

I deem it proper, at the outset, to clear the ground by referring to statements made at the quarterly meetings of the Association in April and July last, regarding the freight charges of this company. In the first place I have to express my surprise and regret at the inaction of your committee,—an inaction of which we have a right to complain, because, while the committee was appointed as long ago as April, 1885, the first intimation I had of these statements was from a garbled and unfair report in the *Morning Herald* of 27th January last, and the first approach your committee made to me on the subject was by your letter of 2nd inst. Meantime, these gross falsehoods regarding our charges were permitted to remain uninvestigated and uncontradicted, thereby fostering the popular prejudice, and confirming the common but erroneous impression that our rates are exorbitant.

In the next place, in justice to my company, you must permit me here and now to give an unqualified contradiction to the several assertions made at these meetings, without a particle of evidence, regarding our rates on apple shipments. I deal with the more prominent of them categorically thus:—

1. It is not true, as stated by the President, that the steamer rate from Halifax to London was 3/. per barrel.

2. It is not true, as stated by Mr. Banks, that of the through rate of \$1 per barrel, the railway got 25 cents. The imposition with which he charitably charges us exists only in his imagination. Instead of getting "8 cents per barrel over and above regular rates" from Waterville to Halifax, we never received more than tariff rate.

3. It is not true, as stated by Ex-Deacon Parker, that the overcharge at Berwick Station alone during last season amounted to \$150. There was not a single cent of overcharge made at Berwick Station. Mr. Parker should be more careful when he volunteers "to bear false witness against his neighbor." A similar slander regarding the business of an individual would render him amenable to law.

4. It is not true, as stated by Mr. Fisher, that the special rate would pay local rates from Tupperville. We received no special rate, whatever we may have given.

5. It is not true, as estimated by several members, that the railway was getting about 15 cents per barrel on the through rate over regular charges. The railway only received tariff rates, and not a cent more.