

Testimonial of members of the medical profession of Philadelphia, New York and Boston in behalf of Wm. T.G. Morton.

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TESTIMONIAL
OF
THE MEDICAL PROFESSION
OF
PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK, AND BOSTON.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

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MEMBERS

OF

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

OF

PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK, AND BOSTON,

IN BEHALF OF

WM. T. G. MORTON, M. D.

PHILADELPHIA:

COLLINS, PRINTER, 705 JAYNE STREET.

1860.

TABLET

MEMBERS

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK, AND BOSTON

W. M. T. G. MORTON, M.D.

PROCEEDINGS

*Of the Medical Profession of Philadelphia, in behalf of
W. T. G. Morton, M. D.*

A meeting of the members of the medical profession who had endorsed the testimonial in behalf of Dr. W. T. G. Morton, was held at the Hospital Buildings, Spruce Street, on Monday, March 26, 1860 ; when, on motion, Dr. Wilson Jewell was called to the chair, and Dr. T. H. Bache was chosen Secretary.

The following preamble and resolutions were then offered, and having been read by the Secretary, were unanimously adopted:—

“ *Whereas*, after innumerable trials, made during the last fourteen years, it has been established to the satisfaction of the world, that the inhalation of ether may be safely employed for producing insensibility to pain ;

“ *And whereas*, the attention of the medical profession, and through it of the public generally, was directed to this fact by Dr. Wm. T. G. Morton, of Boston, who first practically demonstrated that ether may be safely used by inhalation for annulling pain, in the Massachusetts General Hospital, where, on the 16th of October, 1846, a severe surgical operation was successfully performed by the late Dr. John C. Warren, without pain to the patient,

whilst under the influence of ether, administered by Dr. Morton ;

“*And whereas*, our National Government, whilst admitting the claims of Dr. Morton, has failed to reward him for this great service to his country and to humanity :

“*Resolved*, that in the opinion of this meeting, the world is indebted to Dr. Morton for having practically proved the value and safety of ether as an anæsthetic agent, and that he is, therefore, entitled to the lasting gratitude of mankind.

“*Resolved*, That we cordially recommend to our fellow-citizens the ‘National Testimonial Fund,’ lately commenced in Boston and New York in behalf of Dr. Morton, and that we will do all in our power to influence them to subscribe to the same.

“*Resolved*, That, for the purpose of facilitating the subscriptions, a copy of these resolutions duly authenticated by the officers of this meeting, be furnished to Messrs. Brown, Brothers & Co., the receivers for this city, together with such other documents in explanation of the Testimonial as may be approved by the officers of this meeting.”

On motion, the Secretary was directed to transmit a copy of these Resolutions to Dr. Morton.

On motion, adjourned.

WILSON JEWELL, *Chairman.*

T. H. BACHE, *Secretary.*

TESTIMONIAL

OF MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION OF
PHILADELPHIA,

IN BEHALF OF

WM. T. G. MORTON, M. D.

TO THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS:

February 15, 1860.

The vast importance of the effect of the inhalation of ether in preventing and suspending pain has long ceased to be a matter of doubt among the members of the medical profession, and is too well known to the intelligent citizens of Philadelphia to need any further exposition. Etherization has been tested in countless instances, under a great variety of circumstances, during more than twelve years of constant employment by thousands of operators; and the result of this unsurpassed experience is decisive in confirmation of its safety and efficiency as a suppressor of physical suffering, and a powerful assistant of the healing art.

Believing, therefore, that anæsthetic inhalation is the most available and potent means of alleviating pain yet employed in the practice of surgery; and, consequently, that it is one of the greatest gifts to humanity of the present age, we cannot but regard the original and successful introducer of this invaluable boon as entitled to the warm gratitude of mankind.

We believe the practical originator of anæsthetic inhalation to be Dr. William T. G. Morton, of Boston, Mass., in whose behalf we are happy to bear witness in this testimonial.

We are convinced that he is the one who first resorted to ethereal inhalation for the purpose of producing insensibility to pain in a patient while undergoing a surgical operation; and that he is the one who first succeeded in effecting this result. He was, indisputably, the first to urge the anæsthetic properties of the vapor of ether upon the attention of the medical profession; and thus succeeded in establishing the practice of anæsthetic inhalation.

We therefore take great pleasure, and at the same time perform an act of duty, in recommending the claims of Dr. Morton to the favorable consideration of our fellow citizens; and would cordially urge upon them the propriety of showing their estimate of his services by a substantial acknowledgment, such as is manifestly due from an enlightened community to one who has conferred upon its members so inestimable a benefit.

We may refer to the annals of medicine in the Old World for many instances in which analogous discoveries of less moment have been recognized and paid for by European governments, sometimes even before their true value had been ascertained. The length of time which has elapsed since the adoption of etherization has only the more firmly established its position by demonstrating its safety and developing its usefulness.

Our National Government has admitted the justice and importance of Dr. Morton's claims in the introduction of ethereal anæsthesia, but has neglected to provide the proper reward.

Under these circumstances the plan of individual contribution has been successfully resorted to by the citizens of Boston and New York as the best suited to the temper of our people, and the most likely to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

An opportunity is now offered to the citizens of Philadelphia to unite with their neighbors in the same work of benevolence and justice; and it is in this that we earnestly desire to interest them.

We sincerely hope that our townsmen, in whose liberality and

sense of right we have great confidence, may join us in rendering the tribute to his merits and necessities which has elsewhere been accorded to him, and which we believe him to deserve.

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PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Medical Profession of New York.

On the 24th of June, a meeting of medical gentlemen, interested in raising a national testimonial for the benefit of the discoverer of Anæsthesia, was held at the residence of Dr. WILLARD PARKER.

The hour for organization having arrived, Dr. PARKER addressed the meeting, explained its objects, and proposed for President Dr. JOSEPH M. SMITH; which nomination, having been seconded, was voted upon, and carried. Dr. GURDON BUCK was then elected Corresponding Secretary, and Drs. BIBBINS and THOMAS, Recording Secretaries.

The meeting being now duly organized, the business of the evening was called for, and proceeded in this wise:—

1st. Dr. JOHN WATSON read a list of the names of some of the most prominent, benevolent, and wealthy of the citizens of New York, and proposed that each gentleman present should charge himself with visiting such of them as he had most influence with, and raising as large subscriptions as possible to head the list. This was acted upon; a list of one hundred names was read, and the duty of canvassing them assumed by various gentlemen composing the meeting.

2d. Dr. BUCK moved that a committee of medical men be appointed to confer with gentlemen out of the profession as to the most efficient means for accomplishing the end in view. This was seconded by Dr. PARKER, and carried. On the Committee, the President then appointed

DRS. JOHN W. FRANCIS,	VALENTINE MOTT,	JAMES R. WOOD,
WILLARD PARKER,	JAMES MINOR,	GURDON BUCK,
JOHN WATSON,	J. MARION SIMS,	JOS. M. SMITH;

and upon motion of Dr. SAYRE, the President was added to it. This committee, it was agreed, should meet at the house of Dr. PARKER at an early date.

3d. It was then moved by Dr. PARKER, that a committee of one selected from the Medical Board of each public charity of the city and its vicinity should be appointed to wait upon the Boards directing the various institutions, and solicit

donations in behalf of the object which has called us together this evening. This motion was seconded by Dr. WATSON, and carried. The following appointments were then made by the Chair :—

<i>New York Hospital,</i>	Dr. GURDON BUCK.
<i>Bellevue</i>	"	" JAS. R. WOOD.
<i>Emigrants'</i>	"	" J. M. CARNOCHAN.
<i>St. Vincent's</i>	"	" WM. H. VAN BUREN.
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<i>Child's</i>	"	" G. T. ELLIOTT, Jr.
<i>Quarantine</i>	"	" ELISHA HARRIS.
<i>New York Lying-in Asylum,</i>	" T. F. COCK.
<i>Brooklyn City Hospital,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	" HUTCHINSON.
<i>Long Island College Hospital,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	" AYRES.
<i>Colored Home Hospital,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	" FITCH.
<i>New York Eye Infirmary,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	" DUBOIS.
<i>New York Ophthalmic Hospital,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	" GARRISH.

