

“ create any unpleasant impression, I abstained from the
 “ formal withdrawal of my name. But, as you are aware,
 “ I from that time ceased to take any part in the proceed-
 “ ings of the Society.

“ In March last political enemies, who had long been
 “ assailing my character in other ways, took advantage
 “ during my absence from the country, of the retention of
 “ my name upon your list to attempt the infliction upon
 “ me of the social brand and insult of expulsion. This I
 “ felt bound in the interests of society at large, and of
 “ charitable institutions as well as in that of my own char-
 “ acter to resist. Had I been approached in a way not
 “ injurious to my self-respect and reputation, on behalf of
 “ the charity, and by members qualified to represent its
 “ interests, there would have been no difficulty in obtain-
 “ ing my resignation.

“ More than six months having now elapsed since the
 “ attack on me was made without any intimation of its re-
 “ newal, I feel that I shall be liable to no misconstruction
 “ in giving effect to my original inclination. I beg leave
 “ accordingly to resign my Life Membership and withdraw
 “ from your Society.

“ I am,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

“ GOLDWIN SMITH.”

Mr. Castell Hopkins now has the assurance to charge me with having abused my membership in the St. George's Society for political purposes. This statement is absolutely false. Nobody ever accused me, or, I believe, thought of accusing me, of anything of the kind. If there had been the slightest ground for the charge Mr. Castell Hopkins would have embodied it in his motion, or brought it forward at the time.
