opportunity;” but he never seemed to feel that his services were specially meritorious, or that he had *earned* the applause which followed them.

Above all, his piety was humble, sincere, and decided—the more so, peradventure, because he had been no stranger



to the doubts and conflicts of the Christian life. He died on the first of July, after an illness of two weeks, which he bore with true resignation, and in which he was sustained by that hope which is the only anchor of the soul.

It must suffice to have spoken of Dr. Porter's death in its public relations. The deep sorrow which pervades that home, so lately the abode of true conjugal felicity, and of all the joys which cluster around a refined and united household, no human sympathy can assuage. "A Father of the fatherless, and a Judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation." And *they* will not be forgotten by Him.

H. A. B.

## Historical Note.

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DAVIDSON ACADEMY was incorporated by the General Assembly of North Carolina, December 29, 1785. The Medical College building now occupies a portion of the land then given to the Academy.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE was incorporated by the Legislature of Tennessee, September 11, 1806. In it were merged the name and rights of Davidson Academy.

"THE UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE" became the legal style and title of the College, by an act of the Legislature, passed November 27, 1826.

The MEDICAL DEPARTMENT was organized by the Board of Trustees, October 11, 1850.

The first course of LECTURES commenced in October, 1851, and closed with 121 matriculates and 33 graduates. The second session closed with 152 matriculates and 36 graduates: the third with 220 matriculates and 71 graduates: the fourth with 294 matriculates and 93 graduates: the fifth with 339 matriculates and 85 graduates; and the sixth with 419 matriculates and 137 graduates.



# VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

TO THE

Graduates of the Medical Department

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE,

DELIVERED FEBRUARY 28, 1857,

BY

THOMAS R. JENNINGS, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY.

PUBLISHED BY REQUEST OF THE FACULTY AND THE CLASS.



NASHVILLE, TENN.  
1857.

## VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

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GENTLEMEN :

At this, the parting interview between you and those who have been for a time your instructors—who have stood by your side, to be your guides and auxiliaries in your efforts to obtain that knowledge which is requisite to fit you for the practice of the arduous profession, on the duties of which you are now about to enter—no more appropriate theme for reflection can be suggested than that which will fix your attention on the course of training to which you have thus for so long a period been subjected. So far as your corps of teachers is concerned, being their spokesman on this occasion, I know such a retrospect will be to them a matter both of pleasure and of profit: of pleasure, because it will recall the enjoyment of those frequent communions with you, when their earnest efforts to impart useful information were crowned by the assurance that they were not, in the nature of labor, expended in vain: of profit, because such reminiscences cannot fail to nerve them with fresh determination to prosecute with energy the great task of the same nature, which their hope



of prolonged life and usefulness, so excited, will open out to their mental vision in long and brilliant perspective. In your bosoms, too, animated as they are and as they should be by the vivid emotions and the bright anticipations characteristic of youth, I am confident that the same glance at the late events of your educational career will elicit similar joyous feelings, and give birth to like felicitous results. The fault, indeed, will be in the speaker and not in his theme, if, whilst you follow him in the course of the meditations proposed as the employment of the passing hour, you do not dwell with rapture on visions recalled to your imaginations, of toil rewarded by the fruition of success exceeding even your most high-wrought expectations; and are not at the same time transported by enthusiastic resolutions that the future of your career shall exhibit a complete fulfilment of all the expectations which your education has excited, not only in the minds of your relatives and friends, and of the community in which you live, but in your own visions—highly colored as they may be—of future success and ultimate distinction.

But two years since, at a recurrence of these anniversary exercises, one of my colleagues joyously exclaimed, whilst performing the duty I have now undertaken, "We are all here." Alas! that it is not in my power now to repeat such a congratulation. Two of those who were lately of our number, (one a preceptor, the other a pupil,) are not here. They have vanished from our midst; and the exclamation now most suited to our circumstances proclaims, "What shadows we are, and what shadows we pursue!"

In regard to the decease of both, however, we may indulge, without impropriety, in a feeling of exultation, mingled though it be with melancholy associations. Death with both was the death of martyrs. One of them fell a victim to his ardor in the work of imparting, the other, to his assiduity in the task of acquiring, knowledge. These our lamented colleagues, then, being, like ourselves, sworn soldiers in the cause of humanity, have fallen whilst at the post of duty. Do I not, therefore, give utterance to a supplication which meets a response in the heart of every one of us, when I implore that we too may thus die the death of the righteous, and that our last end may be like theirs?

I have invited you to a review of the course of instruction through which you have just passed. As a fitting preface, and as a proper tribute to the memory of departed worth, I give you an assurance that Dr. Porter, who was one of the founders of this school of medicine, was also one of its ablest and purest counsellors. If its success in respect to the attraction and the qualification of students is in any degree attributable to honesty and wisdom in its policy, he, then, is entitled to a full share of the credit due on account of the origination and perfection of the system by which it has been conducted. I appeal with confidence to his surviving colleagues, when I ask them to sustain me in the assertion, that during our deliberations he always manifested a steady, fearless, and supreme regard for the honor of our profession, the cause of medical science, and the interests of those who confided in him as an instructor; never looking either to the right or to the left, to effect an



object of self-aggrandizement. His influence over us, whilst he lived, was the salutary influence which a magnanimous spirit ever exercises over all who come within the sphere of its manifestations: his power over us hereafter, will be of a nature that should not be resisted, and, if it were, could not be successfully opposed. Men may disregard, nay, pass rough-shod over the counsels of the wisest and the best of their living coadjutors; but they change their course with horror, when convinced that it leads them to trample on the ashes of the dead, by whose precepts they were once enlightened, and by whose example they were wont to be swayed.

