

benefit of one's own mistakes, in order that they might avoid them, and to point out those faults and follies of a professional career through which most of us have had for discipline to pass. It was formerly a superstition that every child should have measles, chicken-pox, and croup, just as the belief exists to-day in some parts of the Province of Quebec that physical life is not complete without variola. In much the same way, it seems to be a heresy to deny, that a man can steer clear of reefs and rocks against which the most of voyagers strike; but were this true, and were the beacons and signals of no avail, would not every shoal and lee-shore of life be strewn with human wrecks, and many a hopeful heart perish in despair? There are perils of a peculiar character in the practice of dentistry, and pitfalls of more than ordinary obscurity; there are duties a man will specially owe to himself and his own nest and nestlings, superior to those that can possibly belong to the public, however nobly unselfish, and willing a man may be to lay down his life, if needs be, for his brethren; there are perplexities and temptations, and there are splendid occasions to do the duty of unselfish, earnest and truthful men. But, however parsimonious of self-praise, or prodigal of self-censure, the telling of all this would dispose us to be before our confreres; we do not like to make a public exposure of our own imperfections, or even successes, before the patients.

And it was enough to take one's breath away to learn, at the eleventh hour, that I was to be permitted, for at least thirty minutes this evening, to be "intoxicated with the exuberance of my own verbosity," and in such a literary, legislative and university centre as this advancing city, and in presence of distinguished gentlemen, whose public life makes speechifying to them mere child's play, and who, if they talk in their sleep, do so, I am sure, with classic and Corinthian polish.

However, Mr. President, with all the dangers and drawbacks before me, were I to say that I am sorry to find myself here, then like Montaigne's page, I "would not be found guilty of telling the truth." It is indeed a great personal pleasure to be allowed to add another link to the long chain of my connection with the dental movement in Ontario; to meet face to face and hand to hand, a new detachment of earnest and leavening recruits, bound in dentistry in this Province to do, not to dream, and who seriously mean in