

5^m 746/5

To the Members of the Bathurst and Rideau Medical Association:

GENTLEMEN,—My esteemed friend Dr. Cranston has issued an extensive circular in reply to my printed letter to you of the 20th ultimo, which he kindly characterizes as a "most unfair and misleading production," thus compelling me to answer in order to place the facts fully before you, and in doing so, if I use plain language, and strip bare the naked truth in regard to the means he has used in the attempt to secure this election, I trust he will pardon a necessity which he himself has created.

Let it be granted that the present representative believes in the adage that "all is fair in love and war," then I shall admit the methods used by him were possibly correct, but in that case he should not howl because I claim the privilege of following the same maxim, when I see such clear evidence that this is his watch-word.

A fair fight in a clear field should unquestionably be the guiding principle of every honourable and professional contest, but let us stop and enquire how far this idea has governed the conduct of the Doctor in this election.

Last summer the meeting of the Bathurst and Rideau Association was held in Arnprior, and the President was given clearly to understand in various ways, that as he had occupied the position two terms he should retire, and also that it was now the city's turn to choose the representative. It was understood by the practitioners from Ottawa that this principle would be carried out, and that Dr. Cranston would not again seek preferment. Believing this we considered, in any case, the fight should not be started until the first of the year, and the members in the city were trying to arrange between Dr. Powell and myself that one or other should retire, and thus avoid an election, which always tends to shake the harmony of the Division. Thus matters drifted along, and we saw no necessity to hurry, because it had been so plainly understood the representative should be chosen from the city on this occasion, that we never dreamt of Dr. Cranston moving in the matter—at any rate no one here thought he would stoop to take the advantage he did.

Now let us see how Dr. Cranston acted:—Knowing the city members felt they should have the representation this time, and being sure they would bring out a candidate, he sent around nomination papers away back last October, but he did so stealthily, not openly, and he took good care the members in the city should not know what he was doing. Everywhere, throughout the rural portion of the ~~Division~~ ^{Division}, members were importuned to sign his nomination, and they were told it was really a matter of form, because no one was going to oppose the present member. Thus Dr. Cranston, by writing letters and personal interviews and getting his acquaintances to work, succeeded in having these nomination papers quietly passed from hand to hand and signed by members without proper consideration and also under the impression or statement that there was to be no opposition. *The Doctor did not bring out a circular and openly state to all the members in the Division that he was a candidate before he did this*; Oh no—that would spoil his game, that would allow other aspirants to do the same and thus give the electors a free choice, and so for nearly two months this quiet work went on—private letters were written by Dr. Cranston urging the members to sign his nomination, and is it any wonder under these circumstances, under this species of misrepresentation, the majority in the rural portion of the Division signed for him? It must be remembered that misrepresentation can be made quite as effectually by withholding essential facts as by falsity of statement. Now I ask was this a straightforward, honourable and equitable method to endeavour to secure the intelligent support of the members of the Division? Can any one characterize it otherwise than an election "trick," worthy only the high attainments of a ward politician? When Dr. Cranston knew there was going to be opposition should he not, and likewise any one acting for him, have informed those members who were asked to sign that such would be the case? Certainly there can be but one answer to this question. What is Dr. Cranston's answer to this? He says the law requires every candidate to have his nomination signed by twenty members. That is quite true, but does the law require a candidate, or his friends, to make wrong representations or to attempt by this or any other means to blindfold the electorate, to work secretly and secure the signatures of the majority of the electors, and then when they repudiate and denounce the means used, that the candidate shall turn round, and with the greatest *sang froid*, tell them if they withdraw from him they are "weak-kneed and unprincipled"? Unprincipled! How lofty is the principle of a man who solemnly agrees not to again seek election if successful in 1880 and then "pitches promises and pledges to the wind" in 1890!

