6-15-1886

Banquet for H. H. Hill Held at Augusta House 1886

Augusta House Hotel

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COMPLIMENTARY

BANQUET

— TO —

H. H. HILL, M. D.,

— GIVEN AT THE —

Augusta House, Tuesday, June 15, 1886.

IT BEING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS CONTINUOUS PRACTICE OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

AUGUSTA, MAINE:
FROM THE PRESS OF CHARLES E. NASH.
1887.
COMPLIMENTARY BANQUET

— TO —

H. H. HILL, M. D.,

— GIVEN AT THE —

Augusta House, Tuesday, June 15, 1886.

*It being the 50th Anniversary of His Continuous Practice of the Medical Profession.*

AUGUSTA, MAINE:
FROM THE PRESS OF CHARLES E. NASH.
1887.
One of the most noteworthy of recent events in medical circles in this State was the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the entrance into practice of the distinguished Dr. Hiram H. Hill, of Augusta.

After consultation among several of the medical gentlemen in his vicinity, a meeting was called at the office of Dr. Harlow in May, 1886, to formulate a plan of proceeding. At that meeting, organization was effected by the choice of Dr. Harlow, President, Dr. Hawes, Secretary and Treasurer, Drs. Martin, Nutting and Johnson, Committee of Arrangements.

The question how best to demonstrate, culminated in the idea of a banquet in which all could participate, and each by personal endeavor offer his congratulations. Invitations were sent out, reading as printed on the next page of this pamphlet.

Replies were prompt, showing much appreciation of the movement and eagerness to join in honoring the distinguished member of their profession. All spoke warmly in praise of Dr. Hill and his good work, and many had words of personal gratitude.
The arrangements were nearly completed before Dr. Hill was informed of the design, and, with characteristic shrinking from publicity, he immediately endeavored to stay proceedings. But his friends were not to be denied the pleasure they had anticipated, and, on the 15th of June, a banquet was spread at the Augusta House, and physicians from far and near gathered to do honor to their eminent guest. There were present, also, many prominent gentlemen from other walks of life, and the assembly was truly representative of the best element in the community.

1836. HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE. 1886.

In June, 1886, our highly esteemed brother, Dr. Hiram H. Hill of Augusta, completes a half century of continued and honorable practice in the Medical Profession. His associates propose to recognize this event by a Reception in his honor, at the Augusta House, on Tuesday, June 15th, at 7 P. M.

You are cordially invited to be present.

Tickets to the Banquet, $2.00.

Please inform us by return mail if you will be present, as the number to be provided for must be known by June 5th.

H. M. Harlow, M. D. President.

J. Q. A. Hawes, M. D., Sec'y and Treas.

Committee of Arrangements.

G. W. Martin, M. D.

J. D. Nutting, M. D.

H. L. Johnson, M. D.

Address J. Q. A. Hawes, M. D., Hallowell.

Augusta, Me., May 25, 1886.

The banquet began at eight o'clock and the dinner was very elaborate. The floral decorations were handsome and the tables arranged with much elegance and taste. On the wall behind the aged surgeon, who is now seventy-six years old, hung an oil portrait of that honored gentleman as he appeared
when twenty-eight years of age. By the side of each plate lay an elegant souvenir menu card containing the bill of fare printed on satin of varied and beautiful tints.

Upon the front cover of the card was the inscription:

1836.

BANQUET

IN HONOR OF

H. H. HILL, M. D.

AUGUSTA,

Tuesday, June 15th,

—AT—

AUGUSTA HOUSE.

1836.
Upon the opposite cover of the card was the following:

**HEMICENTURIA.**

"Honor cui honor debes est."

The *menu* was an elaborate one, and was as follows:

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<th>MENU</th>
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<td><strong>SOUP.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FISH.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>BOILED.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>REMOVES.</strong></td>
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<td>Roast Spring Lamb, Mint Sauce.</td>
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<td>Roast Saddle of Lamb, with Jelly.</td>
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<td>Roast Turkey, Giblet Sauce.</td>
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<td><strong>ENTREES.</strong></td>
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<td>Stewed Breast of Lamb, with Vegetables.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VEGETABLES.</strong></td>
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<td>Green Corn.</td>
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<td>Tomatoes.</td>
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<td>Lettuce.</td>
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<td>Radishes.</td>
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<td><strong>DESSERT.</strong></td>
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<td>Apple Pie.</td>
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<td>Blueberry Pie.</td>
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<td>Apples.</td>
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<td>Roman Punch.</td>
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<td>Dr. Alton Sawyer</td>
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<td>Dr. A. E. Bessey 2</td>
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<td>Dr. C. W. Taggart 3</td>
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<td>Dr. D. E. Marston 4</td>
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<td>Dr. H. L. Johnson 5</td>
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<td>Dr. G. W. Martin 6</td>
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<td>Dr. A. P. Snow 7</td>
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<td>Dr. J. D. Nutting 8</td>
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<td>Dr. H. E. Hill 9</td>
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<td>Dr. E. E. Holt 10</td>
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<td>W. E. S. Whitman 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maj. P. M. Fogler 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Enoch Adams</td>
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there his heart goes out in sympathy to alleviate and to cure.

To-day—although he is well turned of the allotted period
of man—in the providence of God, Hiram Hovey Hill,
M. D., stands before us well preserved, strong and vigorous,
with a clear head and a warm heart, with plenty of grit and
stamina, a backbone not made of a tow string, but of steel
running clear through from occiput to os coccyx. He has
acted well his part. He continues to act well his part.
"There all the honor lies." May there yet be many years
added to his long and useful life. May all his future days be
bright and may his last days be his best.

The President introduced Dr. A. P. Snow, of Winthrop,
as Toast-master, who officiated in that capacity in a most
happy manner. His remarks were as follows.

REMARKS OF DR. A. P. SNOW.

Mr. President: In attempting to discharge the duties of
Toast-master, which have been assigned to me by the Com-
mittee of Arrangements for this occasion, I am inclined to
open the book at Chapter I, omitting the Preface entirely.

And I still want to say that during the thirty-two years I
have been in the practice of medicine, I have always enter-
tained great respect and cordial esteem for the eminent
physician and surgeon, whom we have met to honor, this
evening. During all these years, I have had the honor of
his personal and professional friendship; and many times
have been indebted to him for wise counsel and efficient aid
in those trying cases of disease or injury, which so often
come to the care of the physician. And in the delicate rela-
tions of consulting physician, I have never known him to seek
his own glory, at the expense of either the patient or the
attending physician.

I have felt a deep interest in the proposition to make some
public recognition of his eminent abilities, and distinguished services in the profession, during the long period of fifty years; and now that we have met in this way to do him honor, I desire that the occasion may be a success, and enjoyable to you all. And I do not think I can better contribute to these results than by omitting further words of my own, that the time may be occupied by the distinguished and eloquent gentlemen whom I see before me, and whom I have the authority to doom to make the speeches this evening.

So now, after the Augusta Glee Club has given us a piece of music, we will commence to uncork the bottled eloquence which has been preserved for this evening's cheer.

Dr. Snow then proposed as the first sentiment of the evening, "Our Honored Guest." Responded to by Dr. Hiram H. Hill.

RESPONSE OF DR. H. H. HILL.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Medical Profession, and our invited Guests present: For this high compliment and public demonstration of your kindly feelings towards myself, I tender to you, one and all, my most sincere and heartfelt gratitude. It is an expression of your good will, unsought and unexpected by me; and in all sincerity I can not feel that I am justly entitled to this public mark of distinction. The banquet you now hold in my honor was far advanced in all its arrangements before I was let into the secrets of the affair. I then plead to stop it, but was informed that it was no use for me to talk about staying proceedings. I learned that "Barkis has got to be willin."

