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PROCEEDINGS  
IN BEHALF OF THE  
MORTON TESTIMONIAL.

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At a meeting of Medical Gentlemen, held at the house of Dr. Jacob Bigelow, on the evening of January 26th, 1861, for the purpose of bringing before the community the claims of Dr. W. T. G. Morton to a substantial recompense for the benefit which he has conferred on mankind by the discovery of the anæsthetic properties of Sulphuric Ether, Dr. John Homans was elected Chairman, and Dr. Francis Minot, Secretary; and the following Resolutions were adopted:—

*Resolved, 1st.* That this meeting view with great interest and satisfaction the movement inaugurated in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia,\* in behalf of the Morton Testimonial, and take this occasion to renew their expression of approval and sympathy.

*2nd.* That the meeting commend the subscription proposed for the Testimonial to the favor and support of the American people, and most cordially join in the commendation bestowed upon it by institutions and scientific men throughout the country.

*3rd.* That in view of the present condition and objects to be attained by the Testimonial, it is expedient to make an immediate effort to take up a general subscription in this community, which is the scene of Dr. Morton's labors and experiments, and the city where the discovery was made, and the Testimonial had its origin.

4th. That a Committee be appointed by the Chair from gentlemen out of the profession, to call on this community, and solicit donations and subscriptions in behalf of the Testimonial, with power to make additions to their number and substitutions, and to take such other action as they may deem expedient to promote this object.

5th. That a Committee of Medical men be appointed by the Chair to confer with the Committee on Subscriptions as to the most efficient means of accomplishing the end in view.

6th. That it is expedient to appeal especially to those who have been relieved by etherization from intense pain, that they may have an opportunity to contribute according to their means.

On motion of Dr. Bowditch, the Secretary was requested to notify the members of both Committees of their appointment, and to desire them to meet together at such time and place as he may see expedient, to carry out the objects of this meeting.

The Chair appointed the following Committees:—

LAYMEN.

AMOS A. LAWRENCE, 17 *Milk Street.*

CHARLES AMORY, 54 *City Exchange.*

J. INGERSOLL BOWDITCH, 54 *State Street.*

JOHN LOWELL, 42 *Court Street.*

JOHN T. STETSON, 8 *Milk Street.*

WM. APPLETON, JR., 24 *Tremont Street.*

MOSES WILLIAMS, JR., 105 *State Street.*

DANIEL S. CURTIS, 4 *State Street.*

JOHN JOSEPH MAY, *Cor. Broad and State.*

MARTIN BRIMMER, 48 *Beacon Street.*

A. W. SPENCER, 13 *Congress Street.*

SAM'L FROTHINGHAM, JR., 59 *Franklin Street.*

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THOS. J. LEE, 60 *State Street.*

WARREN SAWYER, 7 *Blackstone Street.*

J. D. W. JOY, 17 *Milk Street.*

PRESCOTT BIGELOW, 1 *Postoffice Avenue.*

JOSEPH BURNETT, 27 *Central Street.*

JOHN H. THORNDIKE, 29 *Edinboro Street.*

B. W. TAGGARD, 29 *Cornhill.*

GARDNER BREWER, *Federal, cor. Franklin.*

THEODORE METCALF, 39 *Tremont Street.*

P. W. CHANDLER, 4 *Court Street.*

THORNTON K. LOTHROP, 42 *Court Street.*

CHARLES T. RANDALL, *Devonshire, between Franklin and Summer Streets.*

G. S. HILLARD, *Niles Block, School Street.*

JAMES T. FIELDS, *Cor. School and Washington.*

WM. G. WELD.

EDWARD T. EASTMAN.

MEDICAL.

JAMES JACKSON,

JACOB BIGELOW,

GEO. HAYWARD,

JOHN WARE,

JOHN HOMANS,

S. D. TOWNSEND,

JOHN JEFFRIES,

A. A. GOULD,

HENRY I. BOWDITCH,

O. W. HOLMES,

JOHN H. DIX,

CHARLES G. PUTNAM,

J. MASON WARREN,

HENRY J. BIGELOW,

HENRY G. CLARK.

JOHN HOMANS, M.D., *Chairman.*

FRANCIS MINOT, M.D., *Secretary.*

The following Address is set forth by a Sub-Com-  
mittee appointed at a Meeting held at the house of  
Dr. J. Mason Warren, in pursuance of the foregoing  
order.

Boston, March 4, 1851.

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We beg leave to address you in reference to the  
claims and services of Dr. W. J. G. Morton, as con-  
nected with the discovery of a certain anæsthetic  
to pain by the use thereof, of substantial merit.  
That this discovery has been an inestimable benefit to  
mankind, and that it is regarded as one of the most  
important applications of science to the use of life, and  
has been made even in the case of laparotomy and  
gynecology a general practice.

