

upon the same resources, it would seem the wiser plan to leave well enough alone—especially as there are active legislative pruners on the scene who seem to us of the professions rather ruthless in their designs and methods. To change the simile, Dentistry has a history, language, and ample and growing literature of her own that call for pride and satisfaction. The State has no foes, and its intestine troubles are growing beautifully less: Why then, its rulers naturally ask, should it give up its individuality, autonomy, and prestige to become a mere section of a larger State. That too, when the latter has not a few enemies without and within its borders, and illimitable unexplored land to redeem and cultivate

Let one who wishes to be a friendly critic say, what he would rather not have so good ground for alleging, that the blemish on the escutcheon of your profession is a tendency too manifest on the part of some to a purely commercial spirit, which is unworthy the free-masonry that ought to prevail amongst the members of the various professional confraternities, and is utterly out of harmony with that higher kind of communism which condemns all meretricious methods of gain and any misinterpretation of that plain word "fair-play," the Golden rule epitomized.

Gentlemen, some of you will soon be actively engaged in your life-work, and making your influence felt for good or ill. Let me exhort you to do your part individually and collectively as members of your profession to keep your fair fame unsullied, to preserve your particular field in the broad domain of activities free from noxious weeds and other sources of weakness; and, as far as possible let it not be said that your worst enemies are those of your own household. Bear in mind that whatever action on your part, concerted or not, even in your student days, tends in any way to lower you in the estimation of the thinking public, will assuredly react and tell against your best interests, present and prospective. There are times and seasons and an eternal fitness in things, whether of the new order or old. Each member of a profession has, in a sense, the honor of the whole body in his keeping, and this trust should be sacred: Errors of judgment on your part there will be, but let us hope of *intention*, never. It may not be out of place to say—I believe I have the warrant of your Faculty for saying—that if any of you feel uppermost the desire to live a life of mere gain, then it would be well for you to reconsider, for the time will soon be here, if it has not already come, when those who have mere gain for their chief aim must keep out of the professional walks and choose those other more direct, and too often more devious, avenues to the goal of their ambition. If you have the proper animus and reason rightly, however, I opine you will stick to your present choice, for observation shows that the vast majority of men only attain at best a competency which;