

with which this gentleman expressed himself. It then dawned upon us that if the accused had written an innocent letter that could be made to appear corrupt, as many a man, and even the Apostles have done, there might be rivals ready enough to misjudge and misrepresent him, and that unless we searched, as a matter of fair play, for the motives of the charge, and for rebutting evidence, the publication in the JOURNAL would be, as it is in the Proceedings, entirely *ex parte*.

It has occasionally been our misfortune, ever since we began the JOURNAL in 1868, to refuse to let it become the medium of malice. When the ordained saints squabble and malign one another at times, it is no surprise that dentists should now and then follow their practice rather than their precepts, and few outside the charmed circle of the press can imagine the barrels of mollifying oil editors annually pour upon troubled oceans of water. In the particular case with which we are now dealing, without any knowledge of the *pros* or *cons*, with every desire to do justice, we confess that our two correspondents impressed us with the belief, that a good name had fallen, and that the owner had become a knave of the first water. Yet, one will not easily go back on a tried reputation, or soon lose faith in recognized integrity. Our correspondents insinuated, but we did not feel in a position to condemn one whose career and character had been unimpeachable. The immoderation of language justified the suspicion that their devil was perhaps not so black as they painted him.

We do not think it necessary to enter into the details of the protest. They may probably find ventilation elsewhere; but we consider that the eagerness with which our correspondents, both of whom owe a fatal defeat to a fair fight, combined to accuse an honorable *confrere* of bribery and corruption, was far from manly or gentlemanly. The accused not only occupies high positions of trust and confidence in the profession of Ontario, but as a town councillor, a leader in his church, and a citizen of distinguished merit, these libellous charges might, were he not well known, cause the ruin of himself and his family. In reply to our private communications, we received letters from the leading cleric and lay residents of his town, and no man in Canada could receive higher testimony as to character and reputation. Few reputations would be safe were any of us exposed to deliberate misjudgment, and misrepresentation in this way. The tendency to invest innocent actions with criminal intent, can be carried into the peace of any family, especially if one happens in an off-hand, unguarded way, to say or write what may be given a double meaning. In spite of this indiscretion or want of care in composition, we are fully convinced that the motives of the accused were perfectly innocent and transparent. We would be sorry to use the