

progress. For this unexpected and undesired mark of your confidence you are entitled to my sincere thanks. It is also due to you that I should endeavor to understand your interests as members of this body and aid in promoting those interests in an honorable and practical manner.

I have to congratulate you on the progress your society has already made both in numbers and talent, as I see before me many of the best members of our Profession in Ontario, men capable of upholding and advancing the best interests of our noble calling: men willing and anxious to learn all and everything that would be of advantage either to themselves or society: men also who are quite competent to teach and impart much valuable information to others, and this I may say is one of the leading objects of this society, an object I trust that will not be lost sight of in this or any future meeting, but that all our energies will be used for the purpose of elevating and perfecting the profession of Dentistry, by the cultivation of an enlarged liberality of sentiment, by the fostering of an honorable spirit of emulation, by the full and free interchange of views and opinions. No Profession can possibly hold a respectable position in the world whose individual members fail to respect each other, or who disregard the high degree of honor which should ever be found to characterize their intercourse. With ill-natured remarks about our brother practitioners, either in relation to their ability as dentists or as men, a gentleman can have nothing to do. It cannot enter into any portion of his necessities or interests: it can neither elevate him in the mind of his hearers nor can it add one particle of ability to his capacity; it can attach no glory to his name, no credit to his reputation, therefore it is a deadening occupation, utterly beneath a calling whose aim is usefulness, whose aspirations are noble and exalted. The man who can listen to the detraction of a co-worker in our ranks without a blush of indignation towards the perpetrator of the wrong, is a sorrowful spectacle of a mistaken and misguided man. But he who can slander another for mere jealousy, is indeed a weak creature, claiming the pity and contempt of all. "For he that steals my purse steals trash, but he who filches my good name takes that which enriches not himself but makes me poor indeed."

We are unfortunately subjected to a nuisance in many respects, that is fast leveling the practice of Dentistry to a mere trade, which the other learned professions are not in the least infested with; I al-