

Editorial.

"The Kicker."

This is not a new dental engine. It is an ancient and perennial human being, and doubtless, like the mosquito, is designed for some wise purpose once beyond human ken. When the first Dental Journal and College were proposed in Baltimore, he was not only discovered there, but in every State of the American Union, and there are lineal descendants from Maine to California, who still disbelieve in journalism and education. If the kicker had his way in Canada, instead of organized means of education, we should find stable-boys and jewellers jumping from the curry-comb and the bench into the surgery at one bound, after perhaps six weeks' training. The kicker, as a rule, who condemns education because it is not equal to the very best older and more populous countries supply, is well aware that he himself is unqualified to improve it, and the impracticable suggestions he ever ventures to make only prove that he is more animated by jealousy or ignorance than any idea of self-sacrifice or sincerity. The kicker has rarely, if ever, distinguished himself by self-sacrifice. He is as lavish in unreasonable criticism as he is niggardly of his time or money, and with every thought and action it is "*Aut Cæsar, aut nullus.*" Yet when he is put into Cæsar's place, who ever knew the kicker to do more than kick? There may be a great hidden purpose in the creation of the kicker. But supposing that kickers would only become as generous and loyal as they are carping; supposing they would kick with the best efforts leaders can make, instead of against them; what a difference it would make if they would lend their energies for development instead of for destruction, as builders instead of as iconoclasts. As a respected judge in Hamilton once said to the late Dr. Chittenden: "You dentists are good pullers. What a great body you'd be if you'd all pull together." Now we believe we have discovered the object of the kicker's creation. He is designed to help, not to hinder. He is intended to make, not to mar. The only trouble is that he has been kicking the wrong way. If he kicks fair and straight, the object of his creation will be splendidly fulfilled. Of course, there may be abnormal creations,