

subscribers, but I can say that after the experiences we have had in building the place, there should be little doubt but that they will be forthcoming. Begging letter-writing reveals a good deal of the spontaneously generous side of human nature. I should be a rich man now if this thing had been a fraud.'

'Glad to hear you say so! Well, as an old campaigner myself I sincerely hope you'll win. You ought to. Get the thing properly before our philanthropic public, right here in the West, and you will. It sounds simple enough. A couple of hundred friends outside shouldn't be hard to find. Put us all, here, down to start the list. No, no, no thanks! If this imposing file of gentlemen coming up the hill is the Board we shall be very glad to see them but it doesn't seem to me remotely necessary. I'd like to have a chat with that little Matron of yours, and then we must be off. We've none too much time as it is. As for the cheque, account for it as you like; you owe it to Miss Dunn. Not another word, my good Doctor—not another word!'

There was a pleasant confusion as Mr Aldersey, Mr Rogers and the rest of Liston's little Board expressed their sense of indebtedness to Mr Hickman and his friends for having motored over to see the Hospital, for hope beat high in every heart that this summons to meet them meant a turn in the tide of its desperate affairs. That it had, of