

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY. THE DISPATCH is delivered to subscribers...

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PRIZE FOR BEST ESSAY. The prize for the best essay—a case of instruments—was awarded to Dr. C. H. Chalkley, of Richmond.

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Dr. C. H. Chalkley and Edward D. Campbell of Lexington, Va., received the appointment as physicians to the city dispensary.

Dr. McCaw introduced as THE ORATOR OF THE OCCASION Hon. B. Johnson Barbour. Mr. Barbour's address lasted about one hour and a quarter. It was not only able and eloquent, but was instructive and interesting, and was the most literary effort, as far as the front of the stage, he began as follows:

"Who shall decide when doctors disagree? I, believe, still to be ranked among the insoluble problems—quite as much as when Pope pronounced it a hundred years ago. But of this I do not intend to say. Who shall resist when a doctor does agree?—I constitute the living if not the most satisfactory answer. Why, I was selected and forced to address an army of YOUNG DOCTORS JUST ABOUT TO BE TURNED LOOSE UPON SOCIETY, not like roaring lions, of course, but like good Samaritans, seeking earnestly to find who will be their neighbors, and whilst not prepared to resist or take the responsibility, which would be contrary to the etiquette of the profession, yet, like that good man, to be always ready to go to him, to bind up his wounds—pouring in, not perhaps, oil and wine, but some newer and more popular prescription, some of the most potent remedies that the art of medicine has ever known, for instance, and holding themselves ready to "come again" as long as their services may be desired. Why, I repeat, it should have fallen upon you to address this array of young physicians, not to exactly appear to me, and, I fear, to remain in the memory of those who demand it. You had better harden your hearts to a three-months' attendance upon the Legislature would burnish my ideas for such an occupation as this. Indeed, it seemed to me at first particularly absurd—a forlorn hope—that a legislator and physician could be united in the same person—that I was folly to expect of him. Hippocrates under one head, or, like Coleman's "two handsome gentlemen, rolled into one"; but presently, like a flash of inspiration, there rose before my mind's eye the portly and pleasing form of one of my esteemed colleagues, who hails from the great city of Washington, and who, strange to say, like these two eminent and distinguished gentlemen, and I could but regret that he had not been invited in my place, more particularly as his voice and action would have been doubly pathetic and persuasive just now, tremulous as they would have been over the early demise of the wonderful little contrivance, and the fair to an ADMIRING POSTERITY as the author of an instrument which, during its brief and brief and festive existence, has elicited more comment than all of Edison's philosophical toys put together, which promised to invest my friend with a fuller and more significant right to append the double D to his name as the framer and fashioner of an instrument that more than any other was ever sounding from mortal lip, dewy eye, but more especially from early candle-light until daybreak, the requiem of departed drinks, and making empty casks and an overflowing treasury as the correlatives of a grand financial movement, the tokens and signs of a rapidly returning prosperity. But, alas! the decree has gone forth that we shall have another mournful example of the vanity of human wishes, another proof that human fame is but as sounding brass or as tinkling cymbal.

Pardon me, my young friends, for a little preliminary playfulness, for I feel that under any circumstances I should be incompetent to address you fitly, but more especially just now, after a laborious spell in the Circumlocution Hall; after an infinite weariness in doing nothing; after an unequal and fruitless effort to aid those who have striven to repair

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