

think what you like, Mr. Hightype of Morality College, of my conduct, but I actually did break away from Cæsar; and assuming all the consequences of my seeming inconsistency came out boldly at last in favour of the pension question, urging upon my fellow-teachers the advisability of giving the measure a fair trial. From the time of my breaking away, I never missed an opportunity of taking the matter up in detail. The law had been misunderstood. It was not all bad because one or two of its provisions were likely to prove inefficient. The teacher had only to study the matter for himself to see how favourable the law was in its general spirit to the teachers' interests, and if there were objectionable clauses in it, it was easy enough to suggest amendments.

Nor was the stand I took an aggressive one, at least I did not mean it to be so. I only spoke the words of truth and honesty, as is my custom on all occasions when taking part in any public movement. I felt I was in the right, whatever you may suspect, Mr. Hightype, while thinking to trace my action to self interest. Self-interest, indeed! If there was any self-interest at stake, it was a self-interest that soon had to assume the trials of self-denial and restraint. For though Cæsar himself became all but convinced that there was something in my view of the question, he was unable to restrain the more unthinking of his followers from throwing aspersions at me and at those whom I had been, to a greater or less extent, the means of converting. And when I speak of Cæsar or of Cæsar's followers, you must not suppose, my dear madam, that I am pointing out any individual or set of individuals, as if I still remembered the manner of their sinning against me. No man can forgive more readily than I can. I have even forgotten, which is better than having forgiven, they say, all about this one's hard feeling or that one's insulting attitude towards me while the battle was raging. At this distant day, I could not positively say who was or who was not against me. All that I may with safety declare, is, that the whole struggle is now, in my declining years, a source of pleasure to me when I think of the victory won. For you must not suppose that the victory was incomplete. I firmly believe that my unflinching suavity was the means of converting Cæsar himself; at least I know he soon came to see the error of his ways. It