The retrospection which we are now to commence, we are assured will afford abundant material on which to base a confident assertion, that you will stand forth, without hesitation, to bear testimony to the fact that we have labored faithfully to teach you the science of medicine, and to indoctrinate you touching its art and practice, by the only method which the principles of philosophy can ever indicate. We know that, on summons, you will prove yourselves swift witnesses for us, that our efforts have been unremitting to fit you for the practice of the profession you have chosen, not by the inculcation of the doctrines of any authoritative leaders or teachers, but by extending a helping hand to guide you on to the true fountains of the knowledge of which you were in pursuit. You know well, that in the school of whose highest honors you are now in receipt, you have never been directed to sit down at the feet of any Gamaliel in medicine, to imbibe his notions, and

to become adepts in the slavish work of defending his dogmas. On the contrary, you must have a feeling of conviction that we have acted as mere recruiting-officers, to enlist you under no banner but that of nature. Your response must be in the affirmative, when we appeal to you to know whether, from first to last of the long course of tuition through which we have conducted you, we have not exerted ourselves strenuously to impress it on your minds that, as it was your intention to devote your lives to the work of healing, and, when you could not heal, of mitigating the diseases of man, you could qualify yourselves for the task in no other way than by a diligent study of the physical, intellectual, and moral structure of man; next, of the vital manifestations, which are the results, or, more properly speaking, the constant concomitants of that structure; next, by the assiduous investigation of the derangements of that structure, and those miraculous manifestations, which constitute the diseases the treatment of which is to be your life-long employment; and, lastly, of the means, by the skilful application of which you may be enabled either to arrest such derangements, or, when irremediable, to soothe their attendant sufferings. So taught, then, by your own admission in regard to the true foundations of medicine, may we not venture on a confident assertion in regard to your future career, that, whatever others may do, you will acknowledge no master but truth; and that, whilst you refuse to bow down in adoration even of the demigods of medicine, you will look with ineffable scorn on the stocks and stones which are the idols of those pitiable pagans in



medicine, the deluded followers of a Mesmer, or a Preissnitz, or a Hahnemann!

Taught in accordance with the system just indicated, each one of you has been required, as a preliminary condition of your application for the honors now to be conferred, that you should give diligent attention to two thousand lectures, demonstrations, and exhibitions, carefully prepared and studiously enforced on your attention by eight teachers, who, whilst they look with all proper feelings of humility to an enlightened community for an estimate of their abilities, appeal with confidence to you for a testimonial of their fidelity and assiduity.

Censure of the medical profession, on account of alleged negligence in regard to the initiative training of those who enter its ranks, is a thing of common occurrence. How clearly does the recital of your course of studies refute every accusation of the kind! Where is there another craft or calling to be found in our society that exacts a series of preparatory exercises one-half so tedious or so thorough? The apprentice to mechanical pursuits passes the period of his indenture, for the most part, with no more instruction than that which suits the interest of his employer. The clerk in the counting-house, with some honorable exceptions, is treated more like the drudge than the pupil of him who is the head of the establishment. The future mariners of our great seafaring republic, who are hereafter to carry our flag in triumph through the exterminating battles of the ocean, or to display it proudly in quest of gain in every part of the navigable globe, are even now, at the outset of their

adventurous career, required to waste a long period of their lives serving in the capacity of mere scullions and shoe-blacks for the crew in which they are enrolled. Of our students of law, little else is exacted than a lounge of a few months in the office of an established counsellor or attorney. The mass of our politicians are self-constituted; being as well qualified to be pillars of the State as is a mushroom to be a column of support and decoration in a magnificent temple. In one word, no candidate for admission, either into the callings enumerated, or into any other which is important to the public interest, is required to go through a course of preparation one-half so rigid as that which has been exacted of you; and yet, for the want of sufficient enlightenment on the subject, the mass of the community wink at the great and real abuses we have enumerated, and are loud in their denunciations of one that is in great degree imaginary. We desire, however, not to be misunderstood on this head, either by yourselves or by any portion of the intelligent audience we address. We do not contend that our system of medical education is faultless. So far are we, indeed, from assuming such a defenceless position, that we are willing to admit that there are other countries than our own which greatly surpass us in this respect. What we contend for is embodied in the proposition that, regard being had to our age and circumstances and condition as a people, our scheme of preparatory training for our physicians is in advance of that which we countenance in almost every other important calling which either necessity or custom has established in our



midst. Reforms, to be sure, may be and should be effected in our medical schools; but, like other educational reforms, they must be gradual, to be salutary. A nation's mode of training its youth is not a thing of isolation. Inextricably interwoven with all the peculiarities of every given age and period of its existence, such a system must change either with those peculiarities, or but slightly in advance of them. It was because of a failure to appreciate this truth, on the part of two of the greatest minds that were ever exhibited in human form, that Milton and Locke—an observer no less acute than Dr. Johnson being the witness—did, in their day and generation, serious injury to the cause of learning in Great Britain, by their writings, profound and ingenious as they were, on the subject of education.

Make your entrance then, gentlemen, on the theatre of active life with your heads erect, and your feelings of confidence fully nerved, so far as regards your passport to public confidence. Confront those who would gainsay your pretensions by instituting a comparison between your own and any that they themselves can rightfully set up. Your education as physicians has been conducted in accordance with a plan shaped out by the wisdom of some of the most practical amongst the many great minds of the early days of our republic,—by Rush, and Kuhn, and Shippen, and Wistar; a plan, too, which has been freely canvassed, with a view to reform, and has been reformed from time to time, so far as our national peculiarities would permit; the whole of the work, whether of original design and construction, or of change and reformation, having been carried on in

accordance with the counsels of a medical public independent in its mode of thinking, and unbiased alike by the fascinations of novelty or the heavy clogs of inveterate custom and prejudice. Who will you meet with, be he divine, lawyer, agriculturist, merchant, or mechanic, that can boast of better or more careful training? Boldly, too, may you challenge those about you to point to any device for furnishing useful members of society that has been more prolific than that which ushers you into the world as practitioners of the healing art. Our modes of teaching theology have undoubtedly furnished us with an average supply of able, eloquent, learned, and truly devout spiritual guides and teachers; and similar asseverations may with truth be made in regard to our national stock in the shape of statesmen, lawyers, merchants, and mechanics. Yet assertions of the same kind are equally if not more true when applied to the body of physicians which at any given period has been diffused throughout our land. Medicine has always been administered to our people with as much skill and fidelity as has attended upon the supply of any of their other demands, whether of necessity or convenience. At every period, moreover, of our existence as a nation, under the practical operation of the system we defend, the medical profession has contributed its full proportion to the list of men who, by the eminence of their talents, and attainments, and virtues, have given tone to public sentiment at home, and increased the consideration which, as a nation, we enjoy throughout the world.

Such and so founded is the advice which we give you



touching the mode in which you should prefer your claims to public esteem and confidence. If that advice be followed, we fearlessly predict that out of your ranks our society will receive as large an accession to the members who are to be its future props and ornaments, as from any other corps of equal force that anywhere, during the present epoch of our national existence, may be ushered, as you are about to be, out of the scenes of preparation for active life, into the midst of the bustle and anxieties and toils and dangers of that life itself.

