

THE DIGNITY OF THE PROFESSION.

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There has been a good deal of talk about elevating the Profession in Canada, and there is no doubt but that the majority of its members are sincere in their desires, and feel what they say. Looking upon the present position of Dentistry in this country, compared to what it was two or three years ago, we have good cause for gratification; but we are yet far from deserving the dignity and status for which we aim. The dignity of the Profession embraces so wide a field of discussion, and so many side issues, that it cannot have justice done it in the limited pages of our *Journal*, but a few words on the subject may be in season.

The right hand of fellowship extended to the Dentists of Ontario by the Medical men of that Province is appreciated most highly, but we are in favor of Dentistry standing on its own merits, and if we do not mistake, this is the feeling of those very gentlemen who so nobly countenanced and assisted the Dental movement up West. A want of self reliance has, perhaps, been mistaken for diplomacy, and we think the Dental movement could and should stand on its own merits as a public benefit, and a professional protection. We are sure no one will misinterpret our views on this point, for we derived too much personal pleasure and profit from the Lectures of Drs. Canniff and Richardson, at the last Dental Convention in Toronto, to breathe the suspicion of depreciation, and we have a very high respect for, and approval of such assistance. The point is, that our Profession as a separate and distinct branch of Medicine and Surgery should not need other qualifications for, and claim to dignity than its own position entitles it. To elevate it to this position should be the aim of every true Dentist. We purpose adverting to several matters which we think tend to clog the progress and respectability of Dentistry; and if in the review, a cap fits any reader, we trust it will be appropriated with the same frankness in which it is given. While admitting that the past, and even much of the present should be no criterion, we believe that the Profession can only attain an equality with Medicine by the abandonment of much that is now common custom. A great deal has been said and done in days past, by some of our worthiest members, which to-day is ranked