

proved true,—they were not porous! The porcelain of which they were composed was dense, solid and strong. I took one of the teeth manufactured on this continent, choosing from the best makers of these articles and subjected it to the same test, but I knew beforehand what would be the result, for on other occasions when I had been cornered for want of a certain shaped tooth I had been tempted to grind it into shape, the result was as you all know; the tooth was ruined. It was all very well as long as I kept the stone wet with nice clean water, but put it into the emery brush and suddenly your beautiful white tooth became covered with black spots, showing conclusively that the body you held in your hand was not a solid substance (as you might have imagined it to be) but only a piece of sponge capable even of absorbing water. I next took one of the best American teeth and fastened it firmly in a vice, putting some soft substance between it and the iron to prevent the vice from cracking it; then taking a pair of strong pliers I seized hold of one of the pins, gave a “tug,” the result was a tooth split into two or three pieces, and the pin I held in my hand whole and perfect. I may remark that there was a scientific twist on the end of this pin which had been inserted into the tooth, but as the material of the tooth was not strong enough to hold it, the said “twist” was of no use. I then put “Ash & Son’s” on trial, screwed it tight in the vice, seized the pin, gave a tug and—no result;—pulled again and continued pulling till at last I went staggering across the room. Something had given, was it Ash & Sons? No. There it was, smiling at me from the vice. It was the pin, gentlemen. I do not know whether there was a scientific twist or not at the end of it, as the tooth would not give me the chance to find out. Some day, perhaps, I will investigate it more thoroughly with the aid of a steel hammer.

I hope no one will accuse me of advertising the above named gentlemen, for I can assure them that I have not received anything either in the shape of fat bank notes or otherwise. I should suppose from never having seen their teeth before, that they do not care about this side of the water as a market; in fact from what I have seen of their teeth they would have to alter their shapes, etc., for this country. The teeth made in Europe are too large for this continent, and all I have seen have a peculiar curve inwards, which, though it does not matter materially when inserting them singly, (for as I previously remarked, you can grind them to any shape you like without damage) yet upon putting up a set they have an appearance that with the dentists of America condemns them at once.

In colours, shapes and general artistic appearance I do not think any part of the world can compete with our own manufacturers. Nothing