* * * * *

4th. It was moved by Dr. WATSON, that the minutes of this meeting be transmitted to Dr. WM. T. G. MORTON, by the Secretary, which was carried.

No further business appearing, the meeting then adjourned.

JOSEPH M. SMITH, M. D., *President.*

GURDON BUCK, M. D., *Corresponding Secretary.*

T. GAILLARD THOMAS, M. D., *Recording Secretary.*

SUBSCRIPTIONS

THAT HEAD THE BOSTON AND NEW YORK CONTRIBUTIONS.

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Amos A. Lawrence,	1000
John P. Cushing,	500
The Society of the New York Hospital,	500
The Commissioners of Emigration of the State of New York,	250
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APPENDIX A.

THE NEW YORK APPEAL.

The Medical Profession have, from the earliest ages, felt the need of some safe and efficient agent for annulling pain.

The ordinary anodynes, long in use, have never supplied this deficiency, and the various new agents which, within the past sixty or eighty years, have been substituted for these, have, until recently, proved either too dangerous or too unreliable to be employed in general practice.

Wine and strong alcoholic drinks, given in such quantity as to induce intoxication, were occasionally employed, even before the commencement of the present century, for rendering persons insensible to the pain of surgical operations. With the same end in view, some surgeons, addressing the intellect, were in the habit of exciting sudden fear, alarm, or astonishment, to divert the attention of their patients. Others, again, resorted to the uncertain and inexplicable influence of mesmerism. Still more recently, the nitrous oxide gas, administered by inhalation, has, as originally suggested by Sir Humphrey Davy, been employed for producing temporary loss of consciousness. But this, too, after a fair trial, has failed, and the hopes founded upon it have proved nugatory and delusive. So that, up to this point, the want of a reliable agent for rendering the human body insensible to pain—a want so long felt, and to obviate which so many fruitless efforts had been made—was still to be supplied. That want, however, has since been fully met.

The first great triumph of placing in the hands of the profession an agent capable of rendering the patient safely, and at will, utterly insensible to the stroke of the surgeon's knife, was in detecting and establishing by experiment the anæsthetic powers of sulphuric ether. For this discovery the world is indebted to Dr. Wm. T. G. Morton, of Boston.

Whatever may have been the steps preliminary to this remarkable discovery, Dr. Morton's claim to it is established beyond all controversy, and his merit in this respect, with those who have taken the trouble to inform themselves on the subject, can be no longer a question of dispute.

Nor can the importance of his early investigations and experiments

under the guidance of Providence, in reference to the properties and uses of ether, be, at the present day, too highly estimated. The introduction of this agent as an anæsthetic, and of the various other agents of the same class—as chloroform, amyline, and the like—to which this directly led, has done more for the mitigation of human suffering than any other discovery, with the exception, perhaps, of vaccination, for which the world is indebted to medical science in either ancient or modern times.

The benefit derived from these newly discovered agents is not confined to the hardier procedures of operative surgery. They are now in hourly requisition in every quarter of the civilized world for suspending all sense of suffering during the severest throes of childbirth, for arresting convulsions, for relaxing spasms, for suspending volition and overcoming muscular resistance during the reduction of fractures and dislocations, for allaying restlessness, wakefulness, and morbid excitability; even for assuaging the pangs of approaching dissolution, not to speak of the almost innumerable minor uses to which they are applied, as well in the investigation as in the treatment of disease.

In view of these advantages from the use of anæsthetics, we feel that Dr. Morton—the first to demonstrate their safety and efficiency, and to establish them in general practice, has conferred a boon upon humanity as imperishable as it is important, and one of such a character as to entitle him to rank among the benefactors of mankind.

As members of the medical profession in the city of New York, and as physicians and surgeons to the various hospitals and infirmaries in this city and its vicinity, we therefore rejoice to learn that a movement has been commenced by our professional brethren and other gentlemen of Boston, to establish a national testimonial, by voluntary subscriptions, for the benefit of Dr. Morton. In this movement, after full deliberation and consultation among ourselves, we are ready to participate in accordance with the plan of those who originated it, which plan is set forth by the gentlemen of Boston in the following terms:—

We propose that a national subscription be instituted, the avails of which shall be paid into the hands of THOMAS B. CURTIS and CHARLES H. MILLS, Esquires, as Trustees—to be held, appropriated, and invested upon such trusts, and for such uses, for the benefit of Dr. MORTON, as the Trustees may determine.

The following gentlemen, as bankers, have agreed to receive for the Trustees any sums paid to them for the purpose above mentioned:—

JAMES BROWN, New York. BROWN, BROTHERS & Co., Philadelphia.

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Under governments more arbitrary and restrictive than our own, but more capable of meeting the claims of science, the awards of merit are not usually left, as with us, to the bounty of private individuals. Discoveries and improvements of infinitely less importance to science or humanity, than that for which we are indebted to Dr. Morton, are at the courts of Europe promptly met by national honors and emoluments.

In our own country, it is true, the National Government, after carefully investigating Dr. Morton's claims, has acknowledged the benefit he has conferred upon it, but has nevertheless failed, as yet, to supply the recompense.

With these remarks, we have the honor of recommending Dr. Morton's claims for remuneration to the consideration of our fellow-citizens, and of soliciting their subscriptions in behalf of the fund which it is proposed to raise for his benefit.

What the Government in this respect has failed to do, it is to be hoped, for the credit of the American name, and from the noble individual examples already set, that the discerning and liberal people of the United States will not leave entirely unaccomplished.

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APPENDIX B.

THE BOSTON APPEAL.

To the Public.

The power of etheric vapors to produce a safe insensibility to pain during surgical operations, and on other occasions of great physical suffering, is one of the most beneficent discoveries that has been conferred upon the human race. It is generally conceded that Dr. W. T. G. MORTON, of Boston, was instrumental in presenting this fact to the world. Nearly the whole of the Medical Profession [see page 27 *et seq.*] of this city, in the midst of whom the discovery was made, together with other bodies of competent persons, who have investigated its origin, have, after careful scrutiny, concurred in assigning this merit to Dr. MORTON—and public opinion has long since affirmed their verdict.

It is not necessary to enter in detail into the circumstances which have prevented Dr. MORTON from receiving any pecuniary benefit from this discovery.

The fact is certain, that Dr. MORTON has been an instrument, under Divine Providence, of introducing to the world one of the most remarkable discoveries of this or any other age, and that he has received no reward for it but the consciousness of having done so.

We are sure that we interpret the feelings of thousands, when we say that a substantial national memorial should be presented to Dr. MORTON.

How often has the poor sufferer risen from beneath the surgeon's knife, with nerves untouched by the slightest sensation of the torture that would otherwise have been his! How often has the mother passed in unconscious slumber, through "the perils of childbirth," to wake to her new happiness, without one memory of its agonies, and breathed, with the prayer of thanksgiving to God, a thought of him—to her, perhaps, the unknown discoverer—whose happy conception, perseverance and courage, first established the astonishing fact, that the human frame may suffer all the conditions, and not one of the sensations of pain! What has already occurred throughout the whole world, since this discovery was made—in hospitals, in private chambers of the sick, on fields of battle, on the ocean, and on the land—wherever humanity undergoes

the "ills that flesh is heir to"—is to occur through countless ages, while the race is left upon earth! And yet, year rolls after year, and the spontaneous gratitude that is felt and uttered, whenever and wherever this great discovery is used or contemplated, finds no permanent voice, because no efforts are made to concentrate and direct it to its object.

We propose that such efforts be now made. We think that the people of the United States, acting individually, should do what their government has neglected, or been able to do. National testimonials, established by the voluntary contributions of individuals, have been adopted in all countries, to mark the public sense of services to the human family, especially when such services have reflected honor and distinction upon the country where they have been performed.

