

would have the temerity to declare that anybody could steer through hidden and sometimes treacherous obstacles without a disaster ; yet, it must be conceded, that, taking it for all in all, the dental reform movement in Canada has been exceptionally successful. If we have had failures, to whom are they due? Quite as much to the timid as to the traitor. If we have had remarkable successes, to whom are they due? Surely not to the critics, whose selfishness was concentrated in their own personal gain ; but to men who made personal and professional sacrifices, who cut off even social enjoyments and necessary relaxation, that they might serve their brethren. Gentlemen who seek office and notoriety, and who use it for their own commercial profit, and who are even willing to expose their unfitness before their confreres for the collateral advantage the notoriety may give them before the public, are happily few and far between. But as a general rule, it is these very parties who have grievances, and who are envious of the honors of office which fall to faithful and competent workers. Put them into the positions for which they hunger, and they make themselves ridiculous, unless they have the rare faculty of evading discussion, or the tactful trick of silence.

In Ontario and Quebec the profession has had difficulties to meet of the most provoking and unreasonable character. The disturbers of peace and prosperity, without a single exception, have been distinguished for pure and unadulterated selfishness of the meanest sort. They have never co-operated with the disinterested labors of others, but they have displayed jealousy, and occasionally knavery, in their bitterness. They have not the manliness to accuse or attack to their faces those whom they dislike. If they have not the imprudence to slander them to their patients, and as discreetly as they can to their confreres, their very cunning, like curses and chickens, "comes home to roost," and they are forced to swallow their own spleen. It is a miserable spirit to carry about in one's life. The men who have labored for the profession do not care two figs for the friendship of the tag-rag and bob-tail riff-raff, but they have a right to expect at least some magnanimity, if not actual help, from those who are not included in this category. Many of our best men have no love for office. Circumstances of poor health, natural preference for privacy ; perhaps the wiser idea, even if a bit mercenary, that to take care of number one is more profitable than caring for all the rest of creation ; these influence them to avoid official responsibility. As a matter of justice, they should remember that the men who labor in office enable them to care more for their own interests, by doing duties which are just as incumbent upon the retiring, as upon those who pull the oars. If they do nothing, in face of those who are always aiming to undo what has been done, they might almost as well do mischief openly.