Again, many of those who signed Dr. Cranston's nomination are young practitioners who knew nothing about the election of representatives to the Council, and being asked to sign by an older physician, and not being informed that there would probably be other candidates in the field, with no knowledge whatever of the conditions in the premises, they put down their names with perfect indifference, simply, they supposed, as a matter of form. In these cases are such men honourably bound to carry out an arrangement made under a misunderstanding, and made when they were ignorant of the particulars of the pending election? Not by any means. I grant if the names of all the candidates, and all the circumstances of the contest are before the electors, a promise then given of support is binding. I also ask, where a member signs for a candidate and believes, or is informed, by implication or otherwise, that no one else is going to run, and who thus makes a promise under false impressions or representations, is he honourably bound to vote for that candidate? Most undoubtedly not; and I venture to assert that many of the members throughout the Division will resent this secret method used by my opponent, and will vote against him when the time comes. With feigned child-like innocence the Doctor says he only acted the same as candidates in other divisions have acted. I challenge him to name an instance, where a candidate in a Division attempted to quietly secure the signatures to his nomination paper of a majority of the electors, before bringing out a circular announcing himself an aspirant for the position. But, supposing that it was done anywhere else, does that make it right? The whole principle is wrong of endeavouring to lock up the vote in a division by any secret method of procedure. In an election held among professional men everything about it should be upright, honourable, and free from any appearance of trickery, in order that the electors may have perfect freedom of voting for whom they choose.

(1.) A few words now respecting these resolutions which I am forced to repeat in order to make myself clear.

"Moved by Dr. H. P. Wright, of Ottawa, seconded by Dr. W. J. Anderson of Smith's Falls, and it is hereby

Resolved,—That considering how few honours there are in the gift of the medical profession, and that of a Representative of a territorial division in the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario being one of the greatest, and considering that the present member has held the position of Representative for the Bathurst and Rideau Division two terms, or nine years in all, it is the opinion of this Association that this distinction should now be given to some other aspiring member of the Division.—Carried."

"Moved by Dr. J. Sweetland, seconded by Dr. H. Hill, and

Resolved,—That this meeting desires to express its warm approbation of the candidature of Dr. A. F. Rogers as Representative in the Council for this Division, as we believe he would make a most energetic and progressive member, and further, because the rural portion of the division has had the representation now for ten years, or two terms, and it would be only paying a just compliment to the city members of the division to allow them to choose the Representative on this occasion.—Carried.

"I certify that the above is a true copy of resolutions unanimously passed by the Bathurst and Rideau Division Association at the meeting held the 15th January, 1890

(Signed) "H. B. SMALL, M.D.

"Sec. B. and R. D. Med. Assn."

These were passed by the Bathurst and Rideau Association at the convocation held on the 15th ultimo. Every member in the Division had been notified to attend, and as it was a regular meeting, those present were competent to do such work and pass such resolutions as they saw proper. One of the objects of a medical association is mutual improvement, but it is also an object—and a very important one—to take such action as may be deemed best upon every matter of medical interest or importance which may be brought before the associates. The question of who shall represent this Division in the Council, is certainly of sufficient medical interest to the members of the Bathurst and Rideau Association that it may be discussed at any one of the meetings, and if the members chose to pass resolutions bearing upon the subject, they were acting clearly within their right, and they were doing what they considered was in the true interest of all concerned. The members present at that meeting were aware of Dr. Cranston's statements and promises given ten years ago, they knew of the understanding between the city and country of representation by turns, there was no evidence before them that the Doctor was such a brilliant and hard working representative that he should receive the honour again, and, therefore, for the sake of equity and justice, and in the interest of the association, those present passed these resolutions. We are told there were few there; perhaps so, but I am sorry to say it was about an average attendance since Dr. Cranston has been President, and if the meeting had been larger, and a discussion had arisen, much stronger resolutions would probably have been carried, and quite as unanimously. Anyone can comprehend that these propositions were passed as a protest against the underhand methods used by the Doctor to lock up the vote, if possible, in his favour, and thus prevent a free choice on the part of the electors. My opponent seems to whine piteously that the association should pass a resolution affecting his prospects, but *when the members realized that he wanted to occupy the position fourteen years, or nearly a lifetime*, and when they considered that he had acted not openly but stealthily to accomplish his purpose, they did not choose to pass these things by in silence, but they determined to place on record a resolution which would show how they felt about the matter.