We propose that a national subscription be instituted, the avails of which shall be paid into the hands of THOMAS B. CURTIS and CHARLES H. MILLS, Esquires, as Trustees—to be held, appropriated, and invested upon such trusts, and for such uses, for the benefit of Dr. MORTON, as the Trustees may determine.

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MEMORIAL

OF THE

MEMBERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled :

The undersigned hereby testify to your honorable body, that in their opinion Dr. William T. G. Morton first proved to the world that ether would produce insensibility to the pain of surgical operations, and that it could be used with safety. In their opinion, his fellow-men owe a debt to him for this knowledge. Wherefore, they respectfully ask a recognition by Congress of his services to his country and mankind :—

JOHN C. WARREN, M. D., Senior Surgeon Massachusetts General Hospital, and late President American Medical Society, and Emeritus Professor of Anatomy of Harvard University.

GEORGE HAYWARD, M. D., President Massachusetts Medical Society, and Surgeon Massachusetts General Hospital.

J. MASON WARREN, M. D., Surgeon Massachusetts General Hospital.

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J. W. Warren, jr.,
D. D. Smith,
George Tower,
William Read,
J. F. W. Lane,
Const. B. O'Donnell, M. R.
C. S. E.,
John S. H. Fogg,
Edmund T. Eastman,
William S. Coffin,
John C. Sharp,
Alexander S. Butler,
Benjamin B. Appleton,
M. Mattson,
David Thayer,
J. C. Sanborn,
E. A. Kittredge.

CHARLESTOWN.

E. E. Braun,
A. J. Bellows,
Benjamin Seabury,
George W. Otis, jr.,
Charles H. Allen,
A. C. Webber,
I. P. Alden,

W. W. Wellington
H. L. Chase,
Charles F. Foster,
A. J. Cummings,
Thomas J. Stevens,
Hutchinson Germaine,
Alexander Poole,
James B. Forsyth,
John Toomy.

CHELSEA.

William Ingalls, *Physician*
and Surgeon U. S. Ma-
rine Hospital.

SALEM.

A. L. Peirson,
William Mack,
George Choate,
William Henry Prince,
J. G. Wood,
James Stone, jr.,
E. B. Pierson,
George C. S. Choate,
George A. Perkins,
H. Wheatland,
Samuel Johnson,
Edward A. Holyoke.

TAUNTON.

Alfred Baylies,
H. B. Hubbard,
Horace Bowen,
Ebenezer Dawes,
William Dickinson,
Daniel King,
George Leonard.

NEWBURYPORT.

E. Cross,
S. M. Gale.

LYNN.

A. S. Adams,
J. T. Galloupe,
Daniel Perley,
D. A. Johnson,
E. Porter Eastman,
James M. Nye,
John Renton,
Nathaniel Ruggles,
Charles M. Weeks,
Edward Newhall.

WORCESTER.

Henry Clarke,
Samuel Flagg,
George A. Bates,
Charles W. Whitcomb,
Joseph Sargent,
Oramel Martin,
William Workman,

Members of Massachusetts Medical Society—Continued.

Rufus Woodward,
Henry Sargent,
A. Goulet,
P. B. Mignoult,
Benjamin Heywood,
John E. Hathaway.

SPRINGFIELD.

James M. Smith,
Edwin Seeger,
N. Adams,
A. S. McClean,
Alfred Lambert,
C. C. Chaffee,
H. A. Hamilton,
Henry B. Vaille,
D. C. Perkins.

PITTSFIELD.

H. H. Childs, *President of
Berkshire Medical Insti-
tution.*

N. S. Barnes,
O. S. Root,
Frank A. Cady,
O. E. Brewster,
Nathaniel Foote,
Avery Williams,
A. N. Allen,
L. F. Humeston,
Willard Clough,
Clark F. Hall,
N. J. Wilson.

NEW BEDFORD.

T. S. Mayhew,
Johnson Clark,
John H. Jennings,
William A. Gordon,
Elijah Colby,
C. D. Stickney,
John Howell Mackie,
Paul Spooner.

FALL RIVER.

James W. Hartly,
P. A. Smith,
Jerome Dwelly,
Foster Hooper,
E. T. Learned.

LOWELL.

John O. Green,
Henry Whiting,
J. P. Jewett,
J. D. Pillsbury,
Elisha Huntington,
John W. Graves,
Charles A. Savory,
Joel Spalding,
David Wells,
Benjamin Skelon,
H. Pillsbury,
P. P. Campbell,
L. B. Morse,
Charles A. Davis,
Ployer G. Kittredge,
Daniel Holt,
Daniel Mowe,
J. W. Scribner.

LAWRENCE.

George W. Sanborn,
William D. Lamb,
David Dana,
J. H. Morse.

SOUTH ANDOVER.

James Howarth,
W. H. Kimball.

DEDHAM.

Jeremy Stimson,
D. P. Wight,
H. F. Spear.

FITCHBURG.

Thos. R. Boutelle,
Levi Pillsbury,
T. W. Wadsworth,
W. M. Barrett,
Henry M. Linrad.

PLYMOUTH.

James L. Hunt,
Winslow Warren,
Benjamin Hubbard,
Timothy Gordon.

HINGHAM.

Ezra Stephenson,
Robert T. P. Fiske.

QUINCY.

Ebenezer Woodward,
William G. Pattee,
W. Goddard.

DANVERS.

Andrew Nicholls,
Joseph Osgood,
David A. Grosvenor,
George Osgood.

MARBLEHEAD.

James C. Briggs,
Chandler Flaggs,
Daniel Gill.

BEVERLY.

W. C. Boyden,
Charles Haddock,
Ingalls Kittredge.

GLOUCESTER.

Isaac P. Smith,
C. H. Hildreth,
George W. Smith.

ROCKPORT.

Benjamin Haskell,
Lemuel Gott,
Oscar D. Abbott.

NEWTON.

Henry Bigelow,
Cyrus K. Bartlet.

FRAMINGHAM.

Simon Whitney,
Allston W. Whitney.

MILFORD.

Francis Leland,
Theodore O. Cornish.

APPENDIX C.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT.

The foregoing pages set forth in outline the fact that there is a very general movement among the American people, inaugurated by leading members of the profession in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, in behalf of one of the most praiseworthy objects which can appeal to patrons of science or the friends of humanity. They show that the noble work is at last undertaken, which for more than twelve years has been neglected by Congress, to preserve the shelter of a home for the family of a nation's benefactor, still living, from the clamorous creditors to whom it was pledged for debts incurred in making and promulgating a discovery which, though leaving the discoverer poor, has made the whole world his debtor, and to place their future life beyond the chances and vicissitudes of fortune, by the purchase of an annuity.

The discovery made by Dr. Wm. T. G. Morton, of Boston, of the anæsthetic properties of sulphuric ether, and the safety, certainty, and reliability of its effects in making the severest surgical operations, childbirth and other scenes and conditions of physical suffering, perfectly painless, is a discovery already ranked by the medical profession above that of vaccination by Jenner, to whom the English Parliament voted large sums of money, and for whom national testimonials were raised and medals struck in other nations; a discovery whose benefits are not confined to the subjugation of pain, but which are continually unfolding in new departments of the healing art.

This national movement was with great propriety inaugurated in Boston, the city where the discoverer lived and practised his profession, and where the first successful painless surgical operation was performed. An organization to raise a national testimonial fund in his behalf, with trustees residing in Boston, and treasurers in the principal cities in the United States, is already established. Though it has hardly passed beyond its inchoate period, it has enlisted the energetic co-operation of some of the most eminent and patriotic persons in the Union. All will learn with surprise that two hundred thousand dollars will not more than reimburse the discoverer of this anæsthetic agent for his outlays in making experiments which led to the discovery, in establishing its value, in compelling its acceptance by the world in spite of incredulity and indifference, in establishing the priority of his claims over *post facto*

discoverers, and in applications to Congress to induce them to reimburse him for his actual expenditures.*

A handsome beginning for the collection of this sum has already been made, though much remains to be done. The fund has received, as was most fitting, from the medical institutions of Boston and vicinity, and from eminent and wealthy persons residing in that seat of literature and science, munificent subscriptions. New York, too, represented in the same way by her medical institutions, and her wealthy citizens, has shown an equal promptitude in discharging this debt of honor, too long owing to a nation's benefactor.

