

the shape of the placenta was altogether destroyed, whilst for the rest, I am lost in amazement and cannot account for it."

This "physiological paradox," then, is reduced to a very ordinary and not unfrequent case, to which the addition of the adverb *partially* would have rendered this notice needless; as in all my reading and experience on this subject, from Aristotle down to Churchill, (not excepting my own esteemed Professor Locock,) I find no one who denies the possibility of the birth of a living child, with a *partially* decomposed placenta; and no one who pretends that anything short of *total* detachment, decomposition or destruction of the placenta, in utero, necessarily involves the death of the child, as all writers on obstetrics concur in opinion that the fœtus cannot have an independent existence."

The amazement of the writer in this case seems to have been about as great, and of the same nature as that of the rustic who, on passing through a forest after a hurricane, and seeing a number of trees uprooted and prostrate, said that, "the trees in that forest would grow either end up."

W. MARSDEN, M.D.

Quebec, 16th March, 1852.

To the Editor of the U. C. Medical and Physical Journal.

SIR,—I have perceived in your last Journal a letter from Dr. Going concerning an inquest held by me. It seems to me to have been a small affair, to have called an inquest "a mockery and perversion of Justice," because the Coroner did^t not call one medical man more than another to make a *post mortem*. However, as Scrutator and Dr. Going are disposed to whip me for it, if they can, perhaps you will be pleased insert, the enclosed printed reply to Dr. Going, accompanying my last communication.

The editor of the *Free Press* happened to come in to my office whilst I was writing my answer to "Scrutator." Upon asking "what I was about," I told him, and he said, "You had better allow us to publish both, as being news connected with the public justice, and as being taken from the Upper Canada Journal." Well, I answered, "I don't care." Dr. Going attacked me through the *Free Press*, the enclosed is my reply to him. Upon looking over it, I don't see any use for altering it much, so it will be as good as a manuscript,

Yours, &c.,

JOHN WANLESS.

LONDON, C. W., April 2, 1852.

"Scrutator" asserted that the inquests alluded to were "mockeries of justice," &c. In proof of which he brought forward the fact, that Dr. Going was not called upon to give his medical evidence. That was the