

Wells was the first *in America* to *introduce* it. Nothing more nor less can be said.

We suppose we will again be accused of the puerile charge of insulting "American" dentistry because we ask to have no hair-splitting over a simple English word. When dictionaries do not differ as to the meaning of the word "discoverer," why should dentists? Had Davy merely suggested the idea that nitrous oxide was capable of destroying pain, and gone no further, he would not have deserved credit as the discoverer. But it is on record that while Superintendent of the medical school at Bristol, in 1799, he experimented with it, inhaled it himself, had an operation performed in his own mouth painlessly, and then announced its anæsthetic properties, and suggested its use in surgery. To pretend that such scientific investigation is not a true discovery is to play with the vocabulary. Had Davy been a dentist, no doubt he would at once have used his discovery. The greatest discoverers frequently leave practical results for those who follow them. No one pretends that Wells was ignorant of Davy's discovery. No one pretends that he was the first to know or perceive the effects of nitrous oxide. Even had he been so ignorant, the revelation which he made to himself would not entitle him to be proclaimed as "*the discoverer.*"

Reciprocity between the Dental Boards.

It is no doubt somewhat premature to act, but it is not too soon to discuss a question which was editorially referred to in the first number of our first volume, and which was much more practically suggested in a paper read before the Dental Association of Nova Scotia, in September, 1893, by Dr. Frank Woodbury, of Halifax. Many years ago, Dr. Cogswell broached the subject when he was planning the incorporation of the profession in the Maritime Provinces; but there has been nothing more responsive than a few echoes from Ontario. By reference to the article of Dr. Woodbury, the obstacles in the way will be found clearly explained. Obstacles now-a-days are only incentives to action. They stir us as the waves animate the swimmer. As a race, it has been our destiny and our duty to smash obstacles.

There is no reason why a dental confederation with reciprocity should not be established in the Maritime Provinces to begin with. A meeting might be held in Halifax, and the seed of unity planted; and there is no reason why our friends down by the sea should not ask our Newfoundland brethren to join. The Maritime Provinces rule the waves. Let them lay the keel of union and reciprocity.