Again, we admonish you not to think that because, as the representative of the Faculty of the Medical College, through the exercises of which you have passed, we have defended the scheme of education adopted and carried out there into practice, either myself or my colleagues are so wedded to our plan of operations as not to admit the propriety of reform, or that we will not with alacrity engage in a work of improvement, whenever such improvement becomes practicable. Without the fear of contradiction, we maintain that you have never heard from us one word in defence of that old fogysm which clings to present usages, either because of veneration for their antiquity, or of greed for the lucre which may vanish with their permanency. On the contrary, we feel assured that what you have heard of our sentiments and seen of our conduct, has wrought the conviction in your minds that we are eager to co-operate in any work of educational reform which the medical public of our Union may suggest. Such a work of improvement would of course have in view a prolonga-

tion of the term now prescribed for the study of medicine, and an enlargement of the field of investigation which that course of study now includes. The two changes thus indicated must unquestionably be made together. Present usage designates three years as the novitiate of a candidate for a degree in medicine. The departments of knowledge he is required to review during that period of time are already of disproportioned magnitude. If, therefore, more be added, increased time must be allotted, to insure the performance of such an increased amount of labor. Moreover, a remodelling of the present order of studies is proper, and would become necessary as a part of the projected reform. According to the system now in vogue, but little distinction is made in respect to priority between the branches of medical knowledge which are elementary in their nature, and those which are compounded and practical. The last, it is plain, can be readily and fully comprehended only by those who have mastered the first. Beyond dispute, he who has not studied anatomy, cannot learn to perform the operations of surgery: he who has no knowledge of chemistry, cannot understand the processes of the pharmacist; and he who is ignorant of the structure and functions of the human body, cannot be indoctrinated touching the nature of its disorders, and the mode of their remedy. Yet, in despite of these plain teachings of common sense, we see at every session of every one of our medical colleges, multitudes of students who should scarcely be permitted to set foot on the threshold of the Temple of Medicine, ushered unceremoniously into its



inmost recesses, there to listen to prelections and to gaze at demonstrations, the value of which must in the very nature of things be to them an impenetrable mystery.

Let what we have said, then, suffice to prove that your late instructors are alive to the existence of faults in the system of teaching through which you have just passed, and that they are ready at all times to stand forth as the champions of a reformation. What we have to say further in the same connection, will relate to the mode in which such a work of amelioration may be accomplished, and the part, the very important part—for such we think it will appear to be—which you yourselves may play in its accomplishment.

A little reflection will make it evident that no thorough and radical change of the kind indicated can be effected suddenly, or after a wholesale fashion. Such a revolution, if it ever occur, must be the work of time, and of efforts directed in a way to affect the conduct of individuals rather than the movement of masses. Medical tuition in our country, by a custom too inveterate to be readily uprooted, is divided into two periods. During the first, the student pursues his investigations under the direction of a single preceptor, selected because of his eminence as a practitioner of medicine; whilst the second is consumed in attendance on the lectures and demonstrations of a college. Accordingly, to correct the abuses we have designated, a work of cooperation becomes necessary, including amongst the agents by whom it is to be performed, the mass of our profession on the one hand, and the professors of our schools on the other. The first-

named division of instructors, having control, as they do, of the pupil before his mind can have received any wrong bias, must labor to impress upon it the necessity of a long, and patient, and thorough investigation of the elementary branches of medicine—of Anatomy, of Chemistry, of Botany, and of Physiology—as indispensable preparatives to every judicious attempt to fathom the mysteries of the practical departments of our profession. Whilst this work of reform is pressed vigorously, the second division of the instructors we have designated should urge truths of a similar nature on the attention of the same class of aspirants, and should labor by every artifice to induce such as resort to them to complete their studies, to devote at least one year of their collegiate course exclusively to the acquirement of elementary knowledge.

It is evident, therefore, from the practical view of the subject just propounded, that each one of you may very soon, if you will, become active and efficient collaborators with us in the reform of which we speak, and which we all regard as so desirable: each one of you may and should soon become a teacher of medicine. Our earnest advice is, that you will do so; that, in a word, one of your first efforts to attract the attention of the community, should consist in an attempt to impart knowledge to those about you who have entered on the career which you have just concluded. Having taken this important step towards eminence in your profession,—for such beyond question it will prove to be,—inculcate the truths we have just announced on the minds of your pupils. Confine their early



investigations, as far as practicable, to the elements of medical science, and urge them to protract their course of study beyond the usual period, and to extend it far beyond the limits of our present custom. This task being faithfully performed, your responsibility as preceptors in your offices will cease, being the consummation of a faithful discharge of your duty; and all accountability for the future on the same score will be cast upon us, or others who, like us, control the conduct of an institution empowered to give passports into the domain of medicine. That balance of accountability, moreover, under such circumstances, will be far from being easy of avoidance. Those on whom it rests will thereby be plainly designated, at the same time that they will be shorn of all excuse for future derelictions, inasmuch as a large portion of the difficulties which now lie in their way, and seem insurmountable, will then be in a great degree either removed or overcome.

I have thus advised, as it were incidentally, that you should, as speedily as practicable, become teachers of medicine. Let me, because of its importance, make a special inculcation of this wholesome counsel touching the efforts you should make to reach professional distinction, and, what is a more worthy object of your ambition, a position in which you may enjoy the delights springing from the consciousness that in your day and generation you are passing lives of honor and of usefulness.

