

To the Members of the Bathurst and Rideau Medical Association

GENTLEMEN,—

Once more Dr. Cranston has issued a lengthy circular, and he seems to be convinced that the only way he can secure this election is by scurrilous abuse and malicious insinuations, but in this instance he has the aid of Dr. Powell, the retired candidate. I leave their honourable and professional conduct to be judged by the manly sense of fair play of the members in the Division. I had reason to believe Dr. Powell was supporting me in this election, because he had promised to do so, and had not notified me to the contrary; but apparently he has no respect for his word, and at present I sincerely hope he will honour me by voting against me. Dr. Powell had to retire because he had no support, and if you look between the lines in his statements you can easily perceive the word "envy" strewed promiscuously around; for what did he say in his first circular announcing himself a candidate, and before he retired? "*I feel with many others in the Division that a change in the representation is desirable.*" Comment is unnecessary, except to state that by his action of thus striking a friend in this underhand and dishonourable manner he will merit and receive the contempt of the physicians in this city, and in the entire Division. The unanimity of my *confreeres* here in my favour has been already shown by thirty-seven votes cast for me, and the resolution moved by Dr. H. P. Wright, and that moved by Dr. Sweetland and seconded by Dr. Hili, illustrates how groundless are the insinuations and inuendos he attempts to convey.

A few words for Dr. Cranston's benefit. At the meeting of the Association held last summer, Dr. H. B. Small spoke to Dr. Cranston as follows: "Yes, there are two in the city who desire election, Dr. Rogers and Dr. Powell. Perhaps they will both be candidates, but one or other will certainly run." I make this statement with Dr. Small's sanction. Likewise, when I proposed the Doctor's health at the dinner after the meeting I made it very plain that it was not expected he would again be a candidate. He challenges me to give *one* case where he used anything but fair means to secure signatures to his nomination. I will give one, but I could give a dozen. A prominent physician in Brockville sent by request Dr. Cranston's nomination to three or four places, and he thus writes: "At that time he (Dr. Cranston) was the only candidate in the field, and I was assured opposition was not expected, * * therefore I feel warranted in assuming you will not attach any blame to me for forwarding his nomination paper *when requested to do so*, especially when there was no opposition in the field, and I was led to believe there would be none." It was the same story told everywhere—there will be no opposition.

Dr. Cranston appears to be unable to comprehend the difference between medical and pre-medical education. Throughout this contest I have consistently advocated that where the Council has failed in benefiting the profession is in keeping the standard of preliminary education so low as it is now. I have shown by figures, what every one knows, that the medical profession in Ontario has become tremendously overcrowded, and that it is growing worse every year. If the requirement of pre-medical knowledge was an arts degree, then the overcrowding would be checked and our profession made immeasurably better. All the medical schools in Canada are alike to me, I do not favor one more than another, as they each constitute simply a means to an end.

I have this moment received a letter from a physician who had signed for Dr. Cranston, but who wrote to him withdrawing his support, and he now promises to vote for me. He gives good reasons for his action, and I will quote one sentence in the letter which exhibits the prevailing feeling in the Division. "It is certainly ungenerous and grasping for him (Dr. Cranston) to cage it (the honour) a third time, and I told him so in plain English when I wrote him, and I further told him there were plenty of just as good and worthy men, who desired to hold the position for a term or two, that should be allowed to do so."

Dr. Cranston cannot extricate himself from the corner his old circular of 1880 places him in, and with the promises then made by him before the electors now, they have every right to refuse to support him.

Finally, gentlemen, as this will be my last address to you in this contest, I must leave the verdict in your hands. If you honour me by electing me to the responsible position of a member of the Council it shall be my aim ever to work in your interest and in the interests of the profession.

I remain, faithfully yours,
A. F. ROGERS.