

through which the human frame can pass with which your profession is not more or less connected. Then, undoubtedly, important improvements are to be made in connection with the chemical and scientific apparatus which you employ, improvements that may be made from an intimate knowledge of chemistry, of physics, and of natural science. Then you want to raise your profession in the public estimation. You want it to stand where you know it ought to stand (applause), and you can make it stand there if you present yourselves as men of high and generous culture, as standing in every respect alongside of the foremost members of the community as cultured and influential citizens. You can advance the position in which you can collectively stand by your individual efforts for your own improvement, advancement and elevation as learned and scientific men, and, above all, as men of high moral and religious principle." (Loud and prolonged applause.)

During the evening the following letter was read from Oliver Wendell Holmes, the reading being frequently interrupted by applause:

"I am sorry to say that I shall not be able to attend the meeting of the Harvard Dental Association or take an active part in its proceedings. I have a real interest in the welfare of a profession to which so many of us ought to feel grateful with every word we speak and every morsel we swallow. Few persons have passed the age of three score years and ten, retaining their own self respect and a proper regard to appearances, whose mouths do not flash with incisors which never knew what it is to grow from a socket or to cut their way through a gum. By the thoughtful and ingenious devices of the dentist, childhood is protected from the destructive processes which threaten and tend to undermine the structures essential to health and beauty, youth is rendered doubly charming, middle age comely and old age respectable. We cannot be too grateful to our dental friends who do so much for us all, and it is pleasant to see them gathered together to use the organs in their own mouths in the important function to which the preceding hour has been devoted, and now to exhibit those same organs in the smiling amenities of social intercourse. I am always pleased to hear of the success of the graduates of the dental school whom I have had the pleasure of counting among the audience at my anatomical lectures. I will not refer to those established in our own city who have filled and are filling so well the places once occupied by Dr. Flagg, Dr. Joshua Tucker, Dr. Harwood, and their more immediate successors. But I was glad to know that the son of my classmate, Dr. Horatio Cook Meriam, who bears his name, was prospering in a neighboring city, famous of old for its witches, and in later years for its bewitching daughters, whose most precious attractions are safe, I am sure, in his hands. In my visit to Cambridge, England, two years ago, I met Dr. George Cunningham, one of the most intelligent graduates of the class of '76, thriving and happy in a charming old residence under the shadow—the light rather—of the great university. Wishing you all equal success and happiness, I am, gentlemen, very truly yours, OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES."