

# Dominion Dental Journal

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## DEMI-MONDE DENTISTRY.

Dr. Norman W. Kingsley, of New York, has recently added his anathema, to the unsightly barbarian splendor "of large conspicuous gold fillings, and gold crowns, showing the degeneracy of refinement and good taste in the dentists who practice these vulgarisms, as well as in the patients who demand them." "It is bad enough," he says "when gold becomes a necessity for the preservation of the teeth from further decay, but when it is used for purposes of display and to attract attention, it is an offence against all refinement and culture. I once saw a passenger on board an Atlantic steamer, dressed like a lady, whose upper front teeth were nearly all gold. It was subsequently learned that she was of the demi-monde and used this means to attract attention. While small pieces of gold in teeth exposed to observation are unsightly enough, the introduction of entire gold crowns is an offence that only a savage would take pride in."

There is a very curious difference in public taste in this matter between our friends in the United States and the people of England and Canada. As a rule, the most eminent in our profession dissuade their patients from adopting these vulgar displays, and when they are done, they are done under protest, similar to that which an artist might offer were he forced to in painting a portrait, to give black hair to one whose head is whitened by age, or make eyes that squint, eloquently large and loving. The height of art is to conceal art. But the entire object of some in our ranks is to make their patients public advertisements, and, in doing so, they publicly announce their own lack of esthetic taste.