

There is no use in here inquiring why this tincture is more permanent, more easily prepared, and so much more certain of success in the preparation than that of the pharmacopœia; the fact is sufficient for our purpose. I have been induced to give publicity to these observations, believing that the tincture of acetate of iron is in hazard of being expunged from the new pharmacopœia on account of the uncertainty of its composition, when prepared according to the process hitherto employed.

THE

## British American Journal.

MONTREAL, MARCH 1, 1848.

### THE REPEAL ASSOCIATION AGAIN.

"Ecce iterum Crispinus."

The members of the Repeal Association are wrathful; and two of them have been shedding much ink, our sweet selves being the burthen of their ireful song. And why? because, forsooth, we likened their proceedings to the fickle and capricious acting of an infant! The Association, we learn now, numbers among its members, "*hommes murs sages et éclairés*." Be it so. It proves that grey heads are not always heads of wisdom, and that there is a stage of senescence, the mental endowment of which verges rather upon that of puerility, than upon that which usually appertains to adolescence. We might in charity have assumed the latter, but facts forbid it, and to facts, as in duty bound, we pay especial devotion. No one has greater reverence for them than we have.

We are accused, however, of inconsistency (save the mark!) Inconsistency in strenuously advocating to-day, what, it is alleged, we repudiated in 1846. But how stands the case? We have never uttered one word against the principle of an Act of Incorporation for the profession. We argued against the delegation of *unlimited* power to the Council, as well as against several other objectionable features in the Bill proposed at the Three Rivers meeting. And was this *unlimited* power granted in the present Act? No. A limited power, like a limited monarchy, we approve of. We desired that the *profession*, like the *people*, should speak; our desire has been accomplished; and their will *shall* be fulfilled. Our opponent, with the queer title, when giving his text, should have quoted the context, which in this instance would be found most materially to modify the sense; and would have enabled him, unless he viewed with jaundiced eyes, to have seen the drift of the argument at that time adopted, from which, even at this moment, we see no reason whatever for dissenting. There are some people in this world, who cannot see. There are a greater number who will not. Among the latter unenviable class, we are constrained to place our doughty and Quixotic antagonists. No length of labour would relieve their visual obliquity. To reason with them would be a sacrifice of time, and valuable space in our columns, which might be much more profitably occupied.

Let not the valorous champions of the Repeal Association suppose that we are writing under feelings of irritation. Our breast is full of the milk of human kindness

and compassion. We will spare the rod, even at the risk of spoiling the *child*. On the contrary, we have been highly delighted at their productions. They give promise of future excellence. We particularly admire the ingenuity with which the one with the queer title, (he styles himself "a Licentiate of the Association of Doctors, and a Member of the Medical Society of Emulation!") has exhibited in quoting from our writings exactly and to a nicety, as much assuited his own purpose. Did we call it ingenuity? No. It is the evidence of decided talent, and one, too, of a high and peculiar order. We particularly recommend him to cultivate it, for he will considerably enhance his reputation thereby. And a reputation is something. It is certainly more than something, even if only equal to his to whose professional avocation the words "by habit and repute" are usually prefixed, to mark the gentleman's undeviating rectitude of conduct, and inflexibility of purpose.

The gentleman, however, with the queer title, asks us to republish his valuable letter in our columns. For the information of the Profession generally we desire to remark, that in typification of Minerva's birl, famed for qualities far less creditable than its wisdom, it is to be found in the "*Minerve*" newspaper of the 17th ult. We decline the intended compliment which he confers on ourselves and our subscribers: and for two reasons—firstly, that, after our express invitation, he has not deemed it proper to avail himself *directly* of our columns, although freely offered; and secondly, because he had not the courtesy to send us a copy of the paper in which his article *originally* and by preference appeared. Now, we were compelled to pay five copiers for his *article*, or else forfeit the pleasure we have derived in perusing it; but having perused it, and deeming that our subscribers would not equally value a document which cost us so small a sum, and which was evidently sold at its actual worth, the intrinsic value of an *article of an indefinite character*, we have most unwillingly come to the conclusion to decline the compliment. In lieu of it, however, we seize the opportunity to present to them the following excellent letter on the subject, with three or four copies of which we have been politely furnished by mail.

To the Editor of the *Quebec Mercury*.

SIR,—The very earnest desire which you have at all times evinced in imparting to the medical profession, whatever might bear connexion with the general interests of its numerous members—and so recently evidenced, by your judicious and well timed advocacy of the integrity of the proceedings of the constituted governing body of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and in opposition to a factious party, lately organised in Montreal, induces me to submit the following exposition for publicity.

As a matter which, in some measure, might be restricted to the profession, I ought, perhaps, to content myself with the analysis of the assumptions of the party in question, by the distinguished and learned editor of the *British American Journal of Medical and Physical Science*; but that excellent periodical, I regret, has not that circulation among the members of the profession which it ought necessarily, and I may say, indispensably, to have—and; although the only Medical periodical in the province of Canada, I am almost persuaded to the belief, that a large body of our rural practitioners, would, at all times, give preference to one of a purely political nature!

As a member of the medical profession, you are not without the knowledge, that for several years, its most influential and leading members have strenuously exerted themselves to secure,