That a step such as we have counselled would carry you on in the way of preferment as physicians, is a proposition to which a little reflection on your part will insure a ready

assent. Thereby, whilst you bring yourselves in an advantageous point of view before the public, you will at the same time be making your own improvement in knowledge, and in the habit of seeking and ensuing it, and of loving it to the extent even of devotion, a matter of assurance. It is far from being an easy matter to impart to others the information which you have not acquired for yourselves, and stored away in your own minds, in a shape of perfect order and accuracy. Your students, too, if you are faithful and assiduous in the performance of your duties to them, become, as the result of one of the strongest ties by which the youthful and generous heart can be bound, the present heralds of your reputation, and its future most enduring monuments. You can find, then, no serious obstacle to hinder you in the adoption of the expedient we suggest, other than your own apprehensions arising from your inexperience. Feelings of distrust, springing from that source, may induce you to decline the task we enjoin, because you may think it one better suited to the mature judgments of those elders in the profession by whom you will not fail to find yourselves surrounded. If you take this view of the subject, moreover, we must admit that your notions have some show of reason in their favor. Nevertheless, when carefully scanned, you will discover that such apprehensions suggest no impediment that cannot be either overcome or circumvented. Whilst it must be conceded that physicians older than yourselves, who have learned practical medicine where alone it can be thoroughly learned, in the field of practice itself, and under the feelings of responsibility which,



in every mind endued with proper responsibility, must be awakened by the attempt to apply the rules of our art for the relief of suffering and the salvation of lives, have on this score claims to the preceptorship of those who aspire to become their associates, which are eminently worthy of consideration: on the other hand, you will not fail to find an offset to this view of the subject, when you reflect that you, at the outset of your attempt to secure the confidence of the community, will have much more time to devote to the work of instruction than can be spared by others who are already established in character; and that, besides, the very branches of medicine which should receive the almost exclusive attention of the office-pupil, are just those in which you are the most proficient; and, above all, that inasmuch as you are fresh from your own studies, you are thereby peculiarly fitted to aid those who are about to commence them, since no one can be better qualified to assist others in surmounting a series of difficulties than he who has just overcome them himself. Moreover, if you are not convinced by considerations such as we have propounded, every possible objection in the way of the course we are urging you to adopt will be obviated, provided you ally yourself in the work of instruction with some practitioner of eminence. Thereby, whilst you supplied any deficiency which might arise from his want of leisure and of familiarity with the elements of medicine, he, on the other hand, would bring up, in aid of your efforts, his practical tact and matured experience.

To stop the mouths of gainsayers, we have just passed

in brief review the large amount of knowledge which has been spread before you during the period of your pupilage. Vast undoubtedly it is, compared with the means of acquisition which are made accessible to such of your contemporaries as are seeking admission into other honorable pursuits. Still, when what you have learned touching medicine and its associate departments of science is set over against what you may yet acquire, the difference between the two is like that which exists in pecuniary affairs between a decent competence and boundless wealth and magnificence. You well know that we have never taught you to think that, by a few years of application, no matter how unremitting, you could make such acquisitions of knowledge as would give you a warrant to fold your hands in idleness, even for a single day of your future career as practitioners of medicine. To be sure, we have maintained, as we do now maintain, that by a mastery of the general principles of our art, such as we think you have gained, you could qualify yourselves for immediate activity in a wide sphere of usefulness, and could display a title that would be unquestionable to precedence over all others, no matter what might be their eminence in other branches of learning, who had never gone through your series of investigations, and had never been subjected to your course of discipline. This idea we have impressed on your minds, and, convinced of the truth of such an estimate of your worth, we have urged you to step fearlessly into the arena of life, and to treat with mingled scorn and compassion the pretensions of those who, devoid of your education, would assume to be



your professional rivals, or to controvert your professional opinions. But at the same time we have taught you, as we now counsel you, not to look to a comparison between yourselves and others who have never enjoyed or availed themselves of your advantages, as to a standard of excellence. On the contrary, our admonition to you has been, as it is now, to employ yourselves much more in learning the lessons of humility, which are inculcated by noting the distance that intervenes between you and those who have stood heretofore, and who now stand, on the pinnacle of eminence, than in harboring the unworthy feelings of self-satisfaction, paralyzing as they are to your efforts at improvement, that will always be incited by a parallel between yourselves and those who are, in certain senses of the term, immeasurably your inferiors. At the same time that we reiterate our previous counsels on this head, we take pleasure in the expression of our convictions that one of the good fruits produced by the seeds of knowledge we have been instrumental in implanting in your minds, is made manifest by the fact that you now derive, and will hereafter continue to derive, more pleasure from a contrast which indicates your inferiority to those far in advance of you, than in a vainglorious survey of the interval which you have placed between yourselves and those who cannot be and who never should pretend to be your competitors. We have indeed formed a very erroneous estimate of the dignity of your sentiments, if you are not able to contemplate without feelings of annoyance, nay, with feelings of the purest delight, even such excellence as you can never hope to

reach, whilst that degree of it which you know to be attainable, as the result of patient toil and persevering industry, affords you a theme for contemplation infinitely more animating and pleasurable, as it is infinitely more ameliorating in its tendencies, than any picture, however vivid, of that inferiority above which you have a rightful confidence of elevation.

So much for the purpose of reminding you that we have not instructed you after such a fashion as would tend to make you self-satisfied and careless in regard to future improvement. Thence we proceed to another consideration relative to what has been already achieved in the work of your education—beyond doubt the great work of your lives—and a consideration, too, which is closely allied to that one on which we have just dwelt. This is embodied in the assurance that, valuable as the information may be with which you have stored your minds whilst your studies were carried on under our direction, it is as nothing when compared with the invigoration of the powers of your understanding, and their increased aptitude for application, which are the certain results of your late course of instruction.

You will readily comprehend, thus, how it has come to pass that we have all along attached more value to your habits than to your acquisitions; to the love we may have seen you manifest for knowledge, than to the amount of it which you may have attained for the time being. We know that you might fit yourselves for the ordeal of an examination, actuated by no other feeling than the love of praise or the fear of reproach and disgrace; a feeling which might sub-



side with the occasion that gave it birth, and might, therefore, be productive of no good results of a permanent nature. On the contrary, when we noted in you a thirst for knowledge, which would lead you in its pursuit, regardless of any ulterior object, and in defiance of all obstacles, we hailed such a demonstration as a bright omen of a life of usefulness and distinction. Again, then, we summon you to stand forth as our witnesses that, though it has been our effort as your preceptors to make you learned, and that although, in making that effort, we have carefully culled out of the stores of medical science such of its treasures as ought to be amongst your earliest acquisitions; still, acting under the assurance that profound scholarship could not be the result of our brief labors for your benefit, we have directed our attention to the more attainable purpose of so forming your habits of observation and reflection, and of so training your tastes and inclinations, as to fill your minds with steady resolves that the investigations you have here commenced should be carried on to the very termination of your lives, with a perseverance that would be untiring, and a zeal that would grow purer and brighter with every hour of its indulgence.

