

It is, however, a fact which calls for no illustration, that any employee, of whatever grade, who owes his position to the influence of any person above the superintendent, or independent of him, can never prove to be a reliable or obedient officer or servant; for he believes and too often knows that his continuance in the service depends more upon the influence that first secured it than on his own good behavior. There no doubt are worthy exceptions to this rule, but they are not so numerous as to disprove it.

During my own rather long tenure of office, I had the satisfaction of total non-interference on the part of my superiors, in this relation, and I would fondly hope my successor has had the like experience. I could not desire for him a greater curse than its opposite.

An evil of unspeakable virulence in connection with the administration of American asylums, but for which it is just to say the governors or trustees are not accountable, is the frequency with which groundless charges of misconduct or mismanagement are brought against the medical staff and their assistants. I need not particularize instances of this grievance, for you are all better acquainted with the details than I can be. So far as I can remember, nearly all these accusations have been the concoctions of discharged, bad servants, or of imperfectly recovered patients, whose lingering insanity has underlain their moral obliquity. It is, however, truly lamentable to observe the extent of popular credence awarded to these calumniators, and it is badly calculated to elevate our conception of the primal purity of human nature, to find that so many people are anxious to believe evil of their fellow men, and to rejoice more in the hope of verifying iniquity, than of discovering innocence.