

intelligent and self-respecting elector, without stultifying himself, vote for the return of one of them to the next Council? You may, perhaps, claim that a chief, or that the chief object of the scheme was to force prompt payment, but to force or to attempt to force the payment of an unnecessary, an unjust and an unconstitutional tax is tyranny—is a wrong to which no liberal minded, upright man would care to be a party.

In closing these letters, I regret that I cannot compliment you on the graciousness with which you have admitted my communications to your columns, or on the fairness of your editorial comments upon them. The time has probably come when the medical profession in Ontario should have a Journal untrammelled by schools or Council, and exclusively devoted to its special interests. In this respect your own periodical is out of the question. The other medical serials published in the Province—though distinctly higher in tone, and more liberal in conduct, have all, it must be confessed, alliances and aims which essentially unfit them for doing yeoman's work in the service of the medical electorate. I am not, of course, here referring to them in their capacity as vehicles of scientific information and professional enlightenment, since in that respect, I believe them to be an honor to the Dominion, and to bear favorable comparison with the best medical journals in the world. Where they fall short is in that alert guardianship of the rights and immunities of the profession, and fearless advocacy thereof—even, on occasion, as against both Council and schools—which is necessary to our future welfare. The entire absence in the Medical Journals, then in existence, of a single note of warning to the profession with respect to the proposed legislation in 1891—of which it may be assumed that they at least had some foreknowledge—is an in-

stance in point, and the past two years have supplied many others. The *Canadian Practitioner* in several instances, and the *DOMINION MEDICAL MONTHLY*, on at least one occasion, have, it is true, risen superior to what may, perhaps, without offence, be termed their natural antipathies, and have referred to or discussed some of the claims even of the Medical Defence Association with dignity and fairness. All honor to them for such manifestations of liberality and spirit of fair play. It, nevertheless, remains true that we cannot expect much help from these and similar sources—that if the more healthful and more manly professional sentiment, which now begins to exist in our ranks, is to become fully developed in the near future, a free journal, in which, editorially and otherwise, all questions relating to the government, the internal economy, the alliances, the hopes and aspirations of the medical electorate, could be discussed freely and honestly, from a purely professional standpoint, is just now, without doubt, an important desideratum.

Yours, etc.,

JOHN H. SANGSTER.

Port Ferry, March 8, 1894.

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