

supply me—not with formal returns, as your correspondent deliberately alleges—but with simple and informal information, which I sought for in the interests of the profession, which was well within the scope of that official's duty to furnish, which would not have involved an extra expenditure of five cents, and which was asked for courteously and in good faith. I was then taught the futility of asking the "Inner Circle" to censure or suffer to be censured a committee of its own creation, and composed exclusively of members of the "Combination," for adopting any line of action conceived in the interests of the "Ruling Alliance of Sixteen," howsoever detrimental it might be to the profession I am anxious to serve. To, as the event has uniformly proved, an expensive and futile attempt to secure redress at the hands of the Council, while it is controlled by the "machine" it contains, I prefer, and, in future, I shall act on that preference, to carry my appeal unto Cæsar. I shall, in every case, fully and honestly and unreservedly take the profession into my confidence—lay my arraignments and my evidence before it, and confidently await the result. Public opinion may be a plant of slow growth, but it grows. The profession may show a deplorable amount of *vis inertiae* and may move but tardily towards independence, yet it does so move. Presently—as soon as the electorate becomes fully informed of how the Council is run, it will rise to the duty of asserting and protecting itself, and the evils now complained of will then be no more.

Dr. Williams describes as incorrect my statement, that "in 1881 there were six members on the committee, yet that year it cost the Council nothing." It would, as a rule, require, I trust, something more than his mere *ipse dixit* to that effect to convince your readers that such is the case. The Treasurer's Financial Returns show that in 1881-82 the committee cost nothing, and Dr. Moore, last session, reading from the Minutes of Council (to which, not being in the inner circle, I have no access), said, "I see that in 1881 we had six on the Executive Committee, and that in 1882 it was cut down to three (*vide* last year's announcement, p. 103). It was on this statement, and the Treasurer's Financial Returns, that I made my averment. Dr. Williams and Dr. Moore are at variance as to whether the Committee was cut down from six to three in 1881 or in 1882. I prefer, as will most persons, to believe the latter, as Dr. Williams is liable to burn his fingers whenever he touches figures relating to Council affairs.

He gives a tabulated statement of the constitution and cost of this committee for each year. This table may or may not be correct; I cannot say, as I have no access to the Minutes of Council prior to