Now, gentlemen, I wish I could talk of something to interest you in return for this voluntary expression of your friendship and good will for me. I never like to talk about
myself, but as you are all familiar with my professional career up to the present time, perhaps I can not do better than to give you a very brief account of my origin, and early part of my life—for instance a trace of my boyhood—though some of it will be, to me, rather humiliating, but possibly none the less interesting to you. I shall try to state all correctly, and begin where I was begun, in this State, County of Oxford, town of Turner, little above North Turner bridge, on the west bank of the Androscoggin river, April 30, 1810. I was sent into this world without my knowledge or consent; I had no voice or chance to vote in the matter; did not know where I was coming to; what I was to see, hear, know or understand. I was a legitimate baby, and whether I was the result of accident, or the thing was done on purpose, I never knew. My parents were good and respectable people, intelligent, likewise my grandparents, on both sides, and all lived to good old age. As I was the first born, (my mother a primipara,) I have reason to believe that good care was taken of me.

Very early in life, I began to be an unusually troublesome boy; inquisitive to know what everything was and what for, and into all sorts of mischief. This is my mother's often repeated story of me. Early as possible in life I begun to investigate matters for myself; whether animate or inanimate, all fared alike in my hands; and as I grew old enough there was nothing that escaped me, either insect, reptile, fish, fowl, bird or beast, always busy to find out how everything was made and what for.

At the age of about four and a half years I was first sent to school, might have been to keep me out of mischief. Previous to this time, as I was one day trudging along after my father, through a yard of sheep standing and chewing
their cuds, (my father then, like Abel, was a keeper of sheep) I asked him what the sheep were chewing; he told me they were chewing their cuds; this was new to me, he explained it all as well as he could, but I was stuck, and from that time I was engaged in trying to find everything that chewed the cud. On my way to school, just out of the road I saw a large toad sitting under a spruce top, on the ground; his throat was in motion up and down. I stopped and laid on the ground near him to examine the operation. This made me late to school. The mistress (nowdays called teacher) asked what made me so late to school. My answer was, "I stopped to see a toad chew his cud." The toad and his operations, as I saw them then, are all distinct in my memory to-day, but I have no remembrance of any questions asked me about the affair by my mistress, or my answer to her inquiries.

Here I will say, to illustrate some of my methods of learning the little I know: when about nine years old, my class in school was requested by the teacher to learn the multiplication table and get it by heart. As I could not spare time during the day to attend to such a frivolous matter, I accomplished it at night after going to bed, by counting my fingers, and was soon able to recite my lesson to the teacher with perfect ease. This process I never made known until the present time.

I will now pass over any further account of my constant and numerous investigations as a young "biologist," (this word is of modern invention,) up to the age of about twelve years, when I caught a skunk by one foot, in a steel trap, the first one I had ever seen; it was on a side-hill, in thin bushes. I kept a safe distance from him. My first operation was to cut me a long pole, trimmed it up, and standing up
hill from my victim, he standing, his nose pointing directly toward me, and his tail perfectly erect; in this position I began to poke him, and at each poke with my pole his tail would drop flat on his back, instantly followed by a sharp jet of his yellow musk, striking the ground before it reached me. This operation I continued until his odoriferous weapon became entirely exhausted; none of the fluid fell upon, or touched the animal. I had now learned thoroughly the poor animal's only weapon of defence, and his mode of using it. My next operation was to find where the musk came from and how it could be thrown with such force. Odor was no obstacle to my investigations. With my knife I made such dissections as made it all plain to me, and is so to this day.

Gentlemen, I speak of these little matters only for the purpose of giving you an idea of the intensity of my inquisitiveness during my boyhood, with no one to aid or help me, only getting daily ridicule.

Not long after this, or within a year, I borrowed of an old lady, two large volumes of Goldsmith's "Animated Nature;" these books I read attentively, and learned all I could from them without help, never relaxing my amateur investigations to find the habits and mechanism of everything I could, always hearing, "Well, he'll never be satisfied till he's seen the inside of it." At the age of about fourteen I found that the tents or nests of hornets and wasps were simply a cheap kind of paper. The next thing that interested me was to find where and how they got the material for building purposes; this I did to my entire satisfaction, after giving considerable time and attention to the business. I found that it was simply the fibres of wood, disintegrated by the action of the weather, and collected when wet by the insect from the surface of old wood, the insect working
backwards and rolling his material into a little ball about the size of a pea, taking it with his feet and carrying it home. My memory made a good record of the whole operation, and after I had been in practice some twelve or thirteen years, I met a couple of young men engaged in the manufacture of wrapping paper. I asked them why they did not make their paper of wood. They informed me, emphatically, that it could not be done. I replied, it seems to me very strange that you, with all your machinery, grinding engine, Four-drinier, etc., can not do as much as the little insects, hornets and wasps; their nests are nothing more nor less than paper, and made of wood. After giving them some further information about the matter, and telling them how I would do it, by grinding excelsior, they commenced and ever after made their paper of wood. It is the first that they or myself ever knew of paper being made of wood, the result purely of my boy observations.

At the age of fifteen and sixteen years, I went to live with Dr. Baldwin, the village doctor, of Mt. Vernon; went to school part of the time; thought then I should like to be a doctor if I could ever know enough; thought doctors ought to know a great deal more than I could ever learn. The doctor soon found that I had learned something about his medicines, and asked me to fill his saddle-bags, which I did and continued to do while I remained with him; he rode horseback. At an early age my native mechanical skill was made a part of my business operations, as the scars on my hands, feet and legs, can now testify.

My father had a large chest of all sorts of carpenter's tools, to which I had free access. I didn't allow them to be idle after I was big enough to use them; made bow-guns, water and wind mills, boy carts and sleds, and all sorts of things a
boy could well make; never idle, and I think never ugly or vicious; no disposition to harm or injure any one; never wanted to fight, but always ambitious to know or do something that others could not. At the age of seventeen and upwards I went to live with my grandfather, and was clerk for him in the registry of deeds office; wrote a fair hand, was employed here and in the clerk of courts office for a number of years.

Here I was never idle; was familiar with all the common school books of those days. As I was now situated, a new field was open to me. I obtained some books that were new to me, such as natural philosophy, chemistry, Latin dictionary, grammar, reader, etc. My spare time was mostly occupied with chemistry and philosophy; the latter was not much of a study, could understand it fast as I could read; chemistry was interesting; made myself an electrical machine and one very large leyden jar. With the machine I could manufacture lightning and run a revolving orrery, which I made, demonstrating the motions of the larger planets. I experimented on myself, and repeatedly tried to stand on my feet while a charge from the leyden jar passed through me, but the shock would knock me down every time, in spite of my best effort to stand. With my home-made lightning I experimented and did all the pretty things I could with it. I loaned my machine and apparatus to a scientific and ambitious young man to illustrate his lectures with in some of the back towns; he was a good and very pious young man; he kept my machine and apparatus, I always thought to pay for the use of it, as I have never seen it since, or him either. With my book on astronomy, I tried to manoeuvre some of the heavenly bodies, but didn't make much head-way, though in a clear night, I could pick out many constellations, the Great
Bear, etc., but couldn't poke him as I did the polecat, and left him to take care of himself, which he has done well ever since. In Latin I made such progress that I could readily translate a good deal of the language; got a certificate of my knowledge of the language and another of my good moral character, both of which I gave to Professor Cleveland, as the laws of Bowdoin College required.