(2.) Let us pass to the topic of harmony in the Division. Concerning the relations hitherto existing between the members in the country and those in the city, Dr. Cranston deplors that the harmony should be destroyed, and that it would be a pity if they ranged themselves into two hostile camps. I quite agree with him, but I do not think there is any danger of this occurring, only, undoubtedly, the present member has done more to accomplish that unpleasant condition of things than anyone ever did before. He surely is not stupid enough to think the members throughout the Division do not see through his tactics, which are really to bind together all the members in the country and thus crush out the city's chance of having the representative. How nobly, with what gratitude, he thus rewards the kindness once shown him by the city members in an election! These, then, are his tactics, gentlemen, and will you, the members in the rural part of the Division, allow them to be successful? I feel certain you will not. True, you have been thus far led by Dr. Cranston into signing his election paper, and if you should tolerate and become parties to his tactics you will injure and possibly annihilate the pleasant harmony which ought to exist throughout the whole division. The city members cannot be expected to take their usual interest in the association if my opponent is elected this time, and the physicians of Perth will not attend the meetings of the association so long as Dr. Cranston remains the President—and thus, for the sake of the cordial relations hitherto existing between the members, it is earnestly to be hoped every well wisher of the Bathurst and Rideau Association, will aid with his vote in maintaining peace and good will among the members of the Division.

(3.) Another point to be discussed is the length of time Dr. Cranston has represented us in the Council. It is somewhat amusing in the light of all the facts to have him say that because he has been in the Council nine years, or two terms, he should now be sent there for five years longer, inasmuch as a new member could not work as well as he can. That surely is presumption with very little addition of common sense. I am thoroughly acquainted with the Medical Act and with the rules and regulations of the Council, and I venture to assert that I have had five times the experience in legal affairs ever Dr. Cranston has had, so that in going to the Council I carry with me knowledge both of legal and legislative formula, which will aid me in securing the reforms I believe are required. The workings of the Council are exceedingly simple, by no means complicated, and we have to exercise our imaginations to ascertain anything the Doctor has already done in the interests of the profession while acting as our representative. But how long should a member remain our representative? That is easily answered, because Dr. Cranston himself has fixed the limit. Ten years ago, that is in 1880, when he was engaged in an election in this Division, what did he think then of a member seeking the position for a second term? Let us see. Below I give a copy of a circular issued by him on that occasion, and I herewith beg to acknowledge my indebtedness for the use of this "precious" document to a highly esteemed physician residing in one of the towns in the Bathurst and Rideau Division:

"DEAR SIR,—

"By this time you will have seen that Dr. Mostyn is also a candidate for the representation of the Rideau and Bathurst Division on the Medical Council.

"The position, which is an honourable and highly important one, *should be held successively by the members of the Division*, except in cases where potent reasons to the contrary can be urged.

"Now, whilst I have not the slightest desire to undervalue Dr. Mostyn's qualifications, I hold there are dozens in the division equally able and qualified to represent us in the Medical Council, who should enjoy that privilege as soon as circumstances may permit. Holding this opinion, in which I feel certain you concur, I am not backward in stating that *the Doctor is showing a selfish and avaricious disposition in asking the position a second time*, until the other qualified members who may desire it have their turn. If the office is to be monopolized from term to term by one or two, then there is an end to any laudable rivalry to develop the essential qualifications for filling such a position.

"On these grounds, on which I trust you hold similar views, my claims to the support of my *confreres* are stronger and better founded than those of my opponent.

"I am, yours very truly,

"Arnprior, 11th May, 1880."

"J. G. CRANSTON.

"P.S.—Please let me hear from you at as early a date as possible.