In taking leave of this topic, to which we have been so careful to direct your attention, we cannot resist the temptation to quote a series of observations, of the same purport, once addressed to a class of his pupils by a distinguished teacher of Mental Philosophy, himself a member of our profession. Speaking of the mode of instruction by which he would ever be guided, he says: "Though I shall endea-

vor to give as full a view as my limits will permit of all the objects of inquiry which are to come before us, it will be my chief wish to awaken in you, or to cherish, a love of those sublime inquiries themselves. There is a philosophic spirit which is far more valuable than any limited acquirements of philosophy, and the cultivation of which, therefore, is the most precious advantage that can be derived from the lessons and studies of many academic years; a spirit which is quick to pursue whatever is within the reach of human intellect, but which is not less quick to discern the limit of every human inquiry, and which, therefore, in seeking much, seeks only what man may learn; which learns how to distinguish what is great in itself from what is merely accredited by illustrious names; adopting a truth which no one has sanctioned, and rejecting an error of which all approve, with the same calmness as if no judgment were opposed to its own, but which, at the same time, alive with congenial feeling to every intellectual excellence, and candid to the weakness from which no excellence is wholly privileged, can dissent and confute without triumph, as it admires without envy; applauding gladly whatever is worthy of applause in a rival system, and venerating the very genius which it demonstrates to have erred."

Such is the spirit of medical philosophy, far more valuable than any limited acquirements of that philosophy itself, with which it has been our chief desire that you should become imbued. The acquirements you have made may fade—nay, they will fade—from your memories, unless



their impression be constantly renewed; but the temper and disposition to which they give birth will be enduring. Scholarship, according to the ideas which have guided us in your instruction, consists not so much in the stores of learning already in the memory and the understanding, as in that discipline of the mind which fits it for a ready discernment of truth, no matter how impenetrable to ordinary observation, and for its prompt application to the varied purposes of practical life, in despite of all the obstacles that may spring from intricacies and complexities. If you are trained, as we trust you are, in accordance with our intent, though stripped of all your knowledge, were such a procedure practicable, you would still be left in the enjoyment of the most valuable part of your education. There will certainly come to all of us a time when knowledge, as we are assured from the pen of inspiration, will vanish away. In another and a better state of existence, the learning we have here acquired will perish from our memories, with the perishable objects to which it related; but our aptitude for the attainment and appreciation and enjoyment of knowledge, having become as it were a constituent portion of the only immortal part of our being, will remain as ever-during and as imperishable as the soul itself.

Another consideration which we have endeavored to impress on your minds, and which is well worthy of reminiscence on the present occasion, relates to the value which you should attach to your profession: that, we have ever maintained, should be of a high rate. We have taught you to respect the profession of medicine, because of its useful-

ness; to love it, because of its intimate alliance with all the virtues that follow in the train of benevolence; to venerate it, because it reckons among its ornaments many of the most powerful minds whose existence is graven on the records of history, and because of the vast amount of profound truth and sublime speculation which distinguishes it as a science, and signalizes its achievements as an art. Forming so high an estimate of the calling in the ranks of which you are now enrolled, we repeat our earnest solicitations that you do all that lies within the limits of your power to assure it, not an undue preponderance in society, but that great weight and that large consideration to which it is justly entitled. This view of the subject opens up to you a field of reform requiring your most assiduous efforts, in order to a fulfilment of your duties. In every million of our population there may be found, on an average, two thousand physicians. Such a body of educated men must and do have weight and consideration with the public. Still, they have not that degree of influence to which they are justly entitled. They, in common with the clergy, the farmers, the merchants, and the mechanics, are eclipsed in honor by the members of a truly great and noble profession, which, however, should not be permitted—as there are other professions equally great and noble—to get so far the start of this our majestic New World, and bear the palm alone. All the posts of honor and of profit, growing out of necessary public trusts, exhibit amongst their incumbents a proportion of five lawyers to one individual of any other pursuit. This inequality is, in part, the inevitable result of the close rela-



tionship which subsists between the profession of law and our government in its two great departments of legislation and the administration of justice. In regard to the effects of such a condition of things, we are free to admit that they are such as the philanthropist loves to contemplate. Lawyers have always been and are now found in the lead of all the noble enterprises of our nation. We must grant, too, that no body of men, outside of the body of physicians themselves, have ever evinced a greater spirit of liberality towards the promotion of the interests of our own science. Still, with all its great advantages, great evils grow out of the existing condition of things. It is wrong, in the first place, that any one calling in society should be permitted to make a monopoly of its high places. Then the thing, as a system, does not work well. If it did, the most deserving of our legal oligarchy should fill the most important offices. This, however, is not the true state of affairs. On the contrary, the largest portion of our eminent lawyers, devoted to the duties of their profession, do not solicit, and will not take, posts of political distinction. It has come to pass, accordingly, that our government, instead of being a lawyerarchy, which might be an endurable evil, has taken on the degenerate form of a pettifoggerarchy. In that shape, admirably contrived as it is otherwise, it performs its evolutions in a low sphere, seldom if ever being brought to bear for the accomplishment of any great object, or the furtherance of any noble enterprise. Strive, therefore, to counteract this state of evil, as far as lies within your power. Lend your influence, on all occasions, to the elevation of men of

worth, without regard to their pursuits; and with the same fearless impartiality set your face sternly in opposition to the pretensions of all impudent upstarts. So far as your own aspirations may be concerned, do not think that, by the counsel just given, we would urge you to seek political preferment for yourselves. We do say to you, however, that if inducements of a sufficient character offer themselves, you should not decline office because of inferiority in respect of qualification to most of those who will be your competitors. We know your attainments and your talents, and are convinced that there is amongst you as much material, out of which to make useful public servants, as is to be found in the same number of graduates of any law school in any quarter of the Union.

