

Gold and silver were principally used for base plates, single gum teeth had to be artistically ground and filled separately. I witnessed the introduction of gum sections, the vulcanite, the clumsy vulcanizer, and the rubber dam. Then we used *sometimes* a damn when a gold filling was spoiled by moisture. The old reliable but much abused amalgam will receive attention from Dr. Black, of whom I have heard much, as one who has contributed largely and beneficially to the profession. I would have liked to hear him, and witness his demonstrations. I hope details will be published and distributed among the physicians, so as, if possible, to disabuse some of their minds, and modify their condemnation of its use; some of them claim that mercury is absorbed in the system. By their recommendation many poor people, who could ill afford it, have had all amalgam fillings removed that were safely preserving the teeth. I occasionally see persons enjoying good health who have had for over thirty years six or more large amalgam fillings which have and are to-day still preserving teeth that would long ago have perished. I have filled teeth when removing the pulp was not thought of (at least by me). After filling, the tooth was drilled on the side, and the patient instructed to prick the opening and allow the gases and pus to escape, when soreness was felt! Alas! the end soon came; the constitution was bad, and would not tolerate the dead substance. It is strange that it did not occur to me that roots supporting pivot teeth very seldom gave trouble, and that other roots properly cleaned would be equally free. Still, when we could not save the teeth, we could insert artificial substitutes very lifelike and substantial; we have the continuous gum on platinum plates as well as single teeth on gold and silver. Our object then was to screen the work as being artificial; at present the reverse is apparent, judging from the gold displayed in many mouths; some look like door plates waiting for an inscription, and seems an imitation of a barbaric age. I have in possession a full set of teeth made over one hundred and thirty years ago, with gold spiral springs, for retention; the molars carved from walrus ivory, the mineral anterior teeth riveted on a gold plate, by a gold pin piercing the centre; the whole lower plate carved from ivory with mineral teeth beautifully carved and fitted into it. The work must have cost a great amount of time, skill and labor. It would put to blush the best modern bridge work.

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You suggest that I give you some of my recollections of pioneering in Canada. Fresh from my preceptor's office, J. S. Wood, M.D., the Medical College at Albany, and favored with many good testimonials, a good outfit and fair stock, I launched my bark upon the sea of great expectations. After visiting several cities and towns of northern New York I made my debut in Canada