Such is a brief and general statement of the objects to be accomplished, and the present state of the enterprise.

It is not necessary to argue at any great length for the character or success of this undertaking. That would be almost an insult to the long list of men distinguished in all the professions, and honorably known in commerce or in the more secluded walks of private life, who now appeal to the public at large to do justice in this matter. To doubt its success would be to challenge the sincerity of the great bulk of the medical profession in Massachusetts, New York, and Philadelphia, who ask subscriptions to this fund; would be to say, that the world had gone back in the present century, and that the justice given to Jenner who conquered smallpox in the last century, would be denied to Morton, who may be said to have conquered pain in this.

It may not be out of place, however, to recall here the universal thrill of joy that was felt when it was first announced to the world, how the subtle spirit of ether would almost everywhere subdue pain, in the severest surgical operations, in the pangs of parturition, in the numberless cases at the hospitals, on battle-fields in time of war, in cottages, "in piping times of peace," removing, as has been well said, "half the primal curse," and more than justifying the unstinted praise of the foregoing appeal of the medical profession in New York, which says:—

"In view of these advantages from the use of anæsthetics, we feel that Dr. Morton—the first to demonstrate their safety and efficiency, and to establish them in general practice—has conferred a boon upon humanity as unperishable as it is important, and one of such a character as to entitle him to rank among the benefactors of mankind."

Neither is this the place or time to set forth as they deserve the labors and the sufferings which Dr. Morton has undergone in the twelve years which have succeeded his great discovery. The story of his wrongs, his patience, his perseverance, his unconquerable energy, his poverty, his

* Vide p. 449, "Trials of a Public Benefactor," by N. P. Rice. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

enthusiasm, his success in achieving an imperishable honor, and his failure in obtaining the slightest emolument for an invaluable discovery, which the world now freely and daily uses, has more than the interest of a romance.* They constitute a record which, except it is ended by the success of the movement whose inauguration has been set forth in the foregoing pages, will stand a burning disgrace and scandal to the profession and the world which have appropriated and used a discovery, and left the discoverer to starve. Shall it be said that, through his connection with so great a benefaction to the human race, Dr. Morton is to be left unable to preserve to his children the paternal acres pledged in securing it, unable to educate his children, without any adequate means of support; and worse than all, unable to secure for himself that quiet mode of life demanded by the ruined health consequent upon his hazardous experiments and upon living in an atmosphere of ether for so many months, and upon the labors and sufferings which he underwent in detecting and establishing the anæsthetic properties of the sulphuric ether? These appellants, therefore, now appeal directly to the heart of the country, which rarely fails to disprove the heartless maxim that "republics are ungrateful," and which will never suffer a state of things so discreditable as that which we have briefly depicted, long to last.

It is true that this mode of raising funds to consummate a simple act of justice is laborious and tedious. The present success of the movement shows, however, that that is the only great objection, and that individuals and institutions, and the country at large, are ready and anxious to discharge their obligations. The "ether controversy" has had the one good effect of waking up the public to the existence of those obligations. The sum required to accomplish the reimbursement and effect the designs of the appellants, is, as we have said, a large one, and its collection by individual contributions over an extent of country so vast as ours, is one of time; but it will derive an additional value as coming directly from the people, and the zeal and energy with which it has been entered upon by the profession in this city and elsewhere, is the best augury of success. May it soon be impossible for one of the greatest benefactors of the human race who has appeared in this century, to say, "It were better for me, infinitely better for me and my wife and children, better for me and them in all respects, if I had buried the secret of the victory over pain in my breast forever, and suffered centuries to elapse before it came forth to the knowledge of the world by some other hand, than to do as I did—hasten to make it known by all forms and modes of speech, and at every risk of health, property, and even life!"

* See "Trials of a Public Benefactor."

[*From the American Cyclopædia, Vol. xi.*]

MORTON, WILLIAM THOMAS GREEN, M.D., an American dentist, one of the claimants of the discovery of anæsthetics, born in Charlton, Mass., Aug. 9, 1819. His youth was passed upon his father's farm. Going to Boston at the age of 17, he spent some months in a large publishing house, and from this time to his majority he alternated between the counter and the school-room. With no taste and little talent for trade, his mercantile career was short and disastrous. In 1840 he commenced the study of dentistry in Baltimore, and 18 months afterward established himself as a dentist in Boston. Among other improvements introduced by him was a new kind of solder by which false teeth are fastened to gold plates, preventing galvanic action. In order to render his work complete, it was desirable that the roots of old teeth should be removed; as this was a tedious and very painful operation, few would submit to it, and there seemed little prospect of the success of the invention unless he could devise means to lessen the pain. He tried stimulants, even to intoxication, opium, and magnetism, but in vain; still the idea possessed his mind that there must be something to produce the desired effect, and he gave himself up seriously to its realization. His limited amount of medical knowledge interfering with the prosecution of his investigations, he entered his name as a medical student in Boston in 1844. About this time the idea was suggested to him in a lecture at the college that sulphuric ether might be used to alleviate pain in his operations; he read such books on chemistry as he could procure, and experimented on animals, but as yet with little success. During his attendance at the medical college and hospital he was obliged to devote all his spare time to his operating rooms and dental laboratory, where he displayed great ingenuity in the mechanical details of his profession, and especially in the manufacture of artificial teeth, which he prosecuted successfully on a large scale. From books and from lectures he learned that sulphuric ether could be inhaled in small quantities with some discomfort, but that in large amount it was dangerous. After experiments on himself, and satisfied of its safety, he administered it to a man on Sept. 30, 1846, producing unconsciousness, during which a firmly rooted bicuspid tooth was painlessly extracted. After numerous other successful experiments, he communicated their result to Dr. J. C. Warren, and at his request administered the ether, at the Massachusetts General Hospital, to a man from whose jaw was removed a vascular tumor on Oct. 16, 1846, the patient remaining

unconscious during the operation; from this dates the introduction into general surgery of the discovery of ethereal anæsthesia. Like all other great discoveries, however, it met with the bitterest professional opposition; the jealousy of dentists, the fears of physicians, and the scruples of theologians were in many cases arrayed against it, and various persons claimed to have suggested it. In order to protect himself against such opposition, to secure a fair compensation for his expenditure of time and money, and to keep his discovery within the hands of competent persons, Dr. Morton obtained for it a patent, under the name of "letheon," in Nov. 1846, in the United States, and in the following month in England, offering, however, free rights to all charitable institutions in all parts of the country. Notwithstanding his generous offers, government appropriated his discovery to its use without compensation. Upon their first examination of the testimony, some of the Paris academicians at first recognized Dr. Jackson as the discoverer; but the committee of the academy awarded the Monthyon prize of 5,000 francs to be equally divided between him and Dr. Morton. The latter declined to receive this joint award, protested against the decision of the academy, and in 1852 received the large gold medal, the Monthyon prize in medicine and surgery. He underwent an amount of persecution almost unparalleled in the annals of personal enmity, in private and before congress, his business was broken up, and his very house attached by the sheriff for debts; but his indomitable will and the encouragement of firm and powerful friends enabled him ever to maintain his claims to the discovery. Relying upon the impartiality and generosity of congress for remuneration of his labors, he had presented his first memorial in Dec. 1846, upon which the appointed committee did not report. Strengthened by the testimonial inaugurated by the trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1848, which conceded to him the discovery of the power and safety of ether in producing anæsthesia, he made a second application to congress in January 1849; a committee, composed entirely of physicians, heard the evidence on both sides, and reported that he was entitled to the merit of the discovery; but on account of the press of business toward the close of the session and on the eve of a change in the administration, they deemed it unadvisable to recommend any pecuniary remuneration. Returning from Washington, he made a brief stay at Baltimore, where he received the regular title of M.D. from Washington University. In Dec. 1851, he made a third and last appeal to congress, and his memorial was referred to a select committee; the report of the majority, after a most elaborate investigation, awarded the honor of