As an important corollary of the general advice just given, we counsel you always to exert yourselves, to the utmost, to place the broad arrow of public disapprobation upon every one, within the circle of your influence, who entertains and advocates opinions that are derogatory to the value of our profession, or that tend to countenance any system of quackery or delusion. If by any fair means you can keep out of public employ, and of course off of a vantage-ground for the dissemination of his pernicious heresies, any advocate of empiricism, do not fail to put them in requisition. Such a course of conduct is due, not only to your own feelings of self-respect, but also to the interests of humanity. Mark it well that you will be working to effect your own degradation, and will be derelict to the highest trust confided to you by society, if by direct aid or by re-



missness you assist in placing any individual of the tribes we have designated in any post of influence, whether political or educational. Of the man who has not correct ideas of medicine you should form the notion which the great poet has propounded of the man who has not music in his soul. Say of such a one everywhere, by your voice and your vote, "Let no such man be trusted." And here, as something naturally suggested by the train of thought which we are now pursuing, I cannot refrain from stating to you, as something worthy of note in the annals of the State where you have closed your course of medical instruction, that although every one of its legislatures, for the last twenty-five years, has included amongst the number of its members a considerable portion of regular physicians, the appearance of any of the tribe of quacks in that body has been an unusual event. This felicitous state of affairs has been due in part doubtless to the general good sense of our community; in part, also, to the fact that few men who have either the sense, or the information, or the tact which might give them eminence, will defile themselves so far as to wallow in the cesspools of quackery; but it is with as much certainty, in good part, due to the influence exercised by the corps of two thousand educated physicians, which, as already intimated, are disseminated throughout the length and breadth of our commonwealth.

You are yourselves ushered before the public under a fiat in regard to your professional qualifications, issuing from an institution that is governed by medical men, and by them exclusively. There, accordingly, you have been

taught, both by precept and example, that in order to insure a healthful condition of the general interests of physicians, so much of them as relates to the mode of medical education must be retained in the keeping of the profession itself. If resigned into other hands, they must be confided either to the public at large or to associations of individuals. In the public, the profession might place reliance, for the mass of the community, though a minority may err, are not prone to give countenance to systems of charlatany. But the community has other engagements, and cannot give such concerns the attention they demand. Hence, the government of medical institutions, if surrendered by physicians, must be given up into the hands of associations, in the nature of boards of trustees; and such associations, carefully selected as they may be, are always prone to take on the form of cliques, and to be controlled more by feelings of whim, or by a selfish desire for the aggrandizement of their own families, or their own political party, or their own religious sect, than by a sense of propriety. For proofs of the practical evil results growing out of such a state of things, we need point to but two instances—one in our own country, the other in Europe. In the University of Detroit, a Board of Regents have lately attempted to foist an advocate of the doctrines of homœopathy into one of the chairs of its medical department; and the same sacrilege has been actually perpetrated, by a set of authorities similarly constituted, in the heretofore venerated College of Edinburgh. Take warning, therefore, from the observance of such desecrations, and do all that lies in your



power to prevent their repetition. The chief means of accomplishing an object of so much importance, has already been designated. No other precaution can be taken that will prove of much avail. To prevent its high places from being filled with impostors, the medical profession has, we repeat, no other resource left to them than that of grasping the reins for themselves, and becoming the exclusive arbiters of all questions affecting their own interest. Take your stand, then, firmly on this ground. Resolve neither to be teachers in, nor patrons of, any institution for medical instruction which, by any procedure of the kind designated, commits an outrage on the general sense of the medical world.

In thus advising you to stand by the rights of your profession to self-government, we do not counsel you to any course which should be deemed unreasonable. On the contrary, we only call on you to observe a universal custom of society. The members of every other calling and trade assert their right to regulate the customs of their craft. With what show of justice, therefore, can your pretensions of a similar kind be gainsaid? Would the divine submit without resistance, if we assumed to control the ecclesiastical seminaries of our country; or the lawyer, if we affirmed a right to prescribe a course of legal studies? On what just ground of pretension, then, can they, or any other class of society, undertake to do for us what they will not permit us to do for them? In the history of unjustifiable interference, or at least as much of that history as is furnished by the annals of our own nation, there is

perhaps but one other instance which equals in flagrancy the attempts that have been made from time to time to place the educational interests of the medical world beyond the control of physicians themselves.

That has been evinced in the various efforts that have been made to take the control of our judicial tribunals out of the hands of men learned in the law, by placing side by side on the bench with a judge so qualified for the performance of his duties, two others, to overrule his opinions, and to expound and administer faithfully those rules of justice, of whose very existence they must of necessity have been wholly ignorant. This outrage on common sense, the offspring, as it has ever been, of low demagoguism and mean jealousy of the legal profession, has always been strenuously, and, in most instances, successfully resisted. Emulate, accordingly, the example thus set before you, and assent to no arrangement whereby the avenues to our calling shall be guarded otherwise than by the vigilance and discrimination of its own members. Your reward for the observance of this injunction will be found in the assurance, of life-long duration, that you are a member of an honored and honorable association: your punishment for its neglect, on the other hand, will come in the shape of the humiliating conviction that a large body of your colleagues are charlatans and impostors, and that you yourselves, being judged of by the company in which you are found, hold a place but a degree higher in public estimation.

In connection with the topic on which we have just des-



canted, we cannot refrain from paying what we would have regarded as a marked tribute of respect to the Board of Trustees, to whose care the authorities of the State, in whose metropolis we are assembled, have confided the interests of the University, of one of whose highest honors you are now the recipients. That body, ever since its first organization, has comprised, as it now does, some of the first citizens of our republic. Its acts, too, have been in keeping with its composition. And of those acts, leaving upon them the stamp of liberality of feeling, and of an earnest, unselfish desire for the advancement of the cause of learning, none is more worthy of eulogy than that which laid the foundation and insured the success of the school of medicine which you have selected as your Alma Mater. Thereby the control of the institution which it founded is given without reservation into the hands of an association of physicians. No layman can intermeddle with its policy, nor can, by intrigue nor by influence, foist any empiric into any of its seats of instruction. Such a display of disinterested munificence is as single in its defiance of the clamors of demagoguism as in its regard for the public welfare. If, therefore, in after times, you note that the Medical School of the University of Nashville maintains itself uncontaminated by every foul imposture—standing forth proud and unblemished, whilst others which are its contemporaries show a tarnished escutcheon—you will know to what source to ascribe the chief portion of the honor due on account of such a pre-eminence. One pledge, to be sure, was exacted by the founders of our college from those to whom they sur-

rendered its control, embodied in a covenant that they would establish a school of medicine, and maintain it on a respectable footing. The pledge was given without hesitation. The security for its redemption is found in the fact, as already stated, that those who are obligated are themselves physicians, who know the foundations on which the honor of their profession reposes, and whose interests and duties in that respect can never come into conflict. Before high Heaven, then, and the cloud of witnesses here assembled, we renew the vows we have taken. Conscious of the sincerity of our determinations, we now accordingly proclaim that, let others do as they may, we will stoop to no unworthy expedients. Others hereafter, as others have done before, and are doing now, may offer their degrees on cheap terms—cheap, we mean, so far as expenditure of time and labor is concerned—for the purpose of swelling the catalogue of their pupils: we will continue, as we now do, to deplore their errors and to prevent the contagion of their example. You well know that we never enticed you into the walls of our College by syren songs, having for their burden the abridgment of the course of preparatory study enjoined by the established custom of the country. On the contrary, you have the evidence on record, that we have always been ready to prolong rather than to curtail that course, and that, whilst we have lamented the errors which it involved, and have called for reform, our cry has been, not for amendments which would shorten, but for such as would protract both the period and the number of the



studies of those who are anxious to enter the ranks of our profession.