Verily, how easy is it for some men to forget when it suits their purpose to do so! Surely he must expect us to admire the honest consistency exhibited in the position he took then and that he takes now. With what lofty sentiments

of equity
to the wi
should be
terms as
a gentle
profession
ments de
force a co
not; it is
the exp
one of
should ti
is an ano
(4.)
no right
the Colle
from cho
that it ne
Division
Cranston
future.
of the M
argumen
duty, and
and unin
Aga
elected t
Drs. Gra
certainly
out, but i
the rural
Like
equity, ju
represent
that this,
Doctor w
Thus Dr
country;
make it."
of the pr
present.
Dev
merit co
closer ur
good of t
disinteg
wisher o
name fro
(5.)
how Dr.
solemn c
me to co
he ende
he was d
might co
beyond l
were for
without
the extr
paper, e
you sign
is nothir
sional m
Division
The
kneed a
is only e
Dr. Cran
cases th
ignorant
who sign
"weak-k
misrepre
pledge c
part of
points n
but how
written t
me quo
the repre
prematu
He

of equity and justice he approached the electors at that time, and with what facility he "pitches promises and pledges to the wind" to accomplish his end, now! In that circular Dr. Cranston propounds the doctrine that no member should be allowed to monopolize the honour longer than *one* term or five years. We not only gave him that but *two* terms as well, and now he is clamouring to hold the office *fourteen years continuously*. Every sentiment of honour as a gentleman, every feeling of respect for the dignity of manhood, every desire for the esteem of his brethren in the profession should have made him desist from being a candidate in this election, when he knew he had made the statements detailed in that circular. He may plead that he had forgotten: Very well, then let him retire now and not force a contest on the electors; and I shall be greatly surprised if his friends do not compel him to do so. If he does not, it is impossible to understand how any member consistently, and, with proper respect to himself, can vote for him after the exposure made herein. Why, as a matter of fact, I can name a dozen men in the rural portion of the division, any one of whom would make a better representative—at any rate a more energetic and progressive one—and why we should tie up this distinction to one man for fourteen or fifteen years, when there are others equally able who desire it, is an anomalous proposal I defy anyone to justify.

(4.) Passing on we will discuss another point. Dr. Cranston states the city members of the division have no right to have a representative selected from among their number, and why? Because Sir James Grant represents the College of Ottawa—and an able representative he is—and therefore the practitioners here are forever disqualified from choosing a representative from among themselves. What brilliant argument! The idea is so puerile and absurd that it needs no consideration. Pray what has the Ottawa College to do with the Bathurst and Rideau Territorial Division? As for Dr. Logan, the homœopathist, residing in Ottawa, the physicians here are quite willing for Dr. Cranston to secure the distinguished honour of having him practice in Arnprior, and to stay there—away into the dim future. In regard to returning officers and examiners being appointed in Ottawa these are matters totally in the hands of the Medical Council, and outside the gift of the members of the Bathurst and Rideau Division. Doubtless these arguments, preposterous though they be, have been clothed in fictitious garments and trotted around the division to do duty, and it is another link in the chain of evidence showing the *honourable* means taken to influence the thoughtless and uninitiated in this contest.

Again I wish to draw your attention to another fact under this head. There have been only *three* members elected to represent this division in the Medical Council since its inauguration twenty-five years ago, and these were: Drs. Grant, Mostyn and Cranston, being *two* from the rural portion of the division and *one* from the city. This certainly does not exhibit the grasping tendency on the part of the physicians here, which my opponent tries to make out, but it emphasizes the reasonableness of the request by the members in the city, that it is only fair for our *confreres* in the rural portion of the division to allow us to choose the representative on this occasion.

Likewise we are grandiloquently informed by Dr. Cranston, who has shown himself such a perfect disciple of equity, justice and consistency, that there never was an understanding between the city and country that they should represent the division in turns, and he appeals to the books of the Association for verification, when he must be aware that this, like many other unwritten laws of fair play, could not possibly be reduced to writing. In answer, I hope the Doctor will pardon me if I tell him plainly he never would have been a member of the Council but for this arrangement. Thus Dr. Sweetland, who assisted in the election of 1880, informs me as follows:—"The agreement that the city and country should represent the division in turns was then entered into as solemnly as words of honourable men could make it." Truly the memory of some men eager for office is a most uncertain particle, but it is an insult to the members of the profession throughout the rural portion of the Division to expect them to forget also. That they do not, I shall presently show.

