

# QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY JOURNAL.

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All literary contributions should be addressed to the Editor  
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All communications of a business nature should be addressed  
to the Business Manager.

ON the 18th of January there was handed in at the job office of the *Whig* the "copy" for the medical column of the *JOURNAL* published on the 21st. In the report of the medical dinner there was a sentence which read somewhat as follows: "The *Times* and the *News* were represented; the *Whig* reporter probably had to attend a dance for which that office did the printing." We quote from memory, and are not positive as to the exact phrasing. The proprietor coming upon this item, "accidentally," as he said, objected to it and wished to see the editor. Mr. Burton, acting-editor of the *JOURNAL*, on hearing of this interviewed the gentleman, and after a friendly discussion of the matter, had the objectionable item deleted, informing the medical editor of his action the same evening. The next day the latter gentleman received a letter from the proprietor of the *Whig* accusing him of offensive and ungentlemanly conduct, stating that he (the proprietor) could not descend to his level, and that therefore he would ask as his right that Mr. Richardson, our medical editor, should not set foot in the *Whig* office. This letter was based on the item sent in for publication and afterwards withdrawn, and had been written before the interview between Mr. Pense and Mr. Burton, though the former made no reference whatever to it during the conversation, and the latter acted in the matter in complete ig-

norance of the action which Mr. Pense had already taken.

The letter was marked "private," but Mr. Richardson very properly laid it before the *JOURNAL* staff. The acting editor was instructed to see Mr. Pense and ask for some satisfactory explanation or apology. In this he was not successful, that gentleman ignoring the question of his right to make use of matter intended for publication in the *JOURNAL*, and taking his stand on this, that he refused positively to publish lies about his own paper. This, of course, necessitated the cancelling of the contract, and the staff, feeling that immediate steps must be taken if the *JOURNAL* was to appear at the usual time, made other and satisfactory arrangements for publication. Their action was reported to the A.M.S. last Saturday night, and endorsed by a unanimous vote of the students. The business manager being laid up with the grippe, his assistant went on Monday to get the plate for the *JOURNAL* cover, along with other "cuts," which are our property. He was informed that these would be held until the full amount of our indebtedness to the *Whig* was paid. If the object of this was to embarrass us in the issue of the *JOURNAL* it failed of its effect, for at the earliest possible hour on Tuesday morning the account was settled and the plates released.

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Such in brief is the history of our trouble with our former publisher, and of the transfer of our work to another office. The facts speak for themselves, but we have still a few words to say by way of application. When the publisher of the *JOURNAL* came to a knowledge of the objectionable item, whether he did so accidentally or otherwise, he had no right whatever to make it the excuse for the letter he wrote our medical editor, and in thus making use of matter not yet published he violated a recognized and fundamental rule of decent journalism. When he asked for an interview with the acting-editor and discussed the matter with such assumed candor that he persuaded that official to delete the item, without making him aware of the fact that this letter had been written, he was guilty of conduct which ought to make him chary of applying such terms as untruthful or ungentlemanly to others. When he attempted to shield himself from public criticism by marking the letter "private," he displayed a childishness of disposition scarcely to be expected in a grown man. The *Whig* has received from the students for the publication of the *JOURNAL*