In carrying out the determination, thus expressed, to move firmly on in the path of duty, we are deterred by no fear of consequences. Honesty, we confidently believe, will in this, as in all other instances, prove to be the best policy. Some pupils may, and no doubt will, be induced to give a preference to the schools which pretend to designate a short route to the really distant summit of knowledge. The majority, however, we are convinced, will, with yourselves, prefer a certificate of qualification coming from some other quarter. Nothing, indeed, in the present condition of the medical profession in the United States, tends more clearly to prove that the feeling which pervades and actuates it is of a healthful character, and such as may well challenge the admiration of the community, than the fact that the schools of medicine which set up and adhere to a high standard of education are the most flourishing and prosperous; whilst those who flaunt other, and, of course, illusive banners, have a patronage as scanty as their deserts are diminutive. Such is undoubtedly the present condition of things, and such we trust it will ever continue to be. Should a revolution occur in times to come, we hope that our hold on your confidence will command your belief, when we give you an assurance that it shall not involve us in its direful vortex. We know, that in times to come, it will be a matter of pride and pleasure to you to learn that the institution through which you entered the

ranks of your profession, stands high in esteem and patronage; but we know, furthermore, that you would prize its honor beyond its prosperity. When you hear of it, then, as you will often hear in future, you may learn that its classes, numerous as they have been of late, are diminished in numbers, perhaps that its halls are closed because they are no longer, as now, a place of throng for instruction; but you shall never hear that, through a grovelling lust for pupils, it has sacrificed its principles. The Medical Department of the University of Nashville stands to you now, so far as your education is concerned, in the relation of a parent. You may hear, perhaps, before you complete your own earthly career, of the dissolution of that parent; but it shall never discredit your birth into the world of science, by dying in disgrace, and being huddled unceremoniously and undeplord into a grave of dishonor.

What we have just said touching the extraneous influences bearing upon our professional interests, has relation exclusively to the action of individuals or small associations. Closely allied to that topic, there is another, which leads us to a consideration of the amount of governmental interference with our concerns which is compatable with our interests and the good of the community. On this head, we have said all that we deem it necessary to say, when we notify you that, in the existing condition of public sentiment, you are likely to be but little annoyed by any officiousness on the part of our legislatures. They may, it is true, create boards of censors or examiners, to open or close our doors of admittance; but the authority of such



tribunals, though by no means pernicious in its exercise, will be rendered comparatively null by the custom of the country, which gives to the diploma of a medical school a large degree of credence as a passport to public confidence, whilst it quite ignores a certificate of qualifications issued by a Board of State Censors. Equally inefficient, too, as experience has demonstrated, will prove to be all enactments which may be from time to time made for the purpose of thwarting the devices of quackery. Until the spirit of the times has undergone that change which is ever a gradual, and never a violent revolution, large amounts of nostrums will be manufactured, puffed, and vended, and swallowed; and such amounts would be rather increased than diminished under the perversity of feeling too often engendered by prohibitory statutes.

If, therefore, your opinions accord with ours on these points—and scrutiny of the subject cannot fail, we think, to bring about such an agreement—you will not be found amongst the number of those who are clamorous for legislative aid, either to our recruiting service, or to the defensive works which we may be striving to erect against the assaults of quackery. Nevertheless, we are ready to unite with you in an earnest endeavor—the importance of which you should never for a moment lose sight of—to keep it well impressed on the minds of our legislators that, in all the attempts which they make to fulfil their obligations as the guardians of education—obligations which the wise framers of our constitutions here inscribed high on the list of their duties—they should not give to medical education

less than its due share of regard. Make them to understand the importance which is attached to it in every other portion of the civilized world. Be prepared, also, to inform them in regard to the munificence of many of their predecessors in our own country. Let them know, on all fitting occasions, that the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, and Louisiana, have all, from time to time, made large bequests to medical colleges. Enforce particularly on their attention those views of the subject which, whilst they set forth in strong light the necessity of medical knowledge to the well-being of the community in time of peace, will demonstrate clearly that, in time of war, it enters into the structure of the right arm of our public defence. Remind them often that even in the countries of the old world, where the common soldier is for the most part culled out from amongst the offscouring of the earth, and esteemed only as fit food for gunpowder, the public sense of humanity would be excited, to the extent of an outbreak, were it proposed to send an army into the tented field, to encounter the risks and the horrors of war, without the appendage of an able, skilful, and well-appointed corps of medical attendants. Then the memories of those who for the time being control our public affairs, being so refreshed, force them to the conclusion that a neglect which would disgrace any nation of the old world, would be a horrible atrocity amongst us. Let them never forget that, when our republic engages in the dreadful work of war, her armies are made up for the most part, not of



base hirelings, but of gallant volunteers; that the blood which is shed in our defence on the field of battle flows from no caitiff's veins, but is the best blood of all the land; and that, therefore, it is among the highest and most solemn of their obligations to provide all the means that may be necessary to give assurance that not one drop of the precious fluid shall ever be spilled unnecessarily or in wantonness.

