



Morton Testimonial Association

# TESTIMONIAL TO WILLIAM 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.

With the view of obtaining effectual coöperation in other places, a meeting of a committee of fifty gentlemen was held at the house of DR. J. MASON WARREN, January 26, 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

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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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