I commenced the study of medicine at the age of between twenty-one and twenty-two years with Dr. Gage, then in practice here; was with him one year. He gave me much encouragement that I would have no difficulty in getting a diploma. The next year I went with Dr. Amos Nourse, of Hallowell, and the next year after with Dr. John Hubbard, of the same place. After I had made up three years' study and two full courses of lectures at Brunswick, have reason to think I could have graduated, but I did not offer myself for graduation, as I was not satisfied with the little I had learned; wanted to go longer and further; wanted to see and know the doctors who wrote books on medicine, surgery, midwifery, chemistry, etc. In the fall of 1835, I went to Philadelphia and attended a course of lectures at the University of Pennsylvania, till the close of the term in the spring. There I received some flattering notice from Professors Horner, Gibson and others, on account of my work in the dissecting room. Found there were some things left; the book writers didn't know all; heard the aged Professor W. P. Dewees deliver his last lecture on midwifery. I learned much I did not know before.

Allow me here to speak of some of my early anatomical knowledge. When I went into the dissecting room to work, I found that I was well acquainted with the general mechanism of the heart; knew the ventricles, auricles, all the different
kinds of valves, columnae carne, chordae tendineae, musculi pectinati, etc.; knew them all then as well as I do to-day, but never knew before that such things had names.

Came back to Brunswick and graduated because I had not money enough to graduate at the University; came directly to Augusta after I got my diploma, about the 15th of June, 1836, and opened an office as a doctor; found as I began to have patients I didn't know much; but spared no time or pains in learning all I could in each and every case that came to me, but often found myself in the fog, and to get out of this dilemma, found I must reduce my examinations to a system, that no symptom should be left, and thoroughly know the meaning of each and all, singly and collectively. By this process I was greatly aided in my work, and have no doubt my patients were much benefitted by this method of investigating their diseases. Now in the year 1886, I have become a chronic doctor; have always done the best I could, never turning my back upon anybody, or anything that should be done; have treated all classes of people alike, professionally, never doing by a patient as I would not be done by myself.

I have always admired the advice of Polonius to Laertes, and when strictly followed, we shall not be likely to err in wrong doing. His advice was:

"This above all,—To thine own self be true;
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man."

About the year 1854 or 1855, the Faculty of Waterville college conferred upon me the honorary degree of Master of Arts. I never knew that I felt essentially different or better on account of the honor thus conferred; it was a very kind notice of me.
Now, Mr. President, as there are a number of gentlemen present, who may have something to say, and can talk so much better than I can, you will please allow me to give the remainder of time to them. What I have already said is merely an outline or skeleton of my boy life, but enough so that you all know me now from my beginning.

"The childhood shows the man,
As morning shows the day."

In introducing the next speaker, Dr. Snow said: Many of the warm friends of our honored guest have been unable to meet with us here this evening; I therefore propose, "Absent Friends."

Dr. George W. Martin responded.

REMARKS AND READING OF LETTERS BY DR. GEO. W. MARTIN.

Mr. President: Many absent friends of our honored guest, who were unable to attend this banquet, have sent letters of regret which will speak for themselves in language more eloquent than mine.

The following letters have been received by Dr. J. Q. A. Hawes, Secretary of the Committee of Arrangements:

Dr. S. C. Gordon.

Portland, May 28th, 1886.

Dear Sir: I hereby acknowledge the receipt of a communication, inviting me to be present with the members of the medical profession, to "do honor" to Dr. H. H. Hill, of Augusta, June 15th prox.

I very much regret that absence from the country will
prevent me from participating in this interesting meeting of those who will truly delight to do honor to this most eminent veteran of the profession.

To few men is it given to enjoy to such an age the vigorous intellect and rare judgment possessed by Dr. Hill. To a much less number is it given to enjoy for so many years the sincere appreciation, unswerving confidence and cordial affection, so manifest on the part of the entire profession of the state. His monument is already builded in the hearts of his friends and acquaintances. His name will be cherished for generations to come as one of the noblest among the noble. I can only join with all of you in wishing him many years of comfort and happiness, which a life so well spent so richly deserves.

Very truly yours,
S. C. GORDON.

Dr. S. Laughton.

Bangor, May 28th, 1886.

My Dear Sir: I sincerely regret that circumstances beyond my control prevent me from being present and joining in doing honor to our worthy friend and brother, Dr. H. H. Hill, in appreciation of his long and valued services in his chosen profession of medicine and surgery, covering half a century.

His professional career has been one of marked success. Being richly endowed with great genius, good common sense and sound judgment, and possessing a thorough knowledge of medical science, keen and critical in his clinical examinations, he has been able to make his diagnosis with the ease and accuracy of reading from the page of an open book, and in knowing his enemy has been able to vanquish him.

May God bless our noble brother, and may he yet have many years of usefulness and happiness left to him, and may the record of his good deeds which are graven upon the hearts of the thousands of rich and poor alike, to whom he
has ministered in their hours of suffering, be taken as a
pattern and followed by every young man in our profession.
I am very sincerely yours,
S. LAUGHTON.


16 West 58th St., N. Y., June 6, 1886.

Dear Doctor: I regret that imperative business engage­ments make it impossible for me to be present at the reception
to be given on the 15th inst., in honor of Dr. Hill, to
whose great worth and distinguished professional career too­warm praise can hardly be given.

It is pleasing to be classed among his friends, and I thank
you for extending to me the invitation.

Very truly yours,
THOMAS H. HUBBARD.

Dr. William Wood.

My Dear Sir: Sickness and other causes have prevented
an earlier reply to your polite invitation and that of your
associates to be present at the reception in honor of Dr. H.
H. Hill, to­morrow evening, at Augusta.

Since the days of the war of the rebellion, when I was not
infrequently summoned, not exactly by a bugle call, but by
an equally stirring one from the Governor of the state, to
meet with Dr. Hill and others for the purpose of examining
those who proposed to enter the army as surgeons and
physicians, I have ever entertained for him personally the
most sincere regard and the highest appreciation of his
thorough knowledge, tact and skill in the profession that he
has so long adorned. There may even be some present with
you at this celebration, who, having honorably passed the
ordeal to which they were subjected by him, will very readily
accord to him, as do all who know him, the most complete
possession of these characteristics of the good physician and surgeon, so desirable at that time for the protection of the soldier.

I only regret that the state of my health will prevent me from being present on this interesting occasion and in doing my part in rendering "Honor to whom honor is due."

That he may yet long be spared to the members of the profession which he has done so much to elevate and adorn, and to the community in the midst of which he has labored so long and so honorably, is the sincere desire of his quondam associate, and through and for all time, his friend.

WILLIAM WOOD.

Portland, June 14th, 1886.

Dr. Sidney B. Cushman.

Wiscasset, June, 1886.

My Dear Doctor: Your very kind invitation to meet the members of the profession at Augusta this week was duly received, and in reply, I will say it would be a very desirable event in my life to meet my life-long friend, Dr. Hill, to join in this greeting to be bestowed upon one so worthy and so honorable, in a professional life of fifty years, who has been so courteous and so kind, as I have always found him to be. My relations with him have always been of the right kind, and the expressions of kindness are to-day fresh in my recollection.

I, too, have passed my fiftieth year of professional life, and we can march on together, shoulder to shoulder, until we join the great festivities that await those that have been faithful to suffering humanity; like Him who went about doing good.

Please offer my fraternal regards to the brethren present.

Very respectfully yours, &c.,

SIDNEY B. CUSHMAN.

P. S. Send me a doughnut if you have any to spare.
Judge Danforth.

Gardiner, May 31, 1886.

Dear Sir: Yours inviting me to the reception to be given to Dr. Hill at the Augusta House is received. I regret that I shall not be able to attend, on account of official engagements in another part of the state. I have known Dr. Hill almost from the beginning of his practice, and it would give me great pleasure to bear personal testimony to his great worth as a man, a citizen, and a physician as well as surgeon, did not unavoidable engagements prevent.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES DANFORTH.

