

in a plot and helped to remove Mr. Rand " and the plot in substance was—to substitute Mr. Hunt as being a suitable tool in the hands of the government to assist the Roman Catholics to establish separate schools. All this you said on the ground of Hearsay alone "*I was told*" being the burden of your tale, and for the most malignant portions of the slander the poor excuse even of a Hearsay is wanting. I have nothing to do with the insult offered to Mr. Hunt, or with the aspersions on the government, or the Roman Catholics; nor yet with the childish spite of your uncalled for attack on Dr. Crawley, a man whose noble and truthful character is beyond the range of your appreciation. What I am dealing with is your assault on myself. Not only were you guilty of falsehood in asserting what you did not know, but you also assumed the heavy responsibility if you asserted of me what was—as it was—untrue, of basely slandering me; and you stand before me a man regardless alike of the restraints of truth and of just respect for the reputation of another—a slanderer—pouring your poison behind my back, under a concealment I might never have penetrated.

For such conduct I might have made you suffer in a manner that would have lastingly affected you in all your interests. I had no desire thus to injure you. Had you had sense and honesty enough in replying to my first note to have acknowledged regret that under strong excitement you had been led into giving to rumors a weight they did not deserve, I should have accepted your apology, however much I reprobated your conduct; and the matter would have ended. Instead of this my first note was met by an insulting evasion, and I have had to track you through petty artifices, and to reach the point at last by tearing from you miserable sophistries under which you have sought to evade my just claim.

You have yet to learn the obligations of truth and justice—to be taught that there is more wisdom in candour than in cunning; that artifice and truth hold no companionship.

If you draw these lessons from this correspondence its fruits will be wholesome however bitter.

I am your obedient servant,

J. W. JOHNSTON.

P. S.—Your complaint of what you style an unaccountable proceeding in the delivery of my last letter is mere childishness. There is nothing in the relation of this correspondence to make it improper if I saw fit to have sent you that letter open while the bearer held an open copy in his hand. I might have communicated in a more official manner. But the fact I believe is not as you state it. I gave Mr. J. the letter in a closed envelope, and so he tells me he delivered it to you. You must have labored under some strange delusion.

To the Rev. E. M. SAUNDERS.

10.

February 28th, 1871.

SIR,—At more than one stage in this correspondence, I have received unfair and discourteous treatment at your hands. I may have sacrificed something of my self-respect in silently bearing your unjust and vituperative language; but I have been strengthened in this course by the consideration that no degree of excellence of character has hitherto relieved others from the necessity of exercising towards you a long-suffering charity in this respect.