Ms of

Egerton Yorrick Davis M.D. Late U.S. army

of

Caughnawaga P.Q.

I never could understand about Egerton Y. Davis. He is reputed to have practised at Caughnawaga, nearly opposite to Montreal, where his collections were stored in the Guildhall. Some have said that he was a drunken old reprobate, but, the only occasion on which I met him he seemed a peaceful old rascal. One thing is certain he was drowned in the Lachine rapids in 1884, & the body was never recovered. He had a very varied life - in the U.S. army, in the north west, among the Indians, & as a general practitioner in the north of London. I knew his son well - a nice mild mannered fellow, devoted to his father.

There notes of customs among the Indian tribes of the Great Slave Lake were sent to
+ Dr Molson just after he had taken over the Montreal Med. Journal with Dr Ross. One day I was in the job-room of the Gazette office where the Jr. was printed & Cuoldy said "Oh there is an awful article for

the Journal this month – Peter is in despair about it (P. was the compositor) and says Dr Ross will never print it. I went over & found these sheets – all set up. I told Connolly that Davis had not a very good reputation & to hold the printing until Dr Ross saw the article. Of course he saw at once that it was not fit to print.

I heard nothing more of Davis until I went to Philadelphia. I was on the staff of the Medical News and Parvin, in 1884 & 1885, was very interested in the action of the perineal muscles, & in an editorial article discussed the question of the constrictor cunni, & the possibility of the old idea of a penis captivus. One day I met Minis Hays, the Editor, who said "By the way do you know Egerton Y. Davis, who lives somewhere near Montreal. Parvin is delighted, as he has sent the report of case of penis captivus, just such as he thought possible.", I said "Hays, for heavens sake! do not print anything from that man Davis. I know he is not a reputable character. Ross & Roddick know him well." "Too late now" Hays said "the journal is printed. Sh." So the letter appeared

[See the photostats now attached below to leaves 27-29]

in the number for Dec 13, 1884. It is dated from Caughnawanga 4 Dec. 1884. The case has gone into literature, & is often quoted. Minnie Hays was disgusted, as Ross insisted that Davis was a joke, and he & Roddick hinted that I, of all people!, was the only one who knew anything about him. Some went so far as to say that I was Davis. & the rumour got about in Philadelphia. I never but once met the man. Afterwards I often used his name when I did not wish to be known. I would sign my name in the Hotel Registers as E. Y. D. Caughnawanga. Once, at Atlantic City, after I had had broncho-pneumonia, I registered under that name, immediately after Mrs Osler & Revere. I had been there a week when a man came up & said "Are you Dr Osler? I have been looking for you for a week, your secretary said you were away & not to be got at my son is ill here & I wished you to see him" He had said to Cadwallader Biddle. Who is that fellow, Davis, all the time with Mrs Osler?, and was furious when he found that I had registered under that name. They tell in Montreal many jokes about Davis, & father many of them on me. I am always sorry that I did not see more of him, & that I never visited his collections at the Guild'hall Caughnawanga.

William Osler