Dr. J. A. Pierce.

Stockton, June 7th, 1886.

Dear Sir: Manifold regrets that business pressure prevents my acceptance of your cordial invitation to be present at the reception to be tendered our distinguished cotemporary, Dr. H. H. Hill. Greeting to the noble "Old Roman!" One of the constellations of our profession; a man whose reputation is not confined to the narrow limits of his own town, county or state, like us lesser lights, but the effulgence of his professional sagacity shines the country round. May blessings be showered on his declining years, is the earnest wish of his friend and admirer.

J. A. PIERCE.

Dr. Israel T. Dana.

Portland, June 12, 1886.

My Dear Doctor: It is a matter of deep regret to me to be unable to be present at the reception in honor of my old and much prized friend, Dr. Hill, on the occasion of his completed half-century of practice. My necessity of absence from the state at that date is explained in my private note to you. Amongst the honored veterans of the profession in Maine, there is not one to whom I would be more glad to
pay the tribute of my personal respect and affection than to Dr. Hill.

His marked ability, his independence of thought, his fertility of resource, his mechanical ingenuity, his fidelity to his patients, his genial nature, his constancy of friendship, his sprightliness and wit, his loyalty to the profession and deep interest in everything relating to its honor and welfare, his zeal and activity as one of the founders and promoters of the Maine Medical Association and the Maine General Hospital, are known and appreciated by us all.

To him, as a dear personal friend, a delightful companion, an eminent practitioner, a highly respected and public spirited citizen, a leader among his brethren, a Nestor of the profession, full of honors as of years, on the very rare occasion of a fiftieth anniversary of entrance into practice, I tender him my most cordial and affectionate congratulations and kind wishes.

Very respectfully yours,

ISRAEL T. DANA, M. D.

This is one of the many appreciative letters Dr. Hill has received:

Mrs. Virginia H. Curtis.

My Dear Dr. Hill: Half a century of work like yours is well worthy of grateful recognition. I am glad to learn that the good citizens of Augusta are proposing to show their appreciation of what you have been to them and to our grand old state.

Let me add our congratulations to theirs. They are most genuine, springing from many personal obligations, from the friendship of a life time, and from the sacred memory of that beloved father who looked upon you as upon a younger brother or adopted son.

Mr. Curtis and "my boys" join very heartily with me in sincere thanks for many personal favors, and in the earnest
Hiram H. Hill, M. D.

hope that for Mrs. Hill and yourself there remain many years of happy usefulness.

With kindest regards for Mrs. Hill,

Sincerely and gratefully,

VIRGINIA H. CURTIS.

218 Orange St., New Haven, Conn., June 14, 1886.

Dr. Martin said: I also have interesting letters from Drs. S. B. Morrison, Bangor, J. S. Cushing, Skowhegan, L. W. Pendleton, Portland, E. P. Wing, Lynn, Mass., T. M. Griffin, Pittsfield, J. Robbins, Norridgewock, R. Dixon, Damariscotta, J. Donnell, Houlton, W. B. Lapham, General H. M. Plaisted, Major Phipps, W. S. Badger, Esq., Augusta; telegrams from Drs. C. W. Bray, Portland, and Fred W. Webber, Newton, Mass., which I should be glad to read; but the number of speeches yet to be made and the lateness of the hour, allow us no time for that purpose.

A distinguished contemporary of our guest was then called upon to respond to the toast, "Fifty Years Ago."

Remarks of Hon. J. W. Bradbury.

Mr. Chairman: I came here this evening with the understanding I was not to be called upon to make a speech. I came to show my great regard for my valued friend, our honored guest, and my appreciation of the noble profession in the very front ranks of which he has long held the most prominent position.

Such a life, so distinguished, crowned with fifty years of most skillful and successful practice, deserves to be commemorated.

I inherited my regard for the medical profession. My
honored father was a physician; and more than half a score of young men began their professional studies under his instruction, all of whom proved successful in their chosen calling.

Mr. Chairman: Why should we not all have special regard for the physician? He is the first to receive us on entering into the world, and the last to quit us on leaving it; and in all our trials and bodily afflictions on our journey through life he is with us to advise, relieve and sustain us.

But I am wandering from the sentiment of the toast you have offered. I should go back fifty years. I will go back further. Our guest reminds me by certain characteristics, more than any other man I have ever met, of a very eminent physician and surgeon, whose lectures I attended sixty-two years ago. I refer to Dr. Nathan Smith. He delivered lectures before the medical school connected with Bowdoin College at Brunswick. Strong common sense, a mind clear as crystal, penetrating to the bottom of the subject, were the qualities he impressed me as especially his. Such a mind, like that of our honored friend, must have marvellous skill in ascertaining the seat of a disease, the enemy he is to attack, and in the selection of the proper remedies to secure success. The profession fifty years ago had generally emerged from the routine of practice when the three principal remedies were emetic tartar, calomel, and the lancet. There has still been a great advance in the knowledge of diseases and of their mode of treatment, and greater still in surgery, in the last fifty years; and the Medical School of Maine has done a noble work in carrying forward the profession. This school has furnished for our state, and sent to other states, a body of graduates that for practical knowledge, skill and success, may challenge comparison with those of any like institution in the country. Our state may well feel proud of such a school, and of so distinguished a member of it as our honored guest, who, by his eminent skill, fidelity and unwearied labor for fifty years, has been a benediction to the community that crowns him with its confidence, esteem and veneration,
The next toast in order was "The Medical School of Maine. She deserves no less of congratulation in the motherhood of such a son than that which she is both proud and happy to extend to him, the guest of the evening."

Professor Alfred Mitchell responded.

**REMARKS OF PROF. ALFRED MITCHELL.**

Mr. Chairman and Brethren: I presume that by virtue of my official relations with the Medical School of Maine I am called upon to respond to the toast just read, certainly not on account of my fitness for an after dinner speech. I could not, however, decline to do what might appear to be an official duty towards one of our most distinguished graduates, and on the other hand, my admiration and affection for him prompted me to undertake what by universal consent is acknowledged to be both a delicate and generally unsolicited office.

We were all instantly impressed with the eminent fitness of this occasion when we had read the graceful invitation of the immediate friends and neighbors of this honored and venerable brother whose name is a household word in all these regions and the regions beyond.

Confining myself to the limits set me by our toast master, I am led instinctively to indulge in retrospection. Our school was in its infancy when our distinguished guest was one of its students and graduates; but it was reared and cared for by men of learning and genius, and this latter attribute is not to be limited in its fullest significance when we apply it to the character and professional attainments of Dr. Nathan Smith, of whom I once heard the late Professor Willard Parker, in the course of one of his lectures, exclaim with
uplifted arm and lighted countenance, "Gentlemen, Nathan Smith was a great man, one of the greatest that this country ever saw;" and then followed a digression so hearty and enthusiastic, and coming from such a source, that we all knew that Nathan Smith was a great man.

There, too, was Cleavland known I doubt not to many present, as the perfect teacher. In his elegant and model eulogy from the classic pen of the late President Woods, it is recorded that the great professor "loved Nathan Smith more than Werner;" a rare and signal evidence of what must have been the characteristics and qualities of our first professor of Surgery, Practice, Anatomy, and Obstetrics as well. When our friend entered upon his professional study, the department of Anatomy had not lost the impress of that most remarkable man, John Deane Wells, at the mention of whose name the revered and now sainted Professor Packard would always display the utmost enthusiasm and indulge in expressions of unbounded admiration.

