

Crushed, pulverised, blown away—by the public inquiry before the Privy Council.

And now what do the opponents of the Association advance in order to exhibit their palpable mortification at their futile efforts to prevent the grant of the Charter. Ostensibly they commence by stating the very obvious and highly important fact that the "Nurse Training Schools should clearly understand their position *under* the Charter"—the italics are ours, and we call attention to the significance of their opinion. Having made this assertion, the signatories hastily change the subject, and omit to give any assistance to the right "understanding" of this very important point. They next "think it right to call public attention to the important limitations which have been placed upon the powers originally sought for," but once more they hurry on to another point, and carefully abstain from stating what are the "important limitations"—a highly significant omission, considering that they profess their desire to enlighten the public upon this very point. Could anything be more feeble if they were telling the truth? Is it possible to conceive anything more foolish than this statement, if it be untrue? As a matter of fact, we have, after careful comparison between the Draft Charter and the Charter granted by Her Majesty, failed to discover one single solitary "limitation" of any sort or description. We have found several important extensions of powers granted, beyond those for which the Association sought—and we cannot consider it strictly honourable on the part of the antagonists that they did not "think it right to call public attention to" these. In the absolutely crushing rejoinder which the Association has made, it is pointed out that there are no "limitations." The duty of the Duke of WESTMINSTER, and the other persons who have made this misstatement, is therefore clear. The opposite side have told untruths concerning the Association on frequent occasions before, and were not contradicted, probably, because the Association was playing a very difficult and arduous game,

and wisely declined entrance to a public quarrel until it was ready for the contest. It is not difficult, however, to see that, having gained all that it desired, the Association is now prepared to take up at once any challenge thrown down to it, and we cordially approve of such a course of action. Its antagonists cannot harm it, and the more opportunities it can seize for exposing its opponents' real position, as well as for refuting their falsehoods, the better will it be both for the Association and the public. We draw this conclusion because, as our readers will see, the Executive Committee of the Corporation, on this occasion, have not been content merely to defend themselves, but have thought it right to call public attention to the scandalous proceedings in which some of the opposing Institutions are engaged, and, therefore, have unmasked the real reasons why these Hospitals have so persistently and so virulently opposed the Royal British Nurses' Association. The damage which will be done to these Institutions is quite incalculable, for we hear on all hands of the deep impression which has been made upon the public mind by the unvarnished statements made on behalf of the Association. And there is, unfortunately, only too much reason to fear that the ball, which this foolish manifesto has set rolling, will not be easily stayed, and that, before the discussion closes, much more may be brought to light which will bring still greater discredit and damage on the implicated Institutions. The only point we would urge upon the Duke of WESTMINSTER and his co-signatories is that, inasmuch as it is through their proceedings that public confidence in the discredited Hospitals has received so rough a shock, they should be prepared, out of their own pockets, to make good any deficiency which may ensue in the subscriptions to these Institutions. If they do not do this, they have taken upon themselves a very serious responsibility so far as the welfare of the sick and injured poor is concerned, for which they will, probably, sooner or later, be called sternly to account.

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[previous page](#)

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