Developing his tactics, and continuing his aim, our consistent friend asks what the physicians here have done to merit consideration from their brethren outside of the city. It should be the aim of all to bind us together even in closer union, if possible, to cement every tie of unity, that we may work harmoniously together for our own good, the good of the profession and that of the public, but here we find Dr. Cranston forcibly endeavouring to produce disunion, disintegration and enmity. That he will ignominiously fail is certain, and I leave him to be answered by every well wisher of the success of the Bathurst and Rideau Association by the simple but most effectual plan of omitting his name from the voting paper.

(5.) Hurrying on, we will consider another topic—who is going to win in this contest? It is difficult to perceive how Dr. Cranston has the hardihood to allow this election to continue and not to withdraw, after the publication of his solemn declarations and promises made in 1880, but as he has not done so at the time of writing, it is incumbent upon me to continue and completely expose his position. Now, I wish to draw your attention to the subtle manner in which he endeavours to delude the electors and, if possible, coerce those who signed his nomination into voting for him. If he was dealing with the ignorant and unlettered, and not with his peers in position, education and intelligence, we might comprehend him doing this, but to delude and coerce the members of the medical profession is a task slightly beyond his power. He says, in the first place, that "requisition or nomination papers, couched in the following terms, were *forwarded*" to him—trying to give the impression that the practitioners throughout the Division, voluntarily, and without any effort on his part, drew out these papers, signed and sent them to him. The implied idea is ludicrous in the extreme, and is the very reverse of what actually occurred. In the next place, he prints in full his nomination paper, exposing to view the promise of support, as much as to say: "Now, gentlemen, I have you. I know many of you signed under a misunderstanding; perhaps misleading and erroneous impressions were given to get you; but that is nothing, and I am going to *make* you vote for me by publishing your promise." How honourable it is for a professional man to thus attempt to force his brethren into supporting him! Surely he must believe the physicians in this Division are a lot of ignoramuses if he thinks they can be deceived, deluded or driven.

The Doctor asks this question: "Does Dr. Rogers imagine that the gentlemen who signed this paper are so weak-kneed and unprincipled that they will pitch pledges and promises to the wind?" The elegance of the diction therein is only equalled by the absurdity of the question, under the circumstances. The majority of the members who signed Dr. Cranston's nomination did so under the impression, or statement, that there was to be no other candidate, in some cases they were told the physicians in the city did not desire the honour; many who signed are young practitioners, ignorant then of the particulars of this election, others signed thoughtlessly and without consideration, and *not one who signed his paper knew of his promises and pledges made ten years ago, when he first sought the position*. Is a man "weak-kneed and unprincipled," when he finds he has been hoodwinked into signing a certain promise through misrepresentation, or by a misunderstanding, if he repudiates that promise? Does Dr. Cranston not know that a pledge of this kind, in order to be binding, all the facts in the case must be known, because the "right of choice" is part of every man's prerogative? It is the law of honour, as well as the law of the land, that misstatements on vital points nullify any contract, written or verbal. Again, he says he has seventy-two names on his nomination. Granted, but how did he get them there, and is it likely he will receive their votes? How many who signed have already written to him withdrawing their support? He carefully avoids telling that, but he practically admits one has, and let me quote what he says to the Doctor: "It has been explained to me by several medical men, that it was understood the representation was to be held alternately by the city and the rural portion of the Division. Again, I think it very premature to circulate your nomination papers when you did, before we knew who were to be the candidates."

Here we find the whole story told in exceedingly small space, and it vividly portrays the means used to prevent

an intelligent choice on the part of the electors, and it shows that numbers of those who signed are disgusted and are withdrawing, and yet he says he has seventy-two names on his nomination! I have said I had the majority in the Division, and let me tell you my reasons for saying so. I have received letters from twenty-seven members who had signed Dr. Cranston's nomination, and of these nineteen declare they will vote for me, giving various reasons for so doing, but generally stating they do not believe the Doctor should receive the honour for five years more, and the remaining eight state it is their intention not to vote at all. If I add these nineteen to the number who will support me in the city, being forty or forty-one, and those in Perth and Lanark, I find I have sixty-seven votes, or a safe majority out of one hundred and sixteen. Remember these have pledged themselves intelligently, with the facts and candidates before them, but before the members in the Division were made aware of my opponent's statements made ten years ago, which necessarily will entirely alter the whole aspect of the vote. I will quote from the letter of a member, and it is a fair sample of the others received: "It is my intention to vote for you, and although I signed Dr. Cranston's nomination I did so believing there would be no other candidate, and I do not think we should allow him, or any one else, to hold the office longer than two terms. It also seems to me nothing but right for the city to have the representation this time, etc." This, then, is the opinion of a well known and highly respected physician residing in the rural portion of this Division.