It is a sad commentary upon the mutability of human affairs which has transferred these names beyond the memory and knowledge of the present generation. Dr. Wells died at the age of thirty-one, no doubt from the result of arduous professional work. The last work of his last earthly labor was done in the lecture room of our school, to which he was daily brought on a bed of sickness. He was graduated at Harvard College; he was the most popular man of his class, alike with instructors and students. He was a graduate of Harvard Medical School, and afterwards had extended opportunities for study abroad, especially in his relations with Bichat. He was a most zealous student, a rare teacher, an elegant lecturer; from those who heard him I learned that he manifested rare powers; what perfect knowledge of the subject taught, animated and attractive address, united with a handsome person, a ready and choice selection of language, could effect to render a lecturer accomplished, had been in the fullest degree supplied to Dr. Wells. He was a gentleman always. It is said of him that he never uttered an unkind
word, or performed an unkind act. He had a nature of singular purity. His accomplishments were undimmed by the least degree of pedantry; with all these attributes there was a moral firmness which manifested itself under all circumstances. During all the time of extreme bodily pain not a murmur of complaint escaped his lips. He calmly resigned the high and cherished ambitions of this life, left behind all its precious associations and work, and having adjusted his business affairs, spoke parting words of consolation to his much sorrowing friends, and in full expectation of a glorious immortality, fell asleep.

I fear that some may say that I am indulging in irrelevant and unwarranted eulogy, and that eulogy is an unreliable and prejudiced source of a true knowledge of life and character; but I am deeply impressed with the feeling that I have been permitted here to reveal to you a notable exception to the possible truth of such an assertion, and I would wish that the memory or knowledge of this rare and beautiful life which half a century ago was sacrificed in behalf of our noble profession, might be kept alive, and that his character and labors, which so much contributed to the abundant success of our school in its earliest days, might, through the power of example, be to us in these later times, a source of inspiration and renewed endeavor. Our museum and library were mainly of his founding, and contain evidences of his rare power of selection; they mutely speak of the

"Touch of a vanished hand
And the sound of a voice that is still."

Nor must we omit mention of Mussey, Robie and Childs, the immediate successors of Smith and Wells, and the instructors of our honored guest; they were worthy successors and held high aloft the standard entrusted to them.

We are inclined to look upon the past as more eventful and more endowed with marked characters than our time. What pictured representations of forensic display of our day could we look upon as upon those which set forth the majestic
and matchless Webster, or the inspired and brilliant Clay, holding by the power and splendor of their oratory an enthralled audience of faces and forms which seem quite unlike those of to-day? The dignified deportment, Addisonian speech and dress in accord, would seem now to be fitting only such personages as they were.

The representative men of our profession were alike noted for similar attainments. They stamped more of individuality upon their works; they were fewer in number relatively; they read fewer books, their lines of thought were confined to narrower limits, ampler time was afforded for work, undisturbed by telegraph or telephone. Hence the strength and solidity of their attainments. Books were not issued too rapidly for the reading, or periodicals with their surfeit of uncut leaves. Specialties whose thorough cultivation require the work of a life time, were unthought of. Social and religious problems were not so much agitating the minds of men, not twice or thrice daily were spread before them the varying events of the whole globe.

To-night we are called upon to do honor to one whose youth and early manhood were passed under and amid such influences as we have attempted to portray; the solid acquirements he then gained have been supplemented by constant growth; upon the original structure has been reared the best that modern times has had to afford. The old time dignity of bearing has not made him less welcome in the dwelling of the lowly or the shops of the artisan, than in the homes and companionships of those higher in station, and yet none would venture to undue familiarity in his presence. He has not sought for preferment or success by doubtful methods. We know him as a despiser of sham and pretension, and as one who estimates men by their true worth. We who have had his aid in our professional needs, have always recognized him as a master. His diagnostic methods are deliberate, methodical, thorough and well nigh infallible; his therapeutic suggestions, wise and philosophical; his fraternal relations thoughtful and considerate; neither rudeness nor
hypocritical suavity have served to place at disadvantage his less wise or younger brethren.

Is it not, then, a matter of just pride that the Medical School of Maine, by its representatives, is permitted to join these festivities in honor of one of her most distinguished sons, and to congratulate him upon his noble life and work?

This occasion will serve to stimulate us to new and more earnest endeavors to train up others who in after days will emulate his example, confer honor upon us and render incalculable services to their fellow men.

The Medical School of Maine then most cordially and affectionately extends its congratulations to its honored son, upon the completion of his half century of high and successful professional work. She fondly hopes that other years of usefulness lie before him crowned by a peaceful and serene old age.

REMARKS OF DR. E. E. HOLT.

Mr. President: We are called the silent profession, but when we desire to give honor to whom honor is due, we are never silent in acts or words. We are prompted by these considerations to be present here to-night and add our testimony to the great worth of our distinguished confrere, whom we honor by this reception. It is altogether fitting that some recognition should be taken of any one who has completed fifty years of continued and honorable practice of medicine, for it falls to the lot of but few men to accomplish such a grand result. We should, however, be derelict in our duty, if we did not recognize such an event in the life of such a genius as Dr. Hill. None have met him without pleasure and profited by the fertility of his resources, especially by the facility of his mechanical turn of mind to overcome all obstacles to success in the treatment of difficult cases.

In fifty years of active practice it falls to the lot of but few men to give counsel and advice to so many patients and
fellow physicians; for from the first was his skill sought by a large circle of patients and practitioners throughout the state.

Always true, always kind and generous, he wears the honors of a benefactor of mankind.

"Age sits with decent grace upon his visage
And worthily becomes his silver locks.
He wears the marks of many years well spent,
Of virtue, truth, well tried and wise experience."

Sentiment, "The Physician and Surgeon, as a factor in the administration of law."

RESPONSE BY JUDGE LIBBEY.

This sentiment was responded to by Judge A. Libbey; but as his remarks were entirely extemporaneous and no report was taken, and he has declined to attempt to reproduce them for publication, we can not give them. He at some length described his ideal of the qualification, duties and responsibilities of the physician and surgeon when called into court as an expert witness, and then came to the particular subject of the occasion and paid a just and glowing tribute to Dr. Hill as an expert witness in court. He concluded as follows: "And now, Mr. President and gentlemen, I am going to violate one of the rules which I have given for the government of an expert witness. I am going to express the positive opinion that the just and true standard of his profession, as a factor in the administration of law and justice, has never been lowered by our distinguished friend and guest."

Sentiment, "Maine Medical Association. All honor to its founders."
This was responded to by Dr. A. J. Fuller, of Bath.

REMARKS OF DR. A. J. FULLER.

Some time early in the year 1853, several well known physicians of the state of Maine, after consultation, agreed to form what is now called the Maine Medical Association, for the cultivating of a more thorough medical education and fraternal relations among its members; and on the 28th of April, 1853, a preliminary meeting was held at Brunswick, and the following officers were chosen to serve until the annual meeting in June:

President, Dr. Isaac Lincoln; Vice Presidents, Drs. Alonzo Garcelon and C. W. Whitmore; Recording Secretary, N. R. Boutelle; Corresponding Secretary, T. G. Stockbridge; Treasurer, Cyrus Briggs.

