

practice, as these who had been regularly brought up to the profession. In Upper Canada before the Union, a bill passed the Legislature incorporating the Medical profession of the Province, that bill received the Royal Assent and the profession was accordingly incorporated under it and went on for several years, acquiring a library and other valuable property, but by some influence excited at the Colonial office in England by the College of Surgeons, the bill was disallowed after it had been in operation for some years, and now the profession had applied to the Legislature for incorporation. The principle was the same as that of incorporation of the nuns and religious Societies of L. C. and the Law Society of U. C. it was to agree to that principle by reading the bill a second time that he now asked the House: if there was anything objectionable in details of the measure, they could be altered in a special committee to which he intended to refer it.

Mr. McLean seconded the motion.

Mr. Flint opposed the measure as being an undue interference with the rights and liberties of the people and entirely at variance with the spirit of the age and country. He objected especially to the 7th and 10th clauses which prevented any person not duly licensed from practicing medicine under pain of a heavy penalty. In the back parts of the country where there were no regular doctors, the people were obliged to employ these Thomsonian doctors: besides they had a perfect right to employ them if they had confidence in them. In these days of free navigation and free trade, they ought to have a free system of medicine. This measure was not asked for, by the people of Upper Canada, and he was convinced that if they passed it now, they would, next session, receive a protest of at least 50,000 of the people. He moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Bell that the bill be read a second time this day six months.

Dr. NELSON hoped the measure would be carried: what! in those days when protection was extended to all classes of the community, was the medical profession—one of the important of all professions not to receive protection? More especially when the United States, and up to this time in Lower Canada it had been protected. What was the use of endowing and encouraging medical schools and universities for giving a good education to those desiring to practice medicine, if you let loose upon Society, these persons to practice all kinds of quackery? He hoped for the safety of society and the honor of his profession that this motion would prevail.

Mr. MERRITT enquired of the Hon. Member, whether there was any law in the State of New York, preventing any practitioner from practicing?

Dr. NELSON replied, that when he was in

the United States in 1839-40, and 41, the medical profession in Cash County, was incorporated—the board met once a year, and all new practitioners had to appear before it and undergo an examination.

Mr. MERRITT briefly stated his grounds for opposing the bill; there had formerly been laws of this kind in New York State, but they had now been abolished and there was nothing to prevent any man from practicing, who thought fit. He agreed with the Hon. member for Hastings, that, in a country so widely populated as some parts of Upper Canada, and where the population was so much scattered, a bill of this kind would do much injustice and cause very great inconvenience, particularly by preventing the female midwives who were so generally employed, from practicing. He thought these root doctors were doing a great deal of good in the country, and he should vote against the bill as it would deprive them of the right and opportunity of doing that good.

After a few words from Mr. ROBINSON in favor of the second reading of the bill, Mr. BURRITT opposed it, but in so low a tone of voice, as to be quite inaudible in the reporter's gallery.

Dr. SMITH was not so much for protecting the physicians, as of protecting the public from those who palmed themselves off upon the public, as understanding the practice of physic. He was opposed to some clauses of the measure, but as it was to be referred to a special committee, in which the obnoxious clauses could be expressed, he should vote for the second reading.

Mr. FLINT said a few words in support of his amendment, and was followed by Dr. LEVEILLE who highly supported the amendment.

Mr. SHERWOOD said that this bill was not the mere application of people who were going to build a warehouse, but was the application of the whole medical profession of Upper Canada, for the purpose of enabling that profession to take a proper standing, and enable them to prevent empirics from going about the country, who in many cases, as he could safely say, had done a great deal of mischief. It was the request of the whole Society, and conferred on them no privilege that they did not possess under the present law, except the power of punishing quacks in a more summary manner than the present law directs. Now he had been told that there was no law in the United States for the protection of the medical profession. He would require good authority for that statement, for he could scarcely believe it. But why go to the States at all? Why not take example by the practice of the English Parliament who know full well the advantage of a thorough education, and therefore make it compulsory on every person practising medicine to be properly