

# THE DAILY REPORTER.

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## The Daily Reporter.

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President Cleveland did himself little credit in inditing the rather ill-tempered letter recently sent by him to editor Jones of the Florida Times Union. Especially is it unworthy the incumbent of so exalted a position as he occupies to make the broad charge that the newspapers generally are guilty of indulgence, to quote his own words, in "utter and complete recklessness and falsification." Directly the reverse of this is true, and conspicuously true. Not only are the newspapers of the United States not open to this charge, but, as a rule they are studious, and under the condition surrounding their occupation, remarkably successful, in following exactly the opposite course. The fact is, that no class of persons are more conscientious and assiduous in their endeavors to be fair and just in all the relations of life than are the conductors of the larger portion of the American press. Every consideration entering into the pursuit of their calling prompts this course. Laying aside pride of profession, self-respect, and the desire to be thought well of by their fellowmen, they could not afford, as a mere matter of business policy, to deliberately and habitually mislead their readers, any more than a merchant could expect to succeed by always imposing upon his customers damaged and dangerous goods. Editors are, however, neither omniscient, omnipresent nor omnipotent, and they are therefore liable to be deceived by officials or misled and imposed upon by some of those upon whom they are compelled to rely, just as other men are, in spite of all possible precautions; but as a rule they are keenly alive to the proprieties and responsibilities of their profession, and

when they are led into error, from any cause, they are quick to repair any wrong done, and they regret both the error and its consequences far more than any one else possibly can. Mr. Cleveland's experience with the press may not always have been to his liking; that of men in public life is, because few men are infallible; and it is doubtless true that he has had some special cause for irritation; but his account with the newspapers of the country is by no means confined to one side of the ledger. If he has been unfairly dealt with, and even indecently assailed, in some quarters, he has been most chivalrously treated and valiantly championed in others, where he had no other claim than that for common fairness and justice, and on the whole in his relations with the press he has much more to be grateful for than he has to complain of. It cannot be denied that here and there sensational or malicious correspondents give currency to highly colored or wholly false reports, and it may be possible that in some instances this course is instigated or encouraged by those employing them; but, admitting this much, and still the President has no warrant for making the coarse and sweeping charge he does against the press. With equal justice might the legal profession, to which Mr. Cleveland belongs, be branded as a confraternity of strife-breeders and scoundrels, because a few shysters may be

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