

The makers of the early history of our country well understood this fact, as witness the number of conventions which were held by the colonists before the Declaration of Independence was finally promulgated, and our land became what it is to-day, a model of Republican Government.

John Brown waged war upon the institution of slavery, and so zealous was he in his work and fixed in his convictions, that he sealed his devotion to the cause with the sacrifice of his life. Yet the institution survived, and men continued to be bought and sold as articles of merchandise until, in convention assembled, it was "Resolved that to hold chattels in humanity was a stain upon our nationality and a libel upon our independence." The convention willed it, and the fetters fell from four million slaves.

This is an age of association, and it is this associated effort that has fostered scientific investigation, raised the standard of morality and of education, and stimulated our national literature.

We have the Medical Association, where our learned Doctors assemble and endeavor to solve the problem of how much medicine a man can take and still live.

We have the Bar Association, a highly-educated body of men, who have burned the midnight oil in perusing Blackstone, searching authorities, and preparing briefs, but whose ingenuity and skill is most apparent in bills of fees—always without a brief.

Teachers' Associations, *where the why and wherefore* is made entirely plain to the speaker, if not quite so to the audience; and so on, there are associations without number all down the line, from that representing the highest art, to the Newsboys' and Street Cleaners' associations.

That there is great good accomplished by this associated work is manifest to all. Now, how are we, as a Dental Association, to get the greatest amount of good from our meetings? Our most earnest and progressive workers are found in our societies, and yet it is a matter of regret that there are still those outside, who, if once interested, would make very active and valuable members. Let us make it a personal matter to see at least that all such receive a cordial invitation to join us.

As our profession grows older and the need of better legislation for its protection becomes apparent, let us see to it that our appeals for such legislation are made in the name of our society, and if necessary signed by each of its members. We shall then find that it is not a difficult matter to obtain such laws as are needed for the protection of the public and the profession.

I was impressed by some suggestions made by Dr. Beadles, of the Virginia State Dental Society. His idea is not to have *many* clinics, but *good* ones by a few operators of known ability and experience. To have only one clinic in progress at one time, and that with the society in session and the officers in their places.