the discovery to Dr. Morton, and in April 1852, the majority reported a bill appropriating \$100,000 as a national testimonial for his discovery, on the condition that he should surrender his patent to the government; this bill, on account of the excitement attending the then approaching presidential election, was not acted upon, though warmly approved by several members of the cabinet and urged by members of congress having at last been brought before the senate as an amendment to the army appropriation bill it was adopted. In 1853 an amendment to the appropriation bill was offered, granting \$100,000 to the discoverer of practical anæsthesia; after a warm debate it passed the senate, 26 to 23, but failed in the house. In 1854 a similar bill was presented by Mr. Everett, which passed the senate by 24 to 13, but was lost in the house. Thus ended a struggle of eight years spent in vindicating his claims. In 1854 Dr. Morton attempted to obtain from the executive a recognition of the validity of his patent, supported by the recommendation of 150 members of congress that the right to use his discovery be purchased for the public service, or that the government respect its own patent and discontinue its use; after two years' delay the president informed him that whenever it was decided in the courts that the government had violated his patent, it would pay. At this defeat his creditors became importunate, and reduced him and his family to utter poverty; but in the winter of 1856-'7 a plan for a national testimonial was instituted in Boston, encouraged by many of the principal physicians and merchants of that city; in their appeal they give to him the credit of presenting to the world the fact that a safe insensibility can be produced by etheric vapors in the following words: "Nearly the whole of the medical profession of this city, in the midst of whom the discovery was made, together with other bodies of competent persons who have investigated its origin, have, after careful scrutiny, concurred in assigning this merit to Dr. Morton, and public opinion has long since affirmed their verdict." In 1858 a similar appeal was made in New York, signed by the principle medical men of that city, from which the following is an extract: "For this discovery the world is indebted to Dr. William T. G. Morton, of Boston. Whatever may have been the steps preliminary to this remarkable discovery, Dr. Morton's claim to it is established beyond all controversy, and his merit in this respect, with those who have taken the trouble to inform themselves on the subject, can be no longer a question of dispute." In 1860 the medical profession of Philadelphia signed a testimonial of the same character, which says: "We believe the practical originator of anæsthetic inhalation to be Dr. William T. G. Morton, of Boston, Mass. We are convinced that he is the one who first resorted to ethereal

inhalation for the purpose of producing insensibility to pain in a patient while undergoing a surgical operation, and that he is the one who first succeeded in effecting this result. He was, indisputably, the first to urge the anæsthetic properties of the vapor of ether upon the attention of the medical profession, and thus succeeded in establishing the practice of anæsthetic inhalation." In 1858, to save his home from the sheriff's sale for debt, he instituted a suit against a marine hospital surgeon for infringing his patent, as suggested by the president, which was decided in his favor in the U. S. circuit court.—See "Trials of a Public Benefactor," by Dr. Nathan P. Rice, (New York, 1859).

APPENDIX D.

PROCEEDINGS OF HOSPITALS.

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The undersigned, to whom a propositions of the Trustees of this hospital should contribute a fund to be established for the benefit of Dr. Morton, was referred, report :

That Dr. Morton is known to have been chiefly instrumental in conferring a great good upon his race—

That his agency in a discovery, which has already relieved multitudes from suffering, has yielded to him no pecuniary compensation for its acknowledged benefits, but has, on the contrary, been attended by many sacrifices—

That his only rewards have been the consciousness of a great service rendered and a title to fame—

That the government of the country has omitted to provide a proper reward—

That justice entitles him to remuneration, and that the only mode in which it seems to be probable that the means of doing that justice can be furnished, is, through voluntary contributions from the philanthropic, in some such form as is now suggested.

Therefore, your committee think that the object is proper, and that its early attainment is to be desired ; so that the only question is whether the trustees may properly contribute of the funds of this institution for its promotion.

No ordinary circumstance would justify the trustees, should they apply any portion of the funds under their control to any object other than the direct relief of the sick under their care.

But the relations between Dr. Morton and this hospital, in regard to the great discovery which prompts the proposed memorial, are peculiar.

The first important surgical operation, to which that discovery was applied, was performed within its walls, at his instance.

At a time when he supposed that his agency in it would be pecuniarily rewarded by those who should derive benefits from it, he conferred upon this hospital the right to profit by it in all cases without any charge.

We have been and shall continue to be benefitted by it, to an extent which no reasonable amount of money could compensate for.

Dr. Morton and his friends think that the refusal of the trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital to subscribe to the contemplated fund would prevent its foundation. In view of all the circumstances, your committee think that apprehension well founded.

When individuals have made bequests, or rendered remarkable services to the institution, the trustees have deemed it proper to expend such sums as may have been required, to procure appropriate memorials of them, to be preserved within the walls of the hospital; and your committee think that the propriety of a subscription toward the fund, which it is now proposed to establish for the benefit of Dr. Morton, would rest safely on the grounds which have been found sufficient in such cases.

They, therefore, recommend that the subjoined vote be passed.

J. THOMAS STEVENSON, }
JOHN LOWELL, } *Committee.*

BOSTON, *Feb.* 22, 1857.

Voted, That the Chairman of this Board be requested to subscribe, on behalf of the Massachusetts General Hospital, *one thousand dollars* toward the fund which it is proposed to establish for the benefit of Dr. W. T. G. Morton, as a memorial of the great service which that gentleman has rendered to science and to humanity, in connection with the discovery of the uses of ether.

Trustees.—Henry B. Rogers, John P. Bigelow, James B. Bradlee, Wm. S. Bullard, William J. Dale, William W. Greenough, Thomas Lamb, John Lowell, Robert M. Mason, Charles H. Mills, J. Thomas Stevenson, Edward Wigglesworth.

MASSACHUSETTS EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY.

Voted, That the Secretary of this Board be authorized to subscribe, on behalf of the Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary, *two hundred dollars* towards the fund to be raised for the benefit of Dr. W. T. G. Morton, as a recognition of the greatest discovery of modern times, and an acknowledgment of the great service which that gentleman has rendered to science and humanity, by the discovery of the uses of ether.

Trustees.—J. H. Walcott, J. W. Edmands, Henry Rice, Dr. E. Reynolds, G. H. Shaw, C. H. Mills, R. W. Hooper, Moses Grant, Jas. Lawrence, Dr. S. D. Townsend, J. A. Blanchard.

NEW YORK HOSPITAL.

"GEORGE T. TRIMBLE, Esq.,

President of the Board of Governors of the New York Hospital:

SIR: The members of the medical profession of New York, have made an appeal in behalf of Dr. Wm. T. G. Morton, of Boston, who was the first to discover and demonstrate by experiment the power of sulphuric ether, to render the human economy insensible to pain under surgical operations.

"The object of this appeal is to raise, by voluntary contributions, a fund, as a national testimonial for his benefit, such as shall be a worthy acknowledgment of the priceless value of a discovery, which has already done, and is constantly doing so much to diminish human suffering.

"Boston, the scene of Dr. Morton's labors, has taken the initiation in this effort and has made a noble beginning.

"It is believed that the action of the New York Hospital, in reference to this appeal, will exert an important influence on other kindred institutions in this city and elsewhere, and it is therefore earnestly hoped that the object will be regarded with favor by the Board of Governors. Nowhere in our whole land are the benefits of this discovery more constantly witnessed than in the New York Hospital and there seems to be special propriety in such an institution acting a conspicuous part in acknowledging our common indebtedness to the discoverer, of such a boon to suffering humanity.

"Having been delegated to present this object to your Board I beg leave, Mr. President, through you, to submit this communication with the accompanying appeal to that honorable body for consideration at their next meeting.

"I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"GURDON BUCK, M.D."

"NEW YORK, July 3d, 1853.