The first annual meeting assembled at Winthrop Hall, Augusta, June 1st, 1853. From this permanent organization at the June meeting at Augusta, commenced the future work of the Maine Medical Association. The first serious obstacle we met was the better accommodation for the Maine Medical School. Any of you who have ever had occasion to sit for hours and days in the anatomical lecture room in old Massachusetts Hall, know very well that the science of flexion was all that could be taught, as extension was not admissible for want of space. The members of the association immediately determined that a change should be effected. We applied to the state for a grant of land to enable us to erect a new and more commodious building for the use of the school at Brunswick. The state granted the land, but under such restrictions as came very near defeating the enterprise; but by continued perseverance, the restrictions were removed and the work commenced by Bowdoin College. For the next two years I was chosen by the Medical Association to act with the College faculty to complete the new Medical College. We all worked in perfect harmony, President
Wood and Professor Smyth ready and willing to do all in their power to facilitate and complete the work. After two years' hard and constant work by those to whom its work was entrusted, the building was completed and ready for occupancy; and as for one of the workers, I felt it the proudest day of my life when I was sure the students of the Maine Medical School could have good accommodations at old Bowdoin. From that day the school has increased in numbers, and a radical change in the course of teaching, and to-day it is a peer for any school of its class. As this work was completed, our next move was to establish a State Hospital. It was considered a great undertaking, and not without a possibility of failure; but we were in earnest, and did not allow ourselves to admit a possible failure. Under the leadership of Dr. J. T. Gilman, of Portland, a physician and gentleman who only to know was to love him, and our venerable guest whom we this evening honor, together with several other distinguished physicians and gentlemen from nearly every section of the state, the work was commenced, and so far completed that to-day it stands as one of the noblest charities of the state, and is fully meeting the purpose for which it was intended. So far as completed it is the child of the Maine Medical Association, and I am sure we all feel proud, and, Mr. President, the eminent gentleman we meet to honor this evening, was an earnest worker with us, as well as the state, to accomplish this great work; and though he might pause to see a toad chew his cud, he never stopped long enough to embarrass the work in which we were engaged. The Anatomical bill, the Registration bill, the State Board of Health, all originated in our association, all of which when completed will be of great benefit to the residents of this state.

And now, Mr. President, as we leave our homes and assemble here to honor our venerable friend and brother, Dr. Hill, it must be a pleasure to him, as well as to us, to feel that he has rounded out so honorable and well a full half century of active practice of his chosen profession; he has
always been active in advancing his profession, and the interest of his associates, and as the frost of many winters whitens his brow, may he be spared to still further give counsel to our profession; may the Maine Medical Association ever cherish the founders of the association and their services in advancing every good work; and as we cross the river, one by one, may we all feel that we will not deplore the days that are past, but welcome the prospect that brightens before us.

Sentiment, "The Maine General Hospital, the child of the Maine Medical Association; may the fondest hopes of its founders be fully realized."

The Senior Surgeon of the hospital, Dr. S. H. Weeks, responded.

REMARKS OF DR. WEEKS.

Mr. President: I can not refrain from expressing regret that some other gentleman was not called upon to respond to the sentiment proposed in honor of the Maine General Hospital. Of one thing, however, I am sure, no one can feel a deeper interest in that institution than myself, and no one can have a stronger desire to do honor to our distinguished guest of the evening, Dr. H. H. Hill, of Augusta.

The sentiment proposed, "The Maine General Hospital, may the fondest hopes of its founders be fully realized," leads me to inquire who were the founders, what were their hopes, and to what extent are they being realized. The list of honored names, both in and out of the profession, is too long for complete enumeration, and I must confine myself to the names of a few in the profession. I recall with pleasure and mention with pride the names of Drs. Gilman, Stockbridge, Wiggins, Weston, Monroe, Dana, Fuller, and last, but not least, Dr. H. H. Hill, our honored guest of the evening. During the fifty years of active practice, which we celebrate
to-night, full as they have been of noble and heroic deeds, no act stands out more conspicuously than the part he took in inaugurating and causing to be built the Maine General Hospital. From its very beginning up to the present time, he has been its firm friend and supporter. In its early history, when the question arose as to whether other forms of practice than the regular should be admitted to the hospital, his voice was raised in defence of the regular practice, in language which could not be misinterpreted or misunderstood. The following is a copy of a letter written to Hon. Bion Bradbury, touching this subject:

"Hon. Bion Bradbury, My Dear Sir: In reply to a letter received the 15th from President J. L. Chamberlain of Brunswick College, asking my attention and attendance to a meeting of the committee to consider the propriety of admitting the Homœopaths to the Maine General Hospital. To the gentlemen of the committee, I venture to speak for the medical profession of Maine, no; for the hospital and myself, no. I am one of the first in the state to inaugurate or have built, and in the city of Portland, a General Hospital for the benefit, comfort and convenience of our people who may need hospital care and treatment. The hospital was not originated or built for the purpose of admitting Homœopathy, Hydropathy, Electropathy, Neuropathy or any other pathy. One has as much right as the other to the hospital, and no more. Question, shall the medical profession of this state abandon and give up the hospital to the pathys? Positively it must be so before any amalgamation of pathys can be had or made with the medical profession of Maine. I speak for the profession. Why is this constant and persevering application of the pathys to mix themselves with the medical profession, not only in this state, but throughout the country?

"It seems to me, and no one can doubt the fact, that it is simply for the purpose of gaining notoriety, and if possible, that they may avail themselves of the opportunity to cry persecution."
“If the Homoeopatlis or any other paths are pleased to build for themselves a hospital, I will guarantee, under a bond signed, sealed and delivered in presence of the angel Gabriel, that no gentleman in the medical profession, will, under any circumstances, ask for a corner, a ward or other chance in their hospital. They can be sure of no imposition of the sort. Let it be understood and known, now and forever, that pathys of all sorts, are to sit or stand, as best suits their convenience, upon their own bottoms, if they have such things. The medical profession of Maine will positively do the same, and ask no mixing with pathys, nor will it ever permit any.

Yours truly,

H. H. HILL.”

In the beginning of the present century there was not a hospital for the sick, nor an asylum for the insane, in all New England. The spirit of philanthropy was not then awake and actively engaged as it now is in inaugurating and putting into operation countless instrumentalities for the amelioration of society. The value of hospitals and kindred institutions was not then appreciated or even recognized. Since then, Massachusetts has built a General Hospital, its McLane Asylum, and Boston has built its City Hospital; Maine has its Asylum for the Insane, its Marine Hospital, and now it has its General Hospital, of which it may well be proud.

In the second place, we were to inquire what were the hopes of the early founders of this institution. It was their desire that a hospital should be built which should be an honor and a blessing to the people of the state. It was their earnest wish that its transcendent benefits should extend to every man, woman and child within the confines of the state. It was also their desire that it should perform the office of a school of observation and instruction, furnishing the best means for acquiring proficiency and skill in the different departments of medicine and surgery; and this is a consid-
eration, the value of which can not be over-estimated in its bearing upon the interests of society.

Having now stated very briefly some of the objects and hopes of the founders of the hospital, I come to the third question proposed, namely, to what extent are these hopes being realized? In answer to this inquiry, I will quote the words of one whose voice we were always glad to hear when living, and now, though he is dead, he shall speak and give us his opinion touching this part of our subject. I refer to Dr. William Warren Greene. While in London, in 1881, attending the International Medical Congress, in a letter written to me just before he sailed for home, he used these words: "Everywhere I go and with all that I see, the Maine General Hospital grows in my estimation, in the excellence of its construction, location, appointments, and in the value of its work." Dr. Greene had visited the principal hospitals in this country; he had visited those in London, Edinburgh and Paris, and yet he was ready to say that with all his observation, the Maine General Hospital grew in his estimation, in its location, construction, appointments, and in the value of its work.

It is hoped and expected that very soon the munificent gift of one hundred thousand dollars, bequeathed by the late Ex-Governor Coburn, will be received, when the directors will be able to establish more free beds, so much needed, and then shall we begin to see the realization of the hope expressed, that the transcendent benefits of the hospital might extend to every man, woman and child within the confines of the state.

