

sought to confound the past and present managements in the minds of the people, in order that the unpopularity which attached to the former might be transferred to the latter.

We are accused of extravagance; of bribery; of falsifying our books; in fact of every crime in the Railway Calendar; and actions capable of the simplest explanation have been twisted and disguised, with an ingenuity worthy of a better cause, to give color to these accusations.

They have originated chiefly with *Agitators* who have cautiously abstained from seeking information directly from us upon a single point in question. Doubtless they feared we would *bribe* them too heavily with the stubborn logic of facts.

It is less surprising that men should exist who believe unfounded assertions plausibly uttered, than that they should discredit the plain unvarnished truth, uttered with due knowledge, when that truth is unpleasant.

Still it is painful and discouraging to learn that, of the various competent and pains-taking gentlemen appointed by the public bodies of these Counties to examine into our entire system of management, (which examination was facilitated on our part by the fullest explanations, coupled with *ocular proof* down even to our Bank books), three at least have failed of re-election for no other reason, that I have heard, save that they had the self-respect to report the truth as they found it.

If this be the fact, then these Counties have set a premium on the corruption of their public men by thus allowing themselves to be led away into discrediting those whom they sent to examine us, which duty was faithfully performed; while they are deluded into bestowing more or less of credence on the artful concoctions of those who, knowing nothing whatever of the real state of our affairs, seek to maintain *Railway agitation* for the sake either of political capital or the *pickings* of a *Chancery suit*.

Time undoubtedly will rectify all these evils, and the truth will at