

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
OF
PHILADELPHIA.

THIRD SERIES.
VOLUME THE NINTH.



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money, the making of laws, or altering the constitution, the majority of the fellows shall be a quorum.

13. Every fellow upon his admission shall subscribe to the above rules, as a testimony of his consent to be bound by them. He shall at the same time pay into the hands of the treasurer the sum of eight dollars towards establishing a fund for the use of the college: he shall likewise pay two dollars annually for the same purpose.

This amended constitution of November, 1787, has been signed by every fellow elected since that date. It has not been heretofore printed.

THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS,
MADE TO THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, BY THE FIRST PRESIDENT THEREOF,
DR. JOHN REDMAN.

GENTLEMEN: At our first meeting to form a society under the style and title of a College of Physicians, and to organize ourselves by choosing proper officers and members, so as to constitute a body, you were pleased to honor me with your suffrage and elect me your President. Upon that occasion I felt myself oppressed, and, for some reasons, undetermined whether I should continue in the office; I therefore signified my acceptance only by a tacit consent rather than otherwise. On my return home, under a strong impression of the weight, both of the office and my obligations to you, I sat down and wrote what occurred to me as a suitable address to you at our next or some future meeting, that might be most proper. Being unavoidably prevented, I had not the pleasure of attending your next meeting. But having now the peculiar happiness of seeing you convened in a body, and, I trust, united in those bonds which are the result of most benevolent principles, and may be efficacious for the most beneficent purposes, I feel highly honored in appearing before you as your official head, and therefore deem it a proper opportunity to express my respects to you and regards for the society, by addressing you in the very words I then wrote, which I the rather chose to do, as they are dictated by the high sense I then had of the importance of the institution and its future eminence if rightly conducted, and were suggested by the immediate effusions of gratitude, without any exaggerations or artificial colorings, and for which, indeed, I have no talents, if I had even desired or designed it. Being not used to speak in public, I must beg leave rather to read it than attempt to pronounce it from memory, which, at my age, is not much to be depended on, and, while I bespeak your patient attention, I hope, cannot but assure myself of your candid and favorable construction of the matter, and benevolent excuse of any defects in the manner of delivering it.

When I look round me and see so many gentlemen of character for learning, ingenuity, and integrity in the profession and practice of physick, and some whose talents have early called them forth into public notice and offices of dignity in the medical line, and who have conducted therein, for many years, so much to their own reputation and to the satisfaction and advantage of their pupils and of their fellow-citizens; and then look within myself and consider my own powers and the time allotted to me by Providence, from the state of those powers, and also that time of life which I have walked in from choice, having in my constitutional frame no great desires of exaltation above the middle state, nor higher ambition than to conduct therein rather with integrity and usefulness than éclat. After such a view I said it would be vanity or arrogance in me not to suppose that my election was more owing to the generous benevolence of your own minds, as a mark of respect to my age and long standing in the profession, and as a kind and disinterested testimony of approbation of my general conduct in life, and regularity in the practice of our art, than to any peculiar merit of mine. Nevertheless, I am equally bound in duty and gratitude to return you my best thanks for the honor you have done me, which I now do most heartily, to you gentlemen the senior fellows who elected me, and also to you gentlemen junior fellows, who, I am informed, unanimously approved of my election; more especially as it places me first on the list of presidents of the College of Physicians, both in the State of Pennsylvania, and, I believe, in all the United States of America. This reminds me of two things, which I cannot recollect but with concern, and indeed I ought to regret. The first of them is that this institution did not commence at an earlier period, and in the lifetime of one whose person, age, character, and reputation for medical abilities and respectable deportment to and among us, as well as his generous, just, and benevolent temper of mind, and great acquaintance with books, men, and things, and proper attention to times and seasons, would, I am persuaded, have pointed him out as our first object. And it would have been the highest gratification to me, as I believe it would to you all who knew him, to have given our suffrages unanimously to place him at the head of such an institution. Having said this much, I am sure his name will readily recur to you all; nor need I mention it, but that I always recollect with pleasure the name of our worthy and well-respected elder brother, and my much esteemed friend, Dr. Thomas Cadwalader.¹ Though it is now but a melancholy pleasure when joined with the reflection on the loss we sustained by his death. It would also have been very pleasing to have seen another of our elder brethren, my predecessor in the presidentship of this institution. I

¹ Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, a member of the American Philosophical Society from January 19, 1768, and one of its Vice-Presidents during the year 1769, died November 14, 1779, aged 72 years.

doubt not you all easily judge that I mean Dr. Thomas Bond,¹ more lately taken from us, and who so long and deservedly maintained a reputation for judgment and skill in the profession, and indefatigable assiduity to the last in the practice of physick and surgery. But they are no more—*Et Heu! Hinc illæ lachrymæ, Mors fuit ut semper inexorabilis. Et Tempus quod omnia devorat, homines quæ bonos medicosque humi prosternit.* And there may they rest in peace till old time itself shall expire, and that scene commences when these mortals shall put on immortality. The other circumstances I have to regret is the loss of that spirit of business, and that activity and vigor of body and mind, with their several faculties (such as they were), which I was once possessed of. Whence I fear I may not be able to comport myself so fully up to the dignity of the station you have placed me in, and the credit of the institution as may yield the complete satisfaction to you or myself could wish. These considerations occasioned some hesitation in my own mind at first in accepting it, at least no small apprehensions in myself, as feeling the weight rather oppressive, and overcome by the height of the prospect to which my imagination fondly raises the institution in dignity and utility if rightly conducted; and to which our united wisdom, prudence and steady perseverance, will be found competent, even though my declining powers should not be equal to the part allotted me. But as I can be sure of the most candid construction of my actions and most benevolent excuse of my defects, which they will bear, with such friends with whom I have been long connected, and always transacted business to our mutual satisfaction and advantage. And I am confident of all needful aid from every member, not only on duty as such, but considered as medical gentlemen, whose peculiar characteristics is to succor those who labor under infirmities and diseases; and if you live long enough you will all be convinced by experience (as I am already) that old age, even in its commencement, partakes more or less of them both; and as I am peculiarly happy, in not only the future expectation, but present enjoyment of all possible assistance from those of you whom I have the honor to call my professional children, and the happiness to esteem and be esteemed and respected by them as such on all occasions; I have, therefore, ventured to accept the honor you have conferred on me, and to undertake the trust you have reposed in me with a good will; nor, indeed, could I have refused them without acting contrary to that kind of gratitude which both the laws of generosity and morality require of us; and although I do it with some fears, yet also with a resolution to exert in the best manner I can all the powers I have still remaining, to which I hope your generosity will add new vigor and strength to promote the credit and usefulness of our well intended institution; reserving to myself the liberty and determination, that