The subject being thus fairly laid before the custodians of the institutions of New York, the society of the New York Hospital, a close corporation, governed by the gentlemen named in the note appended,* immediately voted that their president, Hon. George T. Trimble, subscribe five hundred dollars to the proposed fund.

COMMISSIONERS OF EMIGRATION, OF THE STATE OF N. Y.

The Commissioners of Emigration, composed of the gentlemen named in the annexed note,† passed the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That in view of the great benefits derived by the Institutions and patients under the charge of the Commissioners of Emigration, by the use of sulphuric ether, the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars to be donated to Dr. Wm. T. G. Morton, the discoverer thereof, as a consideration of the feeling of the Board, with an expression of regret that the present state of the funds under their charge would not permit the Commissioners to show a more substantial appreciation of the great importance of the discovery."

* George T. Trimble, Najah Taylor, Gulian C. Verplanck, James F. De Peyster, John A. Stevens, James I. Jones, Stacy B. Collins, George F. Hussey, Edwin D. Morgan, David Colden Murray, Robert Lenox Kennedy, John David Wolfe, George F. Jones, Joseph Walker, Thomas Hall Faile, Thomas B. Stillman, James N. Cobb, George T. Olyphant, John C. Green, David Clarkson, Abram S. Hewitt, Frederick A. Conkling, Nathaniel P. Bailey, Otis D. Swan, Henry L. Pierson, James W. Beekman.

† Gulian C. Verplanck, *Prest.*; E. Crabtree, *Vice-Prest.*; B. Casserly, *Sec.*; F. D. Morgan, Wilson G. Hunt, Elijah F. Purdy, John P. Cumming, Cyrus

BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.

The Governors of the Almshouse referred the subject to the committee on Bellevue Hospital to report. While considering the subject, the committee received from Stephen Smith, M.D., Secretary, the following resolution, unanimously adopted by the Medical Board of Bellevue Hospital:

Resolved, That the Medical Board of Bellevue Hospital cheerfully express their conviction that to the zeal, perseverance, and skill of Dr. Wm. T. Green Morton, of Boston, in using sulphuric ether to render persons insensible to pain, the world is indebted for the present extended and beneficial use of anæsthetic agents, in the practice of medicine and surgery; and they are convinced that but for his energy, courage, and success, there is no reason to believe that mankind would yet have received that boon from any of the gentlemen whose names have been prominently connected with this subject.

JOHN W. FRANCIS, M. D.,

President Medical Board.

STEPHEN SMITH, M. D., *Secretary.*

Referred to Committee on Bellevue Hospital.

On the 4th of August, the Committee to whom the subject was referred, reported in favor of appropriating the sum of \$1,500.

On September 14, the following preamble and resolution, appropriating fifteen hundred dollars was adopted:

Resolved, That this Board view with high appreciation the initiatory steps taken by the Medical Faculty of the cities of Boston and New York to acknowledge, in a substantial manner, the discovery and appliances of sulphuric ether by Dr. Wm. T. G. Morton, and believing the same to be as expressed and set forth in their testimonials, the greatest benefit of the present age rendered to science and humanity, deem it our duty, in consideration thereof, and of the many uses to which the same has been applied in the institutions under our charge, to unqualifiedly endorse the same.

And be it further Resolved, That the sum of Fifteen Hundred Dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated as compensation for the use of sulphuric ether in the hospital under our charge, and the same be taken from the unexpended appropriation of Bellevue Hospital.

The president of the Board of Ten Governors immediately made the subscription to the proposed fund.

CORRESPONDENCE.

APPENDIX E.

CORRESPONDENCE.

During the last summer, the Governor of Massachusetts, N. P. Banks, late Speaker of the House of Representatives, wrote to his Excellency the Governor of New York, that "A national subscription, intended as an acknowledgment of his [Dr. Morton's] great public service in the discovery, and introduction to common use, of this important power [sulphuric ether], has been commenced here, under the auspices of gentlemen of the highest professional standing, who were themselves witnesses of the successive steps through which this discovery was made. They are men whose names alone are a guarantee that their statements may be relied upon, and no words of mine can aid in giving their opinion strength. In addition to that of merchants and professional men of the first eminence, you will find in the publication made by the trustees of the fund to be raised, a petition to the President, signed by a majority of the members of the thirty-third Congress,* which is, I think, to be regarded as an evidence of the very general estimate which was made of the claims of Dr. Morton upon the government and the public,

"The subscription has been liberally commenced in Boston, but it is thought that other cities that have been benefited by the discovery should participate in the recognition of the merits of the discoverer, and in making him appropriate honors. I hope that other cities may imitate the example of Boston in this respect, and contribute something to aid, and, I may say, relieve one who is certainly deserving of great credit, and who has as yet, received no advantage from his discovery."

Dr. James Jackson, wrote to George Ripley, one of the editors of the *American Cyclopaedia*: "To him [Dr. Morton] the world owes at least the introduction for useful purposes of sulphuric ether, by employment of which by inhalation, he *proved* that insensibility might be produced in a human subject with safety, and be maintained during powerful surgical operations. It is now more than eleven years since he made this discovery known. At the present day the benefit of it is known throughout the civilized portion of the world. Every day, the persons who use the article must be counted by thousands.

If the knowledge of it could be lost millions and millions of dollars could be raised for the recovery of it. Every man is liable to the misfortunes which would make the use of it invaluable to him.

"Is not something due to the gentleman who introduced the use of ether for the use of the present and all future generations of men? Shall it be recorded in history, that he lived on a very small income, while millions were blessing his discovery? Should he not be repaid in some substantial manner? As I understand the matter, his business has been destroyed? strange to say, and he needs aid. May I ask you to make his case known in New York, in the hope that he may receive the evidence of such gratitude as is due to him?"

Dr. Jacob Bigelow, President of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, wrote to Dr. Parker, that "I hope the community who are daily deriving the benefit of his [Dr. Morton's] inestimable discovery, will not be insensible to the debt they owe him. He is the only man, without whom, the world would at this day have wanted the blessing of anæsthetic inhalation."

Dr. O. W. Holmes wrote to Willard Parker, M. D.: "It gives me great pleasure to add my name to that of my friends, who have recommended the claims of Dr. W. T. G. Morton to your favorable notice.

"A surgeon in great business, like yourself, must know well what we owe to the discover of the use of ether in surgery. The part Dr. Morton took in that, is matter of history, and I cannot but think you will agree with us in believing that but for his happy audacity we should have waited an indefinite period for the discovery.

"I write this time, therefore, to request your kind consideration of the subject that will be presented to your notice, not professing to have any personal claim upon your valuable time, but considering that your position, entitles you to the honor of being among the foremost in every movement, involving the interest of science and humanity."

Dr. John Jeffries, wrote to Willard Parker, M. D.: "Of the justice to his [Dr. Morton's] claim, as the person by whom this great benefaction was conferred on the medical profession, and upon mankind, I entertain no doubt; and consequently of the weight of obligations which physicians and societies at large, are under to him for this benefit. A public benefaction has been set on foot for Dr. Morton, who is himself poor, and made so in some measure, in consequence of his agency in providing a blessing for mankind. It has

my full approbation and best wishes for its success. I would also express my confidence in the plan and details by which it was carried out, arising from the high character for intelligence and integrity of gentlemen, under whose auspices it is to be conducted. Whatever you may please to do to aid, will be on the side of justice and humanity."

Dr. S. D. Townsend, one of the surgeons of Massachusetts General Hospital, wrote to Willard Parker, M. D.: "Having been conversant with the use of ether from the first day of its introduction, I have always given to Dr. Morton the credit of being the author of its extensive employment into our profession. The object of this movement is to obtain subscriptions to a fund, to be placed in the hands of trustees, for his [Dr. Morton's] benefit, which is to be raised from different hospitals in the country, that have been so greatly benefited by its use. Dr. Morton's pecuniary circumstances have been greatly reduced, by the exclusive attentions he has paid to this object, having entirely broken up the business which he was extensively engaged in, and he needs the aid of all professional men, who have been so greatly benefited by this discovery. I am sure I can rely upon you to give it all the assistance which your prominent situation can afford him."

