

ful—the line is not drawn by the law. My way is, to permit medical practitioners to be sustained by merit alone, and the line between merit and demerit will soon be drawn.

Why not then abolish a law which has failed to answer the ends for which it was created; a law for the repeal of which 2000 petitioners have prayed, many of whom are the first citizens of the state; a law arbitrary and unjust—a law which stigmatizes some of our most valuable citizens—that prescribes a particular path that all must travel in, thus making a machine of the mind and circumscribing genius; a law which will well compare with the Chinese customs, compelling generation after generation to perpetuate the practices and follies of past ages!

[The law is repealed.]

LOBELIA.

Professor Tulley, of Yale College, who has had more than twenty years' practice and experience with lobelia, gives his decided opinion in favor of its use as a common remedial agent, and says that all that has ever been said against it is "mere stuff and closet speculation, not containing a *single truth*." Prof. McLellan says, "I have used lobelia and find it to be a useful article in the removal of disease." Prof. Waterhouse, of Harvard University, and the celebrated Dr. Mitchell give their full assent to the entire safety and great utility of lobelia as a common family medicine. Now, when contrasted with the opinions of these great men, who have both a scientific and practical knowledge of lobelia, how utterly beneath contempt are the sayings and opinions of that host of three-penny medical tyros and ignoramuses who condemn lobelia without knowing any thing about it, either practically or from books.

LETTER FROM PROFESSOR TULLEY.

The subjoined letter from the pen of Professor Tulley, lecturer on Materia Medica and

Pharmacy in Yale College, was written by that eminent medical philosopher to Dr. H. Lee, of Middletown, Ct., in reply to a letter which Dr. Lee wrote, inquiring Prof. Tulley's opinion of the *Lobelia Inflata* as a medicine; and we recommend to such of our readers, whether friends or foes, as have any conscientious scruples relative to the entire safety and great efficacy of the *Lobelia Inflata* as a remedial agent, to give this letter a careful and critical examination, for it is from the pen of one of the first medical gentlemen of the age, who is by no means a Thomsonian.

[From the Botanico-Medical Recorder.]

NEW-HAVEN, Ct., Thursday, }
22d March, 1838.

DEAR SIR:—Your letter of March 5th reached New-Haven after my departure for Albany, on an excursion from which I returned only yesterday. This fact I trust will excuse the delay in my reply.

I have no sort of knowledge of the newspaper notice which you mentioned, never having seen it, nor even heard of it before. It is true, however, that I have stated, in my public instructions, that lobelia inflata is entirely destitute of any narcotic or even cathartic powers. This is, however, a negative position, which is incapable of positive proof. If I were to assert that *sinchona* is not narcotic, I could not prove it positively. All I could say would be, that for 27 years I have been in the habit of using it, in large quantities and small, and of witnessing its use by others—without a single indication of any narcotic operation. Just so it is with regard to lobelia inflata. I have now been in the habit of employing this article for 27 years, and of witnessing its employment by others for the same length of time, and in large quantities, and for a long period, without the least trace of any narcotic effect. I have used the very best officinal tincture in the quantity of three fluid ounces in 24 hours, and for four and seven days in succession; and I have likewise given three large table spoonfuls of it within half an hour, without the least indication of any narcotic operation. I have