"Biographical Sketch of Caspar Morris, M.D." MS 1954

off, not to be heard of more! Another anecdote, however, may illustrate his character better. During his term at the Pennsylvania Hospital a young man, B. L., was brought in suffering from fracture of the base of the skull and also fracture of both parietal and the frontal bones with compression and loss of brain matter and hemorrhage from ear and nose. I have his carefully taken notes of this case which illustrate curiously the surgery of the day. It was successful, however; the young man recovered, and some years afterward made a will leaving his skull to the young doctor who had cared so faithfully for him. Thirty years after, on the death of B. L., the skull came into my possession; the diagnosis was verified, and the skull is now deposited in the museum of the College, while the history of the case is given in the *Transactions*. I may add also an incident of his student days of which I have been reminded by Dr. Ruschenberger. A fellow-student, a stranger, without friends in the city, was taken ill at a boarding-house with smallpox. Caspar asked and obtained leave from his grandparents to bring him to their house, which he did, and nursed him faithfully. At his request, Dr. Chapman kindly visited him until he was restored to health. Then, at the request of the student, Caspar accompanied him to Dr. Chapman's house and asked the latter for his bill. Chapman came forward, and taking hold of him said, "You young rascals! Dog don't eat dog! and if you're not dogs, you're puppies." They retired greatly relieved, as the young man's finances were at a low ebb. Another incident of his hospital life I have also heard from himself. I asked him if he had ever seen a case of hydrophobia. He replied, "Yes, when I was resident at the hospital; and I never shall forget the poor man's sufferings, nor his gratitude to me for a small act of

humanity. Everyone was afraid of him; his convulsions were so terrible that he was bound so as to prevent his injuring himself or others during the paroxysms. This dread on the part of others distressed him; he asked me if I too was afraid of him. I said, 'No;' and to assure him stooped over and kissed him."

He also took an active interest and part in the formation of the Historical Society of the State of Pennsylvania, and contributed a paper on the "Early History of Medicine in the Province" to its Proceedings. The minutes of its meetings are in his handwriting from its organization to January, 1827, and some of them were held in his room at the Hospital (was this the "room of the Phrenological Society"?) and yet he does not give his name as an original member. I suppose this must have been because at the organization of the Society he was not of age and, hence, did not feel himself entitled so to do.

Soon after his graduation in 1826, in accordance with the custom of the times, Dr. Morris went on a voyage to India as ship's surgeon and assistant supercargo. He sailed May 8, 1827, on the ship "Pacific," Captain J. Wootten, arriving without adventure at Madras, September 3, 1827. From his journal I extract the following unfinished fragment entitled

LINES TO A FLYING FISH.

Poor silly truant of the briny deep,
With wondrous length of fin, and dark black eye,
What strange idea through thy brain could creep,
To tempt thee such experiment to try?
To stretch thy fins upon the wind—and fly?