Nathaniel I. Bowditch, Esq., in a letter to Amos A. Lawrence and John Lowell, Trustees of the Morton Fund, says:—"Circumstances, as you are aware, made me originally take great interest in the Ether discovery. In the Hospital Report and a pamphlet in vindication of it, I have expressed, as forcibly as in my power, my conviction that it is to the boldness, energy and perseverance, of Dr. Morton, that the world owes the demonstration of this great truth of science. I have never seen the slightest reason for doubting the accuracy of the conclusion at which I first arrived. It happens that in my own person I have already had occasion to be especially thankful for this blessing. Ether has been administered to me no less than seven times, and on each occasion has saved me from great suffering. I consider Dr. Morton, indeed, to be one of my permanent attendant physicians, and one the value of whose prescription cannot be estimated in money, or expressed in words. I have therefore cheerfully subscribed \$500 on the book which you sent me."

Thomas B. Curtis, Esq., of Boston, in a letter to Wm. E. Bowen, Esq., of Philadelphia: "Dr. Morton who first made known to the

world the blessed effects of Ether in doing away with pain. Instead of riches and honor, he has reaped nothing from his great discovery. Our Government has cheated him, but they have not deprived him of the support of the most eminent surgeons in America, and the sympathy of many of our best citizens."

Dr. Wm. H. Van Buren, of the New York Hospital, in a letter to Prof. Neill, of Philadelphia: "Here, there was no dissenting voice in the right quarter, i. e. among the profession — and I think on the broad ground of humanity, Dr. Morton has a right to our support. His misfortunes entitle him to our regard above all other considerations."

Dr. Fordyce Barker, of the Bellevue Hospital, New York, in a letter to Dr. Edward Hartshorn, of Philadelphia: "The profession in this city and in Boston have with great unanimity, made an effort to induce the people to bestow upon Dr. Morton some reward proportioned to the value of his discovery, and it is hoped that our brethren in Philadelphia will join heartily in the endeavor."

Dr. George T. Eliot, of the Bellevue Hospital, New York, in a letter to Dr. Biddle, of Philadelphia: "I sincerely think that Dr. Morton ought to be placed above the necessity for labor during his life, and that it is a reproach to the United States that the Government did not behave differently. The feeling of the profession here, is in favor of the testimonial in his behalf."

Dr. Batchelder, President of the Academy of Medicine, New York, in a letter to Prof. Meigs, of Philadelphia: "Dr. Wm. T. G. Morton, the discoverer of Anæsthesia, now so universally employed in the alleviation of human suffering; in perfecting his discovery and introducing it to the world, has made great sacrifices, and it is no more than just that he should reap some reward, small though it may be, in comparison with the vast benefits, which he has conferred upon suffering humanity. The appeal to the justice and liberality of our fellow-citizens has been gladly seconded by the profession in this city, and I have no doubt that such will be the case in your city."

Dr. John H. Griscomb, of the New York Hospital, in a letter to Prof. George B. Wood, of Philadelphia:—"The Medical profession of Boston and in New York have taken great interest in the effort now in progress to obtain from the people a testimonial of a substantial

character in favor of Dr. Morton, whose sacrifices, means, time and health in his devotion to the perfecting of this most extraordinary discovery, renders some pecuniary return essential. We regard this as a truly national matter, to which the profession of the whole country should lend their aid."

Dr. Isaac Wood, of the Bellevue Hospital, New York, in a letter to Prof. Geo. B. Wood, of Philadelphia:—"At a meeting of our Medical Board, held last evening, at my house, a resolution was unanimously passed, to recommend the testimonial to Dr. Morton to the favorable notice of the Board of ten Governors of the Bellevue Hospital.

Prof. Valentine Mott, of New York, in a letter to Prof. Pancoast, of Philadelphia:—"The Profession here, generally award to Dr. Morton the honor of this great discovery. We have been doing, for the Testimonial to him, a little in this city."

Dr. John W. Francis, of New York, in a letter to Prof. Samuel Jackson, of Philadelphia:—"Something, our entire Faculty have determined, must be done for Dr. Morton as a great benefactor to humanity. In New York we are not idle. Our Bellevue Hospital, I believe, will make a liberal donation."

Dr. F. M. Markoe, of the New York Hospital, in a letter to Dr. Franklin Bache, of Philadelphia:—"We have been much interested in the matter of the Testimonial to Dr. Morton, and feel the conviction that not only he is entitled to the credit of the discovery of this great practical use of Ether, but that the country owe him a debt of gratitude which ought to take some tangible and available form."

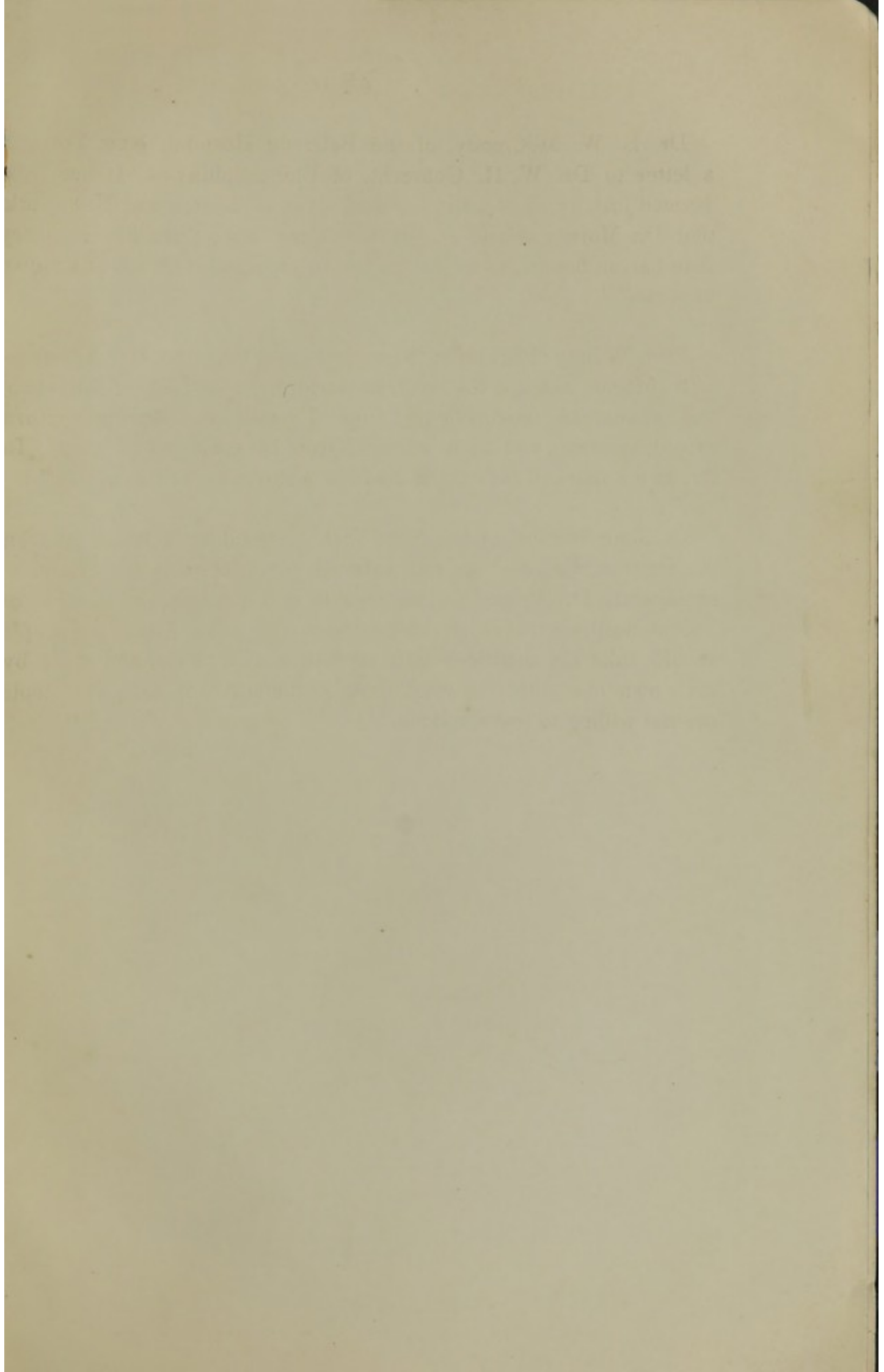
Prof. Alfred C. Post, of New York, in a letter to Prof. S. D. Gross, of Philadelphia:—"I hope the Profession, of your city, will take an interest in obtaining from the community some substantial acknowledgment of the great services which Dr. Morton has rendered to science and humanity.