¹ Dr. Thomas Bond, an original member of the American Philosophical Society, and one of the Vice-Presidents, from 1770 until he died, March 26, 1784, aged 72 years.

if I find myself oppressed with the weight, or my infirmities increase so as not to be able to conduct in my station with constant attention or full propriety, to be the first to request and insist upon my resignation of it to those whose vigor and activity of mind and body may render them more competent and proper for your election ; in which I shall heartily join, and in everything as a private member, as long and as far as my age and powers will carry me, that tends to the welfare of the society, and its useful influence for the good of our fellow mortals. This leads me to conclude and declare that though you have been pleased to honor me so far as to place me at the head of your body, and thus to make me in a collective sense your superior, yet I shall ever count it my best honor, and feel it one of my greatest pleasures to be the devoted servant of the institution, and, gentlemen, your respectful humble servant,

J. R.

Respected Brethren : After I had writ the preceding address my mind took a more serious turn, which I willingly indulged, as the current of my thoughts related to the most substantial good of the institution, and in a certain degree evidenced the earnestness of my desires to promote it. Under that view, craving your indulgence a few minutes longer, I will venture to read them as they were hastily written, exactly according to their rise, progress, and termination in my own mind, and though the manner in which they are expressed may not bear every kind of criticism, yet I trust the matter of them is such as will give offense to none, but be approved by you all ; especially as the principles and grounds of them are the words of one of the wisest of men—I mean King Solomon in his 3d chapter of Proverbs—"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and leave not to thy own understanding ; in all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths ;" the antiquity of which words I hope will be no objection to them, with medical gentlemen who acknowledge that some of their oldest authors are equal if not superior to many of the moderns. Be that as it may, they led me to consider that in one place of the Scriptures of truth it is declared (and believed by all who count them authentic, and have made them the subject of their rational attention and serious meditation), that by the God of Heaven kings reign and princes decree justice ; and elsewhere, that except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it, except the Lord keep the city the watchman watcheth but in vain. Taking these for granted, which I do most heartily, I am convinced that it highly becomes rational men in all their lawful enterprises and undertakings of importance, especially those which require wisdom and judgement, prudence and perseverance, effectually to accomplish them, to acknowledge God to be their sovereign Ruler and the Over Ruler of all events, in wisdom, justice, goodness and truth ; and also to acknowledge their obligations to him for every good they have or do enjoy, as well as their dependence upon him for any good they still hope for, or expect in the prosecution of affairs public or private, and for his protection,

direction and success therein, and accordingly to invoke his aid, and implore his blessing thereon. Hence it is that I feel it both my duty and inclination, as your oldest member, and especially as your president, and as very becoming to us at the Commencement of this our Institution in your name and on your behalf, to acknowledge the Supreme Being to be our Sovereign, Lord, and Ruler, and also our obligations to him for every mercy and blessing we have been the subjects of, and especially for giving us capacities for such an undertaking, and influencing our wills to engage in so good a design at this time. In the same manner I do also acknowledge our dependence upon him for protection, direction, blessings, and success; and furthermore I do, also in your name and behalf, invoke his aid and implore him to grant unto us in this and all our lawful enterprises, all that wisdom, prudence, discretion, and judgement, which are necessary to conduct it in a proper manner, to good effect and useful purposes; and also that grace which may enable us to act herein from right principles, with just motives, to good ends, and according to the best rules and regulations, so that in this and all our works and ways, we may glorify God, and do good in our days; and finally that after we have publicly or privately served our generation faithfully according to the will of God, we may be fitted for and admitted into his Kingdom and glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

MEMORIAL ON TEMPERANCE, 1787.

To the Honorable, the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania :

The Memorial of the College of Physicians of the City of Philadelphia, respectfully sheweth,¹

That your memorialists have seen, with great concern, the numerous evils which have followed the intemperate use of distilled spirituous liquors in the State of Pennsylvania. They decline taking notice of the baneful effects of these liquors on property and morals, and beg leave to confine their memorial to their influence upon the health and lives of their fellow citizens, and the population of their country.

That among the numerous diseases which are produced by the use of distilled spirituous liquors, they would only mention, the Dropsy, Epilepsy, Palsy, Apoplexy, Melancholy and Madness; which too seldom yield to the powers of medicine. That where distilled spirituous liquors do not produce these terrible and obstinate diseases they generally impair the strength of the body so as to lessen its ability to undergo that labour, either in degree or duration, which it is capable of without them. That the prevailing ideas of

¹ Adopted at a stated meeting Nov. 6, 1787, presented by Drs. Jones, Rush, and Griffiths, the Committee appointed Sept. 4, 1787.