

Dominion Dental Journal

Vol. X.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1898.

No. 4.

Original Communications.

RETIRING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.—VERMONT STATE DENTAL SOCIETY.

By DR. C. S. CAMPBELL, St. Albans, Vt.

It would not be my purpose to make a lengthy or scientific address at this time, even if I were able to do so, but I would like to say a few words to you on the value of our conventions.

To attain success and approximate toward perfection in any enterprise or undertaking, it is almost indispensable that there should be systematic, concentrated and united effort. It is as true to-day as ever it was, and will apply as well to our dental interests as it will to our political relations one to another.

Let us notice briefly the workings of the political convention.

Political parties assemble in convention, define their position and declare their intentions as to great principles and interests, affecting or likely to affect the weal or woe of their countrymen. Committees are appointed to draft "Resolutions," which are accepted by the body appointing the committee, made public through the press, approved and endorsed by sub-conventions, clear down to the primaries, and at last the report of a committee of not more than half a dozen men becomes the accepted issue that is to agitate, excite and convulse a whole nation.

The same sentiment expressed in the precise language, and by the very men constituting the committee, without the endorsement of a convention or association, would often be powerless to even agitate or excite.

It is the conventional prestige or power, not the individual expression, that gives the sentiment force and efficiency. Paul, the most learned and eloquent of all the Apostles, knew full well the strength of association. Hence the exhortation, "Forget not the assembling of yourselves together."