

teach a long list of doctrines which were a severe strain upon their intelligence, and undertook to live a life of such aggressive godliness, righteousness, and sobriety as should convince all beholders that they were sustained by a more than human power. The pharmacists swore not to take advantage of the fact that I and many others are quite incapable of telling the difference between hydrocyanic acid and cod liver oil. Even the school teachers, whose monopolistic privileges seem to have very little financial value, bound themselves to devote a certain number of years to the practice of the most depressing calling in the world, and to refrain from violent personal assault upon young Canadians under provocations which would justify an ordinary man in committing murder. The cheese man and I promised none of these things.

The cheese man, so far as I know, is not being worried by anybody. He can if he likes, especially if he has acquired enough money in the cheese business to subscribe to an endowment fund, attend a gathering of professors and nobody will make him feel that he is a corruptor of the public morals. Nobody has ever suggested that he, *qua* cheese man, owes any duty to the community beyond that of selling it the kind of cheese it wants—which is really a duty to himself, since if he did not do so the community would cease to buy from him, —and of obeying the health regulations. All that is asked of him is that he abide by the law. As for the merger man, he is even more gloriously free and unfettered; the community, or at all events a large part of it, appears to think that he and the law are engaged in a kind of two-handed and entirely legitimate game of skill, and hails him with undisguised admiration every time he catches the law off its guard and scores an unexpected point. All that is asked of him is that he shake hands with the law before and after each bout. But how different is it with me and my newspaper colleagues! The vast majority of the people of Canada appear firmly convinced that we have taken upon ourselves a sacred obligation to uplift, educate, refine, and improve our readers and the nation at large. Obedience to law is the least of