

show the straits to which the *Practitioner* is driven, in attempting to defend what is as utterly indefensible as it is unjust and unfair to all our Independent Medical Colleges.

No Government, however strong, can afford to persist in what is, on the very face of it, a *great wrong*, and it is not, and cannot be, in the interest of either the Government or of any one institution to seek to maintain a state of things which is strikingly unfair.

As the subject is one which concerns the entire profession, I think it well to have the letter appear also in your well-conducted and very widely-circulated Medical Journal.

WALTER B. GEIKIE.

Toronto, July, 1890.

To the Editor of "*The Canadian Practitioner*."

In your issue of June 2nd, you have a long editorial, based on a letter addressed by me in March, 1890, to the Hon. the Minister of Education. The *very gross, absolutely unfounded, and most unwarrantable* personal attack which you make upon me, I shall notice no further than to remark, that it shows not only very bad taste, but also a very *weak* cause, which has to resort to personal detraction of a writer, who complains only of a gross *public* injustice done to ALL our Independent Chartered Medical Colleges. This injustice is acknowledged with regret by nine-tenths of the profession, and by as large a proportion of the public interested in such matters. The letter referred to, was a reply to an official communication received shortly before from the Minister of Education, and it *pointed out* the wrong complained of, as well as *proved it*, by reference to printed parliamentary records, and by figures, the correctness of which cannot be disputed.

The injustice done to ALL Independent Medical Colleges of Ontario has arisen from the restoration in 1887, of a Medical Department to the University of Toronto, without these Institutions having been fully and *separately* or even *at all* consulted beforehand, as they certainly should have been. If, when the restoration was effected, there had not been several long-established Chartered Medical Colleges in full and successful operation, there would have been less cause for complaint. Under such circumstances the restoration would have been required, the public and the profession would

have asked for it, (as they did not do) and it could not, by any possibility, have affected injuriously the vested rights and privileges of sister Institutions, which on that supposition, would have had no existence. But the very reverse of this was the fact.

It is well known that the Parliament of Canada in 1853 abolished the Medical Department of the University of Toronto, on the express ground "*that it was not in accordance with sound political economy for the State, directly or indirectly, to aid in educating men for lucrative professions,*" as this education was given even at that early day to a sufficient extent in Colleges and Schools conducted entirely by private enterprise. And up to 1887, the Government of Ontario continued to carry out this same policy, and for the very same reasons; and since 1853 several teaching Medical Corporations have been established and have incurred very heavy expenditure in the erection and equipment of suitable buildings and laboratories, and have attained to a high degree of efficiency and success, reached after many years of very ill-remunerated work on the part of their teachers.

I said in my letter to the Minister, and here repeat it, "that the change made in 1887 was not asked for, by the country at large. It is emphatically true, that beyond a very few *personally interested individuals*, chiefly in Toronto, and notably several members of the late Toronto School of Medicine, who were on the Senate at the time, and all of whom became members of the new "Faculty," which they gave their influence to create—the changes made, were neither asked for, nor needed by the profession or by the public. There was no dearth of well-educated young doctors to meet every possible want of the province—indeed, then as now, large numbers of our young medical men looked to the United States and to other countries in search of a wider field in which to practise." In your editorial you allude to a proposal made to Trinity Medical College in 1887 to suspend her charter, and amalgamate with the Toronto School of Medicine to form the new "University Faculty." For many good reasons this was declined. The entire Faculty discussed the scheme fully, and unanimously reached the conclusion that it was "unpractical" and "impracticable." Indeed not a few members of the Faculty, who knew all about the *proposal* and its