

That you have surpassed us in that your school is founded, in a measure at least, upon the Profession, is to your honor but not to our dishonor. With us the school was the outgrowth of a desire on the part of a few men for more knowledge: with you it was the product of our industry, failures and successes. With thirty years' experience behind you, and with the leading men of the Dominion graduates of our institutions, it were strange indeed if you should not have combined in one school features in advance of ours.

Yet institutions of learning should be judged, not so much by the manner of their formation and the regulations governing them, as by the work they are doing. With us we have many things to condemn, and I doubt not you have *some* things also; while with both there is enough of good to engender a spirit of emulation, and to lead the Profession on; the two sides of the Niagara to a closer and more intimate bond of fellowship. The Dental Profession has the making of its own destiny. Whether that destiny shall be wrought out—in the light and experience of the past—in an independent and dignified course of its own, maintaining separate and distinct institutions of learning, and with a separate and peculiar degree as now; or whether Dentistry and Medicine shall be taught in the same institutions, by the same teachers, and all and each having the same degree—a common profession, a common education, a common degree, and having common privileges and common honors—I know not. But this one thing I do know, and this much I desire to say, that Dentistry took its first and greatest strides towards the perfection in which we see it to-day, when, fifty years ago, it started out on an independent and separate course.

Is it possible, gentlemen, that the men laying the foundation of a profession capable of such progress, were "ignorant," "unlearned," "unthinking," "peripatetic itinerants"? I cannot believe it! On the contrary, I do believe that, in their day and generation, they wrought better and wiser than we in ours. We do not flatter ourselves with the notion that we have attained perfection, and that no more truths remain to be found. We believe that we are wiser than our ancestors. We believe also that our posterity will be wiser than we. It would be gross injustice in our grandchildren to talk of us with contempt, merely because they have surpassed us; to call Watt a fool because mechanical power may be discovered which would supersede the use of steam; or Franklin an ignoramus because he did not know that electricity would become the great