

embraced by medical philosophy. They may rest assured that the practitioner who, by the exercise of his reasoning powers in scientific investigations, is capable of comprehending the laws by which organization and vitality are governed, and is thus enabled, not by mere habit or conjecture, but by cautious induction, to trace the phenomena observable in aberrations of health to those organs on whose functional or structural derangement they may depend, but with which they may appear to hold but obscure or uncertain relations, will ultimately meet a sure reward in the confidence and approval of the unprejudiced and the intelligent. In this, my last public attempt to encourage a taste for scientific pursuits, I may be permitted to allude to my own successful medical career, in proof that the pursuit of science is not incompatible with a deep devotion to professional duties; and I will venture to add, not from vanity or presumption, but from an earnest desire to remove the apprehension which, I know, deters many medical practitioners from pursuits so congenial to their taste and education, that so far from my known scientific predilections having proved injurious to my professional prospects, they have, on the contrary, largely contributed towards my success, by affording introductions which otherwise would not have been within my reach; independently of the privilege, which in my estimation is beyond all price, that of being permitted to hold communion with the most eminent philosophers of our times.