

that there should exist an idea of the necessity for a plea for the preservation of natural teeth at this stage of professional progress, is to abandon the whole status and retrograde forty years or more, to disband the profession, as it were, to throw the fat into the fire and call ourselves failures, and we ought to seek some other honest calling in which spheres of usefulness may open up to us, in pursuit of which a just appreciation of our endeavors may be looked for. Is not the sum and substance, the life and vigor, the brains, the whole physical being of the profession, a concentration and embodiment of the principle of the preservation of the natural teeth? To say anything else is a giving away of the fundamental principles.

I apprehend that thirty years ago there did exist a state which, viewed by the light of the present scholastic training, was a deplorable era, marked by the blood of thousands of slaughtered innocents, and might be termed the age of slaughter: in which time the profession was made up of broken-down tradesmen and mechanics, bounty jumpers and refugees from foreign parts, farmers and furriers, plumbers and tinkers, who, for a monetary consideration and six months' service, were turned loose on the community, and permitted to pursue their course according to the light that was in them, and everything was good grist for their mill. Happily, law and order has prevailed over this state of things, and the profession and people are protected.

If I were to say that the practices that then prevailed do now exist even in remote districts to any great extent, would be a-begging the question. I do not believe so. Yet I am led to believe by the action of the committee in the choice of this subject, that there does at the present day and generation, exist somewhere in Ontario one or more of those fossils, or perhaps pupils of the extinct race, who believe that their mission is to mutilate humanity from mercenary motives. I do not expect to teach them any better, that would be too much to expect of them, for as a rule they do not attend conventions since they know it all now. It is far easier on their conscience to stay at home and feel right than to learn better and not be able to do better. The only hope we have of them is that they will soon die and make room for civilized and enlightened beings to take their places.

Where do these people exist? Do we find them in country places, or in the towns and cities? or why do they exist? There