

QUOTATIONS

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*These are rare find from visiting
doctors and writers their albums -
Boudleer
Montreal
Glasgow at end.*

OBITUARY.

JAMES HAMILTON, L.R.C.S. Edin.

*This also appeared in
Can. Med. Condem. Rep.*

We regret to have to record the death, on the 1st of last month, of one of the oldest and one of the best known medical men in the Dominion, Dr. James Hamilton, of West Flamboro', Ont. He was born at the village of Douglas, in Lanarkshire, in 1797. Receiving a preliminary education at the parish school, he proceeded to Edinburgh as a medical student, and after four years study, obtained, at the early age of 19, the diploma of the College of Surgeons, the date of which is 1816. Thus qualified, and being anxious to see something of the world, he came to Canada as surgeon on a vessel, and was induced by friends to begin practice in Montreal. After enjoying himself for four months, and doing, as he told the writer, very little practice, he returned to Scotland. In 1818 he again visited Canada with the intention of permanently settling, and after visiting many localities, began practice in Ancaster, a small village about 5 miles from the head of Lake Ontario, and, at that time, the chief place of business between York (Toronto) and Niagara. Here, as the only medical man at the head of the lake, he quickly obtained an extensive practice, so extensive, indeed, that the greater part of the day was spent in the saddle. His district at that time lay between the Grand River and twenty miles down the lake on either side, an area about 60 miles by 20. In 1820 he moved across the valley to West Flamboro', about two miles from Ancaster, having purchased one of the most beautiful sites in Western Canada, immediately above the town of Dundas, and overlooking Burlington Bay and Lake Ontario. Here he continued to live until the time of his death. Dr. Hamilton possessed qualities of mind and body which fitted him in the highest degree for his profession, while the strict and conscientious attention which he paid to all cases, early secured for him a lucrative practice. Unfortunately in later years he engaged in some commercial enterprises which proved far from successful, but an indomitable energy enabled him not only to tide over reverses, but to make provision for old age. In all public matters Dr. Hamilton took a deep interest, but had no great desire for parliamentary honours. Though a staunch conservative and a leading man of his party, he was only once induced to contest a county, and then unsuccessfully. He was one of the original promoters of the Great Western Railway, of which he was for many years a **Director**, latterly holding the position of consulting Surgeon. At the time of the Rebellion he held a commission as Colonel of Militia and took an active part in the suppression. By his professional brethren Dr. Hamilton was held in the highest esteem, and most deservedly so, for one by one he had welcomed them heartily into his district, holding out to each the hand of good-fellowship. He took a deep interest in the Ontario Medical Council, and represented the Burlington and Home districts from 1869 to 1872. It is much to be regretted that Dr. Hamilton has left us no record