

## EDITORIAL.

## THE CONVENTION AT HAMILTON.

We have received letters commenting in no very æsthetical phraseology upon the recent elections of the Association in Hamilton, and severely censuring the meeting for the unprofitable discussions on matters of no practical moment. Happily, the Journal occupies a position of perfect neutrality, and so long as we control its destiny, will never lend itself to *the abuse* of any one. It has no sympathy with ill-tempered correspondents who would fain keep alive old disputes, and whose one ambition seems to be to get themselves into power, or abuse others who are preferred. The mission of this Journal is to conciliate, not to embitter; to harmonize, elevate and improve, not to criticize and traduce. If events have rubbed against the grain of any one's private interests or opinions, we have nothing to do with them, and until we can see how such communications as those sent us tend to the elevation and improvement of the profession, we must positively refuse their insertion. There can scarcely be an election without a consequent disappointment in some quarter; but the choice of the majority must be accepted with good grace, or no organization can be successful. However much we think of the claims of our candidate, our co-operation should not fluctuate by their success or defeat; and as "office" never yet added one whit to a man's personal ability, the loss of it is by no means serious. Nothing is more uncourteous than to chuckle over victory, nothing more foolish than to carp at defeat. If you have won, aim to win the respect and support of those who opposed you; if you have lost, prove by your undiminished co-operation, that "office" was not the price of your suffrage. A consciousness that we labor for the good of the profession, not for our own selfish ends, not only dignifies the Association and the profession, but above all, the individual members who practice this principle. We trust, then, that every member of the Association will accept the position, and not allow any trifle to come between them and true progress.

It is a matter of considerable surprise and sincere regret that the meetings at Hamilton were not productive of more practical discussion. A great deal of time seems to have been spent in petty personal debate of no value to the profession at large; and some disposition to cliquism allowed to intrude. The weakness of such organizations is in just such useless debate, while their principal object of practical work, and which no doubt has more attractions for the large majority present, is too often made of secondary consideration.