

made by our friends of Ontario, when with hard fighting and commendable zeal, they organised an association, obtained an act of incorporation, and won for dentistry the legal right to be called a profession. Ontario and Quebec now possess laws which mutually protect the public and the profession; and let us trust that the local legislatures of our sister Provinces will at once awaken to a sense of the great need and importance of incorporating the dental profession of their Provinces, and so extending the advantages we, in common with our community at large, enjoy.

It has become an intelligent principle to measure the standing of every art and science by its growth with the times. Geology has outgrown the guesswork of Pythagoras, and newly discovered "sermons in stones" illustrate the history and development of the globe, and testify to the truth of scripture. Any schoolboy of the present day may intelligently ridicule the superstition which clung to astronomy in the time of Copernicus; briefless barristers may pooh-poooh much of Lysurgus; first year medical students may sneer at the vagaries and therapeutics of Celsus; dental pupils pity the pulp-slaughtering practice of Spooner, and even criticise the largest part of the early editions of Harris. An infallible law exists with regard to all science and art, which, like that of the mutation of races and tongues, preserves the true or removes the imperfect, according to their development. As in the animal kingdom, genera and families disappear after having fulfilled their time, and become transmuted and further developed in others called more perfect, so through a series of progressive developments, an imperfect principle in science is the forerunner of one of perfection and truth, and scarcely leaves a vestige by which we can detect its origin. Old speculations and practices which once were revered, are thrown away like the key of Garengueot and the invariable principle of extraction in chronic alveolar abscess; the text books of Maury, Jourdain, Hunter, Bell and Harris, are no reliable guides, and many names once honored as almost inspired, are now recalled with more curiosity than awe.

One is naturally disposed to magnify the importance of any occupation in which he is engaged; and it seems to me, that if there is an exaggeration which should be excused, if not commended, it is that of the man who over-estimates the value of his own profession, and who, therefore, esteems it paramount to all others. To think highly of one's self is not at all identical with thinking highly of one's labor—indeed there is nothing more diverse: and I conceive that the growth of dentistry and its present position as a recognized branch of medicine and yet an independent and distinct profession, entitles us to have its claim respected. Take it theoretically and practically in all its constituted