I have already exceeded the time I intended to occupy in my remarks, and in closing, I will repeat the sentiment proposed, in which we can all unite, "The founders of the Maine General Hospital, may their fondest hopes be fully realized." And I am sure we can all unite in the hope that our highly esteemed guest of the evening may live many more years in full possession of all his faculties, which have been so long and so earnestly engaged in the relief of human
suffering, and in elevating the standard of the medical profession of our state.

Dr. Snow said:

Mr. President: As the years go by we all get fonder and prouder of the Pine Tree State. Let me give you, "The State of Maine, her possibilities are almost boundless. May her achievements be great." I will call upon the Attorney General, Hon. Orville D. Baker, to respond.

Responded to by Mr. Baker. No report of his remarks could be obtained.

Dr. Snow said:

Mr. President: I will now give you, "The Surgeons of Maine in the war," and call upon Surgeon-General A. Garcelon to respond.

Responded to by Dr. Garcelon. No report of his remarks could be obtained.

Sentiment, "The Press."

Responded to by Hon. D. T. Pike:

REMARKS OF MR. PIKE.

Mr. Chairman: I move that this article of the warrant be indefinitely postponed on account of the lateness of the hour. "The Press," which has both the ability and the habit of speaking for itself with uncommon success, needs no words of encomium from me or anybody else. I have, however, a big speech in me, and only lack the time to let it out. I therefore ask the congressional privilege of giving it to the
public through the columns of some reputable journal. So far as the distinguished gentleman whom this assemblage has met to do honor is concerned, he understands perfectly well the high estimation in which he is held by me; consequently it is wholly unnecessary that I should add anything to the words of deserved praise which have been so eloquently uttered by those who have preceded me; and modesty forbids my telling this audience what I believe that gentleman thinks of me. To escape, therefore, being voted a bore by this tired and over-taxed auditory, I subside into a silence more eloquent than any set speech could possibly be.

Sentiment, "June, 1836. After a courtship of three years our guest entered into matrimonial bonds with his beloved profession. June, 1886. We now commemorate the golden anniversary of this union. May he live to enjoy the celebration of the diamond wedding, and may we be there to aid in doing honor to one who has so honored us."

Dr. F. C. Thayer responded.

REMARKS OF DR. THAYER.

Mr. President:

After his fifty years of experience incident to such an espousal, we, to some degree, the fruits of this union, the children, grand children, friends and neighbors, in the profession, assemble to extend our congratulations to him on the completion of half a century of honorable service. And while upon this auspicious occasion, we do most heartily congratulate him on his signal success as a true and devoted husband to a most exacting, though agreeable spouse, we find ourselves wondering if the congratulations should not be as fully, and with more reason, extended to the profession, on account of the great good he has rendered it, in all these
years, by his faithful counsels, rare judgment and original contributions.

To him, the profession owes a debt of gratitude for many and varied reasons, as we who have had occasion to rely upon his skill and judgment, must fully realize. Pregnant of truth and meaning as is the expression of the poet, when looking at the far off beauties of nature, he asks,

"Why do the cliffs of shadowy tint appear
More sweet than all the landscape smiling near?"

and answers in the same breath,

"'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view,
And robes the mountain in its azure hue."

Here, on the contrary, the nearer we come to the everyday life and achievements of our honored guest, do his works appear magnified and his efforts to maintain and elevate the profession assume vaster proportions.

Ripe in years and experience, with faculties as keen, with undimmed eye and a heart as full of love for the profession and suffering humanity as fifty years ago, he still remains with us. God grant that many years may yet be his. And should it be otherwise, and we not be able to commemorate the diamond anniversary of this union, sure it is that the brightness of his professional character will rival the luster of the diamond, and the record of his life will be engraven in enduring characters as if with the diamond’s point.

In response to the toast, "The Maine Insane Hospital; the medical profession of the State have confidence in its management, and feel a deep interest in its prosperity," Dr. Bigelow T. Sanborn, superintendent of that institution, made the following remarks.
Mr. President and Gentlemen: After listening to the very able and extended remarks of the learned and distinguished gentlemen who have preceded me, it is fitting that I should be brief.

Whatever success has attended the management and operations of the Maine Insane Hospital, during its forty-six years of existence, no small share should be placed to the credit of our distinguished and honored guest. His ability as a physician and sound adviser, antedated even the initial organization of this charity, and his services have been sought by those in charge, frequently and uninterruptedly, from the very earliest days of the institution.

The Maine Insane Hospital has experienced vicissitudes as well as prosperity, and, in common with similar institutions, in its infancy, there were times when it struggled for existence; when, without the aid of able, external and professional support, its object and interests would have suffered immeasurably.

Although I desire, as its representative, here and now, to give full expression to my feelings of appreciation for the very valuable support, so uniformly and unhesitatingly rendered by the medical profession throughout the State, yet to no one has its management been placed under deeper obligations than our esteemed guest.

Frequent visits during almost the entire period of his professional career, have familiarized him even with the details of the hospital. Aside from his mature and valuable aid as a consulting physician and surgeon, the institution has received many gratuitous, but practical hints, from his full store-house of mechanical ideas.

Possessing such marked characteristics, requisite for a physician and surgeon, and maintaining from its inception so deep an interest in the well being of the institution, it is not surprising that his ability should be recognized and his advice sought by my learned and distinguished predecessors, Drs. Isaac Ray, James Bates and H. M. Harlow.
We are not only placed under individual obligations, but the State as well, is to be congratulated for so true a friend and able defender of its eleemosynary institutions.

True to himself, to his profession, and to his fellow men; may our guest live many years to round out a life of usefulness.

Hon. W. P. Whitehouse, Judge of the Superior Court for Kennebec county, was called upon and responded as follows.

REMARKS OF JUDGE WHITEHOUSE.

Mr. President:

It is a personal satisfaction to be able to give some expression, however inadequate, of my admiration for the distinguished ability and success of Dr. H. H. Hill as a physician and surgeon, and his sterling worth as a citizen and a man.

The uncertainty of the law is almost proverbial. The principles of right and justice, however, are not usually doubtful; but the application of them to the great variety of facts in special cases, often presents a choice of measures involving the exercise of a sound and careful judgment. So it is a matter of common knowledge that the science of medicine and surgery is not an exact one. The character and symptoms of disease must obviously vary in different persons according to age, sex, habits and constitution. Diseases and accidents apparently similar, may be rendered essentially different by conditions which it requires keen discrimination to detect. Now there may have been members of the profession in New England who have read and written more medical works, and swept a broader field of theoretical knowledge, but few, if any, have evinced a stronger faculty for perceiving the true relations of facts and significance of
symptoms, and making that safe comparison of ideas which results in sound and accurate judgment, than our honored guest. Dr. Hill was preeminently endowed intellectually, and we did not need to learn of his youthful and amusing experiences as a naturalist, to be assured that the bent of his genius was observed in the choice of the profession to which he has devoted his life. But he has never relied upon the brilliancy of his genius alone for the achievement of success. He is no less an example of the greatness which may be attained by zealous devotion to duty, untiring industry and thorough professional discipline. He has kept pace with the wonderful advance in medicine and surgery during the last half century, and every invention or discovery made by others, has been tested in the alembic of his critical judgment and valuable experience. But, after all, his vigorous common sense and superior judgment have constituted one of the great sources of his success in the treatment of disease, and together with a complete and familiar knowledge of anatomy and extraordinary mechanical skill, rendered him also "facile princeps" as a surgeon.