Another appeal, which we make to you with confidence, touching the nature of your response, relates to the practical nature of the training which you have received at our hands. Certain we are that there is nothing in our mode of instruction which would tend to make you mere book-worms, men of learning without tact in respect to its application. Books have been recommended to you, not because their contents were the real treasures of which you were in pursuit, but because they were aids, great, nay indispensable aids to the attainment of those treasures which are to be found in actual embodiment only in the store-houses of nature herself. All along have we endeavored to make you understand, that after the acquisitions of science which you may have made in the mere preliminary task of observation, contemplation, and meditation, your work would remain unfinished, until you had gained the more important knowledge which relates to the mode of turning those acquisitions to account, by applying them to useful purposes. At the same time that we so instructed you, we endeavored to guard you against the erroneous opinion too commonly entertained, that you could acquire such an amount of

learning as would prove an impediment in any sphere of the active duties of life.—That learning is never in truth that

——“Cobweb of the brain—  
That art of encumbering part and wit,  
And rendering both for nothing fit,”

which many regard it.—That, on the contrary, he who is designated as a mere book-worm—whose mind is nothing more than a lumber-room, filled with good things of which he is able to make no use—is the victim not of an excess, but of a deficiency of knowledge.—That such a one, in a word, is unfitted for the duties which his education assigns to him, not because he is too learned, but because either through error of his own or of his teachers, or through lack of capacity, he is but half learned, having never yet acquired the art of making an application of his knowledge to useful purposes. What proves the correctness of the views we thus propound and reiterate as a matter of vast importance to you, is the undeniable proposition that we would not either improve or reform the book-worm by stripping him of any portion of his acquirements. Thereby we would only subtract from his claims to consideration without adding a mite to his capacity for usefulness. The latter metamorphosis could be effected only in one mode. That, when adopted and carried out, would reject no part of his learning as useless and cumbersome, but would bind him down assiduously to the task of making new acquisitions. He would come into our hands in some sense a scholar. Our training, to be successful, must make him not less, but more, a scholar. Facts in great abundance are already stored away in



his understanding. We would make him a fool if we robbed him of such wealth. We complete, on the other hand, the work of wisdom already begun in him, when we give him more knowledge—knowledge, to be sure, which exceeds all other kinds of attainment in value, but none the less knowledge on that account—knowledge of the modes in which knowledge may be displayed in such a fashion as to heap honor on its possessor, and inestimable benefits on the race to which he belongs.

You go hence to enter upon scenes of trial and difficulty. Enrol yourselves as a member of what community you may, the task before you is one hard of accomplishment—one indeed that, but for the lights of experience, would seem almost impracticable. If you seek to make a home amongst strangers, herculean efforts will be required to bring those around you to the conviction that it would be a thing of prudence on their part to commit the keeping of their health to a youthful and unknown applicant for a trust of such magnitude. If you return to the homes of your infancy and boyhood, whilst you will there no doubt enjoy every manifestation of that kindness and regard to which your known character and the strength and respectability of your connections give you an indisputable title, you will not fail to find many of your best friends slow of heart to believe that the stripling who lived amongst them theretofore as a claimant of their guardianship and protection, has attained to a maturity in understanding and in wisdom such as fits him to play a tutelar part in matters which involve the very being of themselves and of all who are bound to them by

the dearest ties of affection. Let such obstacles, great as they may be, and great as they undeniably are, awaken in you feelings of animation, not of despondency and discouragement. What would the prize be worth that could be won without a struggle? Nerve yourselves, therefore, for a determined effort, and having commenced it, strive on with that firm assurance of success with which you must be inspired when you reflect on the success of your predecessors. Prove by your assiduity in study, in observation, and in attendance at the bedside of the sick, that you are enthusiasts in the cause of suffering humanity, which you have espoused. Demonstrate to all around you, what at first thought may seem incredible, that man when prostrate in his physical and intellectual and moral powers, nay, when loathsome to ordinary contemplation from the effects of sickness, is to you an object not only of the deepest solicitude, but of the most eager curiosity. Show by your conduct that, whilst others devote themselves with rapture to the work of scrutinizing the human body in its might and magnificence, when its every lineament is radiant with strength and beauty and intelligence, and its every movement and attitude is the perfection of grace and majesty, you can, with no less display of earnestness and devotion, consecrate yourselves to the same masterpiece of creation, when it is so metamorphosed, as it may be, by the foul spell of disease, that its presence brings before the senses and imagination a world of horrors and disgust, instead of its wonted world of wonder and delight. This point having been attained, complete success will soon be the reward of your perseverance.



Monuments of your skill, too, will soon rise in numbers about you—monuments not of inanimate material, bearing flattering inscriptions, such as would tend rather to awaken distrust than to command belief, but living, moving monuments, whereon a record to your honor will be found engraved in unmistakable characters—the characters which indicate restored health and renewed vigor of body and of mind—characters which, being the device of Heaven itself, can never be counterfeited or made the vehicle of falsehood.

The brightest results that you can confidently anticipate as the reward of the toil and privation through which you have heretofore passed, and through which you have yet to struggle, is distinctly indicated in one of the most animated pages of Scripture history. There it is recorded of the most afflicted of mortals, that, in the course of the sublime speculations and profound reflections illumined by bursts of eloquence such as have never been surpassed, into which he was led by the events of his adversity, he passed over in review all the enjoyments which poured in upon him like a flood during the days of his unparalleled prosperity. In this melancholy retrospect, what do we note him to designate as constituting the climax of his felicity? Was it the splendor with which unbounded wealth had surrounded him? No; for he had well learned to place its proper estimate on the vanity of absurd pomp. Was it the luxuries that were strewed around him in a profusion that made him a stranger to want, and almost ignorant of the very nature of desire? No; for sensuality had been long expunged from his nature by a taste for purer, more lasting,

and more ennobling pleasures. Was it the honied adulation poured in his ear by troops of professed friends, in words and tones of choicest selection, at every opportunity? No; for his present experience impressed too forcibly in his mind a sense of the just value of summer admirers and sunshine sycophants. Was it the honor and distinction which were heaped upon himself and his family by the world around, ready then, as it is now, to bestow its favors where they are least required and less merited? No; for he had just had a most impressive lesson touching the fleeting nature of earthly honor and earthly preferment. On what one, then, of his recollections of bygone rapture do we find him dwelling with most transport? Making light comparatively of all things else, we note him rapt in ecstasy while he recounts the fact that there was once a period of his life when "the blessing of him who was ready to perish came upon him." "The blessing," he exclaims, "of him who was ready to perish came upon me." Here, then, gentlemen, as just intimated, your highest hope of reward is clearly indicated. Toil on, as you have heretofore toiled, in fulfilment of the great task you have imposed upon yourselves; and whether wealth or poverty be your lot, whether you pass your lives surrounded by a throng of admirers, or in the solitude of neglect; whether you are loaded with distinction, or live but obscurely useful; still, you can pass through your existence here, supremely happy in the assurance that, over and over again, "the blessing of him who was ready to perish has come upon you!"

