

professions. *Then*, its practitioners were craftsmen ; to-day they are gentlemen of culture and scientific attainments. *Then*, it was a conglomerate and unorganized mass of men, each seeking to conceal his own ignorance ; to-day it is a body of generous men, organized into societies for mutual improvement. *Then*, it was scorned by the Medical profession and unnoticed by the world ; to-day it is treated with consideration and respect by the whole Medical fraternity and accorded its justly important position as a department of Medicine by the broader cultured and more conspicuous of all the professions. *Then*, it was composed of men schooled only in secret formulæ and mysterious arts ; to-day it is composed of men schooled in science and trained in the arts of benefitting mankind. *Then*, it was without resources or appliances ; to-day it is possessed of large resources, and is rich in the most ingenious and appropriate appliances.

*Then*, it was without literature, neither had it authority ; to-day it has a respectable and rapidly-increasing literature and authority as clear and fully pronounced as are the same in Medicine, Law or Theology. *Then*, it was full of envyings, jealousies and back-bitings ; to-day its code of ethics is as dignified and exacting, and the intercourse among its members as unselfish and genial, as the same in any other profession.

These, gentlemen, are a few of the contrasts between 1839 and now ; and these are the things that have been wrought out in Dentistry, by the spirit infused into it at that humble conference fifty years ago ; and when we contrast the condition of our profession to-day with that prior to '39, we can but feel that the *seeming* evil of separation from the Mother Science, has been overruled for good to suffering humanity, and the credit of general medicine. It is believed the history of no other profession offers a parallel to the remarkable forward strides taken by the Dental profession during these fifty years. Yet rapid and remarkable as has been this progress, when another fifty years shall have "rolled away, breaking their noiseless waves on the dim shores of eternity," it will be seen that at no previous time has it been so rapid and remarkable as at the present.

Never before has the Profession been so well and so thoroughly organized, when so many of its members have been embraced within its societies ; when the standard of educational and professional requirements has been so high ; when the fields considered proper