

are so much on the alert to gather information, I am sure you must have noticed in a recent number of the Lower Canada *Agricultural Journal*, an article accusing me of a high offence, no less than that of defrauding the people! A very grave charge, and, though false, it has already done me serious injury, and will continue to produce an unfavorable impression until the imputation is publicly withdrawn, or until I am able to show its injustice, and even then, such is the peculiarity of the mind, that, with some, these reports will make an impression, and it will be quite impossible to remove the bad effects of such representations, since, unfortunately, they are often sent beyond the reach of counteracting influences. You know that the progressive principle applies even more forcibly to falsehood than to truth. Some are always ready to repeat aspersions, either thoughtlessly, or from a love of talking, and thus prejudices may arise and continue against persons who have the best intentions, and possess sterling merit. I know this view of human nature is not pleasing, and lest you should leave me to defend myself as best I can, I will here again assure you that the accusation is not true, and I think I can convince you, and all whom it may concern, that the Society referred to had no reason to justify them in defaming my character.

It however affords me pleasure to state, from personal knowledge, that there are men in this society, and acting on its committee, who have honestly at heart the best good of that class to whose interests they are pledged. To such I feel under great obligations for their kind efforts to sustain and encourage me. For this reason I take no pleasure in speaking of the matter: it is painful; and I am sorry that in the attempt to convince the public of my fidelity, I must refer to men who, I believe, possess a high sense of propriety and honor, and who have, like myself, been deceived. I am sure your experience has taught you that those who serve societies sometimes meet with disappointment, since it is universally conceded that such bodies have no positive, tangible conscience, or individual responsibility, but more properly a general concentration of honorable principle and love of justice, which, for the want of some *responsible actor*, often merely exist in a *quiescent state*, and, consequently, are useless as far as a prompt attention to equity is concerned. As the officers of this society have no direct pecuniary interest, but are acting on behalf of the government to disburse the people's money, I felt myself safe in becoming their publisher, believing, if I served them faithfully, they would not allow me to be injured. In this I have been greatly disappointed, and suffered deeply from the misrepresentations of the society, through their Secretary, for which they are amenable.

I can easily show that I have labored most assiduously to further the interests of the Journal, and strictly fulfilled my agreement with the society, which was to publish the journal for one year only, with the privilege of continuing five years. I provided two reliable securities, which were accepted, and I feel that had I failed to come up to the stipulated standard, the society had a right to seek redress from them, and not injure me before the public.