

# Dominion Dental Journal

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## Original Communications.

DR. S. B. PALMER, SYRACUSE, N.Y.

The DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL has several times been under obligations to Dr. S. B. Palmer, of Syracuse, N.Y., for valuable communications, one of which appears in this issue. We happened to be in possession of an excellent photograph of the doctor, and familiar with some parts of his career, and it occurred to us, that coincident with the space given to our friends in Vermont it would be a happy thought to include the portrait of one of the eminent pioneers in the heart of New York State.

Dr. Palmer was born in 1822. In 1847 he worked on the farm where he was born, about three miles from the nearest village, where he availed himself of the common school advantages, and afterwards entered the academy. The circumstances which led him to choose dentistry as a profession were unique and suggestive of his character. He needed artificial teeth, he had never seen a dentist, excepting the itinerant, whose chief business was extracting. Knowing a neighbor who wore a silver plate he examined it and went to Syracuse, where in a druggist's a dental depot was kept, and inquired for some works on dentistry. The only one he found was "Goddard on the Human Teeth," published in 1844, but the price, five dollars, deterred him from immediate purchase. After awhile he had saved the money, bought the book—which he still retains as a valuable memento—and started to study it, with the single object of making a plate for himself. Following the illustrated instructions for the manufacture of a narrow metal plate with lasps, he reduced a silver half-dollar to the right gauge on an anvil. With the aid of the drug-clerk he selected the necessary plain teeth, and in about seven months afterwards, after various vicissitudes, he had the set of nine