(6.) Lastly, we will briefly discuss the subject of the standard of pre-medical education in Ontario. The Medical Council, or Medical Parliament, of Ontario is made up of twelve members *elected* by the profession in the Territorial Divisions, nine *appointed* by the medical schools, and five homœpaths. Every move tending to make the profession better, to make the standard of pre-medical and medical education higher, to stop the overcrowding of the profession, naturally should receive the approval of the members elected directly by the practitioners throughout the Province. Again the aim of the medical schools is to keep the standard as low as possible, because a meagre requirement of general and medical education is the surest means of drawing grist to their mills. I have here sketched in a few words both the cause and the seat of the medical conflict in Ontario, and we find in every civilized country the same condition of things, the opposing forces being the medical practitioners on the one hand and the medical schools on the other. So long as we in this province *elect* members to the Council with the ideas and aims Dr. Cranston has shown himself to have, then so long will the profession remain overcrowded and stationary, without any possibility of advancement. Were he a school representative or a paid emissary to scatter abroad their chestnuts, he could not have written more strongly in their interests than he has in his last circular. He seems to be literally stuffed with the stock arguments of the schools, and rattles them off with a glibness worthy of a better cause. Evidently the school men have found in him pliant material, and they have moulded him to their liking. Why, gentlemen, the same arguments were made twenty-five years ago by the school men, when it was proposed to form in Ontario the present Council, and inaugurate thereby a one-portal system of medical registration. They then talked of a "Chinese wall," "our preserve," and "excluding" our young men, when the proposal was made to have a uniform and higher grade of medical education. It surely is no kindness to "the young men of this country" to lure them, by a low standard of pre-medical education, into a profession so far overcrowded that they find for years ~~but~~ they can barely make a living, barely secure a better income than a first-class mechanic! The public *do* suffer by an overcrowded medical profession, because this condition is an incentive to quackery, pseudo-quackery, dishonest dealing and criminal practice! We find there is now one physician in Ontario to 800 of the population, and less than twenty years ago it was one to over 1,200, and I have shown there are at least 900 medical students who are at present preparing to enter the practise of medicine in this Province, indicating the law of supply and demand will never rectify this condition until the profession has become so far degraded that it will be abhorrent to the minds of the honourable and intelligent. The requirement of a B.A., and four full years medical study subsequent thereto, will lower down the number of medical students to one-half, but the "law of supply and demand" will always, no matter how hard the course is, produce quite sufficient physicians to meet the needs of the population. If I cannot secure this standard from the Council at first, by advocating it I am likely to secure a material increase over what it is now. I have been informed by Dr. Bergin that he has constantly upheld in the Council this very arrangement, so the seconder of the motion is at hand. In regard to the profession in England, fully seventy-five per cent of the physicians practising on their own account have the M. D. degree, and those not having it dare not style themselves "Dr.," and generally they act as assistants to those of a higher grade. The lowest degree in England, the L.S.A., or Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, has a standard as high as that of our Medical Council, showing how ambitious our medical legislators have been. The dentists in Ontario, practising an infinitesimal branch of surgery, require, before registration, a third class professional certificate as a test of preliminary education, and three full years study of dentistry, making a "Chinese wall around their preserve," and "boycotting our young men," and yet the public seem to like it, and they have not thought of hauling down the barrier. If that is the standard in order to practise dentistry, at the same ratio the medical profession should require five times the length of study. In conclusion, gentlemen, I have tried to honestly place the whole matter before you, and I must leave myself in your hands. If elected, I shall work conscientiously in the interests of the profession and in the interests of my *confreres* in this Division.

I am yours, faithfully,

A. F. ROGERS, M.D.

OTTAWA, February 17th, 1890.

Dr. A. F. Rogers
Circulars
1890