In the administration of justice, which Webster declared to be the "great interest of man on earth" and the "most essential function of civil government," he has rendered incalculable aid by the marvellous simplicity, directness and force of his testimony. During the past seven years he has appeared as an expert in the Superior Court in five cases of alleged malpractice, and four criminal investigations, and has uniformly spoken with "no uncertain sound." His apprehension of the truth involved in the inquiry in each case, was so clear and strong that it seemed without effort to find expression in popular terms and familiar illustrations, readily comprehended by the jury. As illustrative of the independent and non-partisan character of his testimony, I recall one instance in particular in which his explanation of the point in controversy completely demolished the theory of the party calling him.

The duties of his profession always took precedence over
the question of its emoluments. Rich and poor alike have shared the benefits of his skill and experience. Indeed, it may be said that his great usefulness has been largely the outgrowth of his natural aptitude and unselfish enthusiasm for his chosen life work. Absolute truthfulness and sincerity have always been the characteristics of his mind and action, in the practice of his profession as well as in all other relations of life. "I will not cast away my physic, but upon those that are sick," says Shakspeare; and this has been Dr. Hill's motto. Quackery in whatever shape appearing, has always provoked his contempt and scorn. The lines of Dr. Holmes illustrate the spirit of Dr. Hill's professional action:

"What tho' our tempered poisons save
Some wrecks of life from aches and ails;
Those grand specifics nature gave
Were never poised by weights or scales.

"God lent his creatures light and air,
And waters open to the skies;
Man locks him in a stifling lair,
And wonders why his brother dies.

"Then let the starry flag reveal
The blazoned truth we hold so dear;
To guard is better than to heal,
The shield is nobler than the spear."

He has "had no envy of another's fame;" but has always been charitable in his estimate and generous in his commendation of the knowledge and skill of others; and many a youthful and deserving practitioner has doubtless been encouraged to continued effort and higher exertion by praise from such a source.

"Laetus sum
Laudari me abs te, pater, laudato viro."

May he long be spared to continue the humane and beneficent work which he has loved so well; and when his professional
activity has ceased, may his remaining years be filled with "all blessed conditions," and enlivened by the pleasant memories of a professional life of eminent usefulness and spotless integrity.

After the sentiments had been disposed of, Dr. Snow said:

Mr. President: I have not given you quite all of the good things on my list for this occasion, but the time is exhausted and I must yield, knowing that you have a rare treat still in store for us.

Dr. Frederic Henry Gerrish, the poet, was introduced by the president, and spoke as follows:

RESPONSE OF DR. GERRISH.

Mr. President: In the latter part of last month, I received a letter from your secretary, informing me that the committee having this anniversary in charge had taken the "liberty" (certainly a well chosen word) of electing me poet for the occasion. This announcement was received with shouts of derisive laughter by my family, for they know what you are presently to find out—that I am not a poet. However, being convinced by the fact of the committee’s sending to the shores of Casco Bay that all the nearer places had been searched in vain for a maker of verses, and desiring most heartily to contribute my share to the success of this celebration, I have yielded my judgment to that of others, and have written some rhymes which I now have the honor to present.
BANQUET POEM.

BY DR. FREDERIC HENRY GERRISH.

The orb that mounts the eastern sky at morn
Brings light and joy where all was dark and cheerless;
Makes blithe the beings which were erst forlorn,
And changes terror into courage fearless.

As forth upon the world his beams are cast,
The little birds fly out with happy singing,
So full of ecstasy that night has past,
They fling about their notes with music ringing.

The flocks, with festive skips and twinkling tails,
Along the verdant glades unfrighted wander;
The slower cattle seek the lushy vales,
Contented munch the grass, and low, and ponder.

And, by these creatures not to be outdone,
The nerveless plants no longer seem insensate,
But raise their heads and spread towards the sun
Their glowing petals, which for voice compensate.

Throughout the day the glorious ball of flame
Revivifies the world with cheer and gladness,
Drives off the doubts which in the darkness came,
The cold heart warms, and dries the well of sadness.

And when, his chiefest ministry complete,
He slowly glides adown the west horizon,
With magic art he marks his grand retreat,
Which sons of earth, entranced, may feast their eyes on.

And, even after he has left their sight,
They something of his radiance inherit:
The planets shine by his reflected light,
And not because of their inherent merit.

Thus, when within our brotherhood is found
A genius with his wondrous intuitions,
His thoughts spontaneous shine on all around,
And blessings bring to men of all conditions.
The gift is his to lift the heavy veil
Which shrouds great secrets from the common vision;
To walk with steady nerves where most would quail;
Where others halt, to act with prompt decision.

All through his course he lightens weighty cares,
For ashes beauty gives, and life for dying;
To writhing wretches quiet comfort bears;
Supplants with grateful smiles despondent sighing.

And when the busy brain can think no more,
The hand no longer deftly guide the catling,
The tongue, which uttered burning words before,
No longer speak in wisdom or in prattling,

Still will be felt the power of the man,
The race by his beneficence affected:
The light that in his intellect began
From deeds of other men will be reflected.

A full half-century has passed away
Since he, our Nestor, entered on his mission
Disease to conquer, agony allay,
And save the well from physical perdition.

What thousands has he helped to life and health,
Upraised and quickened in their flagging forces!
Bestowed, alike for penury and wealth,
Such skill and such original resources!

Rare combination of opposing traits:
Abounding glee behind a visage stoic,
A grim severity which sweetness mates,
A woman's tenderness with heart heroic!

Thrice happy man, whom favoring fates permit
To bless and to adorn whate'er he handles;
Around whose feet revering juniors sit,
And at his flambeau joy to light their candles.

Oh, Galen of the Kennebec, to thee,
Of honor and of right the staunch defender,
We come to-night from mountain and from sea,
The tribute of our deep regard to render.
HIRAM H. HILL, M. D.

That thou hast had a life of wondrous length
We offer our most cordial congratulation;
That in it are such beauty, grace and strength
Evokes our love, respect and admiration.

Of friends, of gold, of comfort and of mirth.
For many years may time in nought abate thee;
And when thy work is rounded out on earth,
Eternity of happiness await thee!

(From Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, July 22, 1886.)

All through Maine Dr. Hill has been recognized for many years as a surgeon of rare ability, of great originality of resource, and of marked devotion to his profession. In any community he would have occupied an exalted position. That he is not known widely in other parts of the country is doubtless due to the fact that he has not put on record in the medical journals the principal results of his large experience and his fertile ingenuity. Unfortunately his modesty perhaps associated with a dislike for the quill, has confined his fame within narrow limits; but where it has extended he has long been acknowledged to be a master-spirit, and it was peculiarly fitting that his associates should make a public demonstration of their respect and affection for their Nestor on the completion of his half century of active work in the medical profession.

There were fifty participants at the banquet. Dr. H. M. Harlow, of Augusta, for a generation the Superintendent of the Maine Insane Hospital, was seated at the head of the tables, with Dr. Hill and Hon. J. W. Bradbury on his right. Dr. A. P. Snow, of Winthrop, acted as Toast-master. The
toast to "Our Honored Guest," called forth a speech which recited in quaint phrase and with much dryness of humor the leading incidents of a medical career, which, in its fidelity to noble purposes, could well be taken as a pattern by any young man. It showed how the country lad, born with an insatiable desire for knowledge of natural history, studied the living beings around him without the guidance of books or master, learned much about their structure and functions without having names for their parts and processes, and struggled laboriously up from the position of office boy to that of deserved prominence in the medical profession; and it was all told so simply and unaffectedly as to prove that genius and humility are by no means incompatible.

The celebration was greatly enjoyed by all present, and every one must have been impressed with the value of such social gatherings in the cultivation of good-fellowship. Dr. Hill is still actively engaged in practice, and enters on the second half century of his professional work surrounded by hosts of friends, and cheered by the love and reverence of the community, in which he has spent a long and most useful life.