While there is not an entire harmony of opin-  
ion, as to Dr. Morton's claims to the priority of the  
discovery, all who have investigated the subject agree  
that the predominant merit of first establishing a  
medium, that was before only a source of a constant  
pain, his and that without his courage, energy, and  
perseverance the discovery would not have been made.  
This is enough to make his  
discovery one of the wonders of his time, and his  
energy is now in use all over the civilized world,  
everywhere it is lightening the trying duties of the  
Medical Profession, soothing the pain of the suffering,  
and what is hardly less valuable, taking away that  
apprehension of pain which to the nervous and sensi-  
ble is like suffering itself.

But Dr. Morton has experienced the common fate  
of inventors and discoverers, so far from being a

The following Address is set forth by a Sub-Committee appointed at a Meeting held at the house of Dr. J. Mason Warren, in pursuance of the foregoing object.

BOSTON, MARCH 4, 1861.

SIR :

We beg leave to address you in regard to the claims and services of Dr. W. T. G. MORTON, as connected with the discovery of producing insensibility to pain by the anæsthetic effects of sulphuric ether. That this discovery has been an inestimable blessing to mankind, and that it is regarded as one of the most important applications of science to the uses of life that has been made, even in this age of improvement and progress, is beyond dispute.

While there is not an entire unanimity of opinion as to Dr. MORTON'S claims to the priority of the discovery, all who have investigated the subject agree that the pre-eminent merit of first establishing by experiment what was before only a surmise or a conjecture is his ; and that without his courage, energy and perseverance, the discovery would not have been put into practical operation. This is enough to make Dr. MORTON one of the benefactors of his race. His discovery is now in use all over the civilized world ; everywhere it is lightening the trying duties of the Medical Profession ; soothing the pain of the suffering, and, what is hardly less valuable, taking away that apprehension of pain, which to the nervous and sensitive, is like suffering itself.

But Dr. MORTON has experienced the common fate of inventors and discoverers. So far from being a

gainer, he has been a loser to a very large amount, by the sacrifices and expenses incurred by him in introducing his discovery and vindicating his claims. It is not proposed to bestow upon Dr. MORTON a pecuniary equivalent for his discovery; indeed, the worth of a discovery like his is not susceptible of a money value, though some approximation to it may be made by considering what sum mankind would be willing to give for such a blessing, supposing they had it not. But we think he is justly entitled, not merely to a return of all expenses incurred, but to some further expression of the grateful sense which his services to humanity have everywhere awakened. Thirty thousand pounds were given, in two successive grants, by the British Parliament to Dr. Jenner; and no one would deem a like sum an extravagant remuneration for the civilized world to bestow upon Dr. MORTON.

The undersigned, a Committee appointed at a Meeting of Gentlemen of the Medical and other Professions, held at the house of Dr. J. Mason Warren, on Tuesday, February 26th, have the honor to address you on this subject, and to solicit your aid in behalf of the object above set forth. Such contributions as you may see fit to make will be received by Amos A. Lawrence or John Lowell, who have consented to act as Trustees of the fund which may be collected, or by any member of the Joint Committee on the Morton Testimonial.

JOHN HOMANS, JOHN WARE, GEO. S. HILLARD, CHAS. G. PUTNAM.	} Committee.
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FRANCIS MINOT, *Secretary.*



*The undersigned having been appointed Trustees (in the place of Thomas B. Curtis and Charles H. Mills, Esquires, resigned,) of the fund to be raised as a Testimonial to Dr. Morton, for his discovery of Etherization; and having accepted this trust, deem it their duty to state for the information of those who may be asked to contribute, that it is not designed merely to present him with an honorable memento of the services which he has rendered to mankind, but to afford him relief from the embarrassments which his discovery has brought upon him.*

*It is necessary for us therefore, to say that Dr. Morton has sacrificed all his property, and all the profits of his profession, in introducing his discovery, and in establishing his claim, and that he has seriously impaired his health; that he has failed to obtain compensation from the Government for the use of Ether by the Army and Navy, though a Bill has been twice passed through one House of Congress, for that purpose, and that he has no hope of any public compensation.*

*Under these circumstances, is it asking too much to bestow on one who is the author of the most beneficent discovery of this age, the means of an ample support for himself and his family?*

*Believing that all who have experienced the inestimable benefits of Ether in its various forms in alleviating pain, or who have seen its effects upon others, will deem it a privilege to give some substantial proof to the discoverer, of their appreciation of its value, we forbear to give the details of his labors and his misfortunes.*

AMOS A. LAWRENCE, } Trustees.  
JOHN LOWELL. }

*Boston, March 4, 1861.*

*We, the Subscribers, hereby agree to pay to AMOS A. LAWRENCE and JOHN LOWELL, Esquires, of Boston, as Trustees, the sums respectively set against our names, to be held, invested, or appropriated, for the benefit of DR. MORTON and his immediate family, in such manner as the said Trustees may determine to be expedient.*

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W. B. Bowditch	50000	paid
Amey Lawrence	50000	paid

500

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