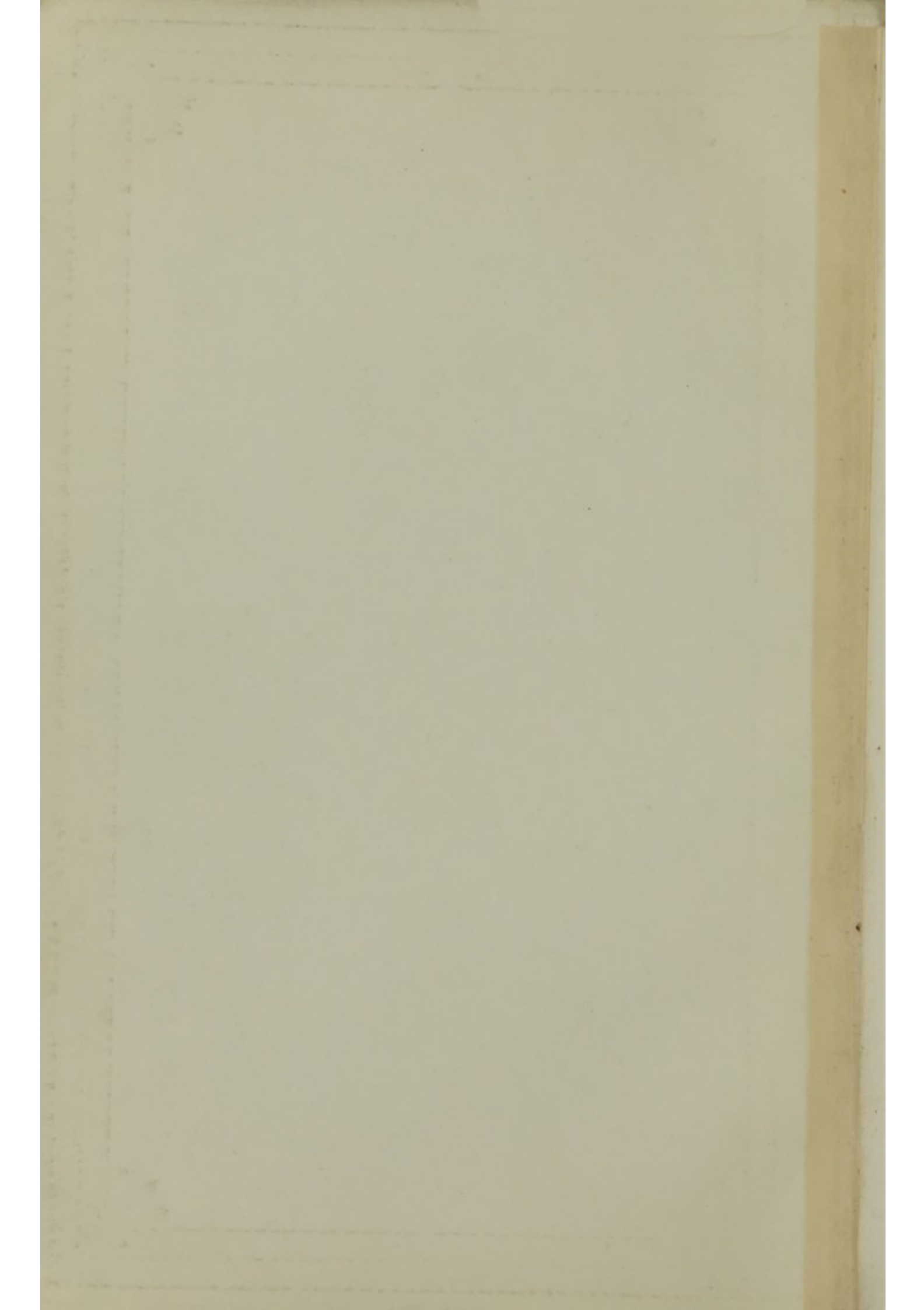
"I think, from the investigations which I have made, that there is no reason to doubt that he is entitled to the exclusive merit of introducing the valuable discovery which he claims to have made, and that the efforts which have been made by others to deprive him of his claim have been characterized by gross injustice."

Dr. B. W. McCready, of the Bellevue Hospital, New York, a letter to Dr. W. H. Gobrecht, of Philadelphia:—"It has been deemed just, by the leading medical men of Boston and New York that Dr. Morton should realize something more from his discovery than barren honors, to which he has to support his claims at his own expense."

Prof. Willard Parker, of New York, in a letter to Mr. Allsop:—"Dr. Morton has laid the civilized world under an infinite obligation and exhausted his means by so doing. I am desirous that some return should be made, and he be relieved from his condition of want. In this city a movement is being made in furtherance of this object."

Dr. John Watson, of the New York Hospital, in a letter to John A. Stevens, Esq.:—"As our national government is not likely to remunerate Dr. Morton for the trouble and expense, not to speak of loss of business, to which he has been subjected, American people should take his sacrifices into serious consideration, and show by their own liberality that what the government cannot do, the people are not willing to leave undone."





With the view of obtaining effectual co-operation in other places, a meeting of a committee of fifty gentlemen was held at the house of Dr. J. Mason Warren, January 26th, 1861, and as a result of this meeting, the following organization has been adopted. The aid of the medical profession, and the public in general, is now respectfully solicited to assist in carrying into effect this laudable purpose. It is proposed that a public subscription be instituted, the avails of which shall be paid into the hands of Amos A. Lawrence and John Lowell, of Boston, Trustees, to be held, appropriated, and invested for the benefit of Dr. Morton and his family.

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TESTIMONIAL TO WM. T. G. MORTON.

Boston, Mass., U. S. A., April, 1861.

More than fourteen years have elapsed since the first application of Sulphuric Ether as an Anæsthetic agent. During this period its use has been extended over the whole civilized world; it has been employed in private dwellings, in hospitals, and upon the field of battle, and has been hailed as the most beneficent gift conferred upon mankind since the discovery of Vaccination. It has enabled every human being to contemplate pain, disease and death, with comparative composure; and its loss, were such a thing possible, would be universally regarded as a calamity to our race.

The Anæsthetic properties of Ether if before known, had never been before practically applied, and except for the courage, energy and perseverance of Dr. Morton, they would not probably have been applied to this day. The peculiar claim of Dr. Morton is not merely that he introduced the use of Ether, but that he first demonstrated the fact that the human system can be safely reduced to a condition in which it becomes unconscious of the sufferings of disease, the pain of surgical operations, and the pangs of childbirth. The same purpose has since been effected by Chloroform and other agents, but it is not assuming too much to say that except for the demonstration of this great fact of the possibility and safety of Anæsthesia, their employment would have never been suggested.

But while all mankind have been benefited, Dr. Morton has been a loser, to a large amount, by his discovery, in a worldly point of view; and in consequence of the time consumed, the expenses incurred in its introduction, and the suspension of his professional labors, he is less advantageously situated than before. This does not seem just, and it is now proposed to procure and present to him an adequate testimonial, not as a compensation, for a full compensation is in its nature impossible, but as a remuneration for his expenditure, and an expression of the deep and grateful sense entertained by his fellow creatures of the inestimable benefit he has conferred upon them.

