

away ; nor am I able to adopt his opinions on the point of honor.

Were it true that I had accepted a retainer of \$25,000 in such a matter as the Manitoba Crossings case, I should have taken, not a reasonable fee to secure my professional services in a court, but an enormous gratuity, so disproportioned to the ostensible object as to be dishonorable to giver and receiver alike.

Were it true that I had thus or otherwise placed myself in such a relation to any clients that "I felt a delicacy in sitting in the House and voting on matters affecting" them, I should have been false to the views of duty on which I have acted for close upon a quarter of a century of time, and at a loss of far more than a quarter of a million of money.

In the latter of these two allegations there is not the smallest modicum of truth.

The former of them, from which the latter is inferred, is a mountain of most monstrous fiction, elaborated out of a molehill of most innocent fact.

It is true that I was offered retainers on both sides in the Manitoba Crossings case ; the Company happened to come first ; "first come first served" is the reasonable obligation of our profession ; and

therefore, according to rule, I accepted the retainer of the Company, and not that of the Manitoba Government.

But it is not true, as Mr. Cartwright stated, that my retainer was \$25,000. It was but one-fiftieth part of that sum, a modest \$500 ; and, though I say it that should not, I gave my clients more than value for their money by my labours in the cause.

Forgive me, my dear Kirk, if I add that I should not have troubled you had these attacks been made by certain of my opponents and your friends. To such attacks from such quarters long habit has, I am sorry to say, made me callous.

But the sources and circumstances of this particular calumny have induced me to give it more notice than it perhaps deserved ; and certainly more than it would otherwise have received from me.

Pray accept my grateful thanks for your own kindness and sense of fair play in the matter ; and believe me,

Faithfully yours,

EDWARD BLAKE.

The HON. G. A. KIRKPATRICK,
Kingston, Ont.