

same rights as other medical men; they asked for equal rights but nothing more, they desired the privilege of receiving pay for their services, and if those services were valuable he could see no reason why they should not be paid. They used no mineral medicine, but only medicine made from roots and herbs and practiced on a different system from other medical men. All they wanted was to be allowed to practice as they thought proper, without studying three or four years at a system which they never intended to practice in order to obtain a diploma. In the U. S. the Thompsonian doctors were allowed to practice and the same right should be accorded to them here, to enable them to give their system a fair trial. It might be said that persons practicing this system had destroyed valuable lives—granted; but had not many valuable lives been also sacrificed by the regular physicians? The only difference was, that one sacrificed life contrary to law, the other according to law. (Hear, Hear, and laughter.) It was said that "the grave reveals no secrets," but he believed that if it could, there would be many men found to have been killed by the regular physicians.— ("No, no.")—He thought the majority of the regular physicians in Upper Canada were in favor of this right being accorded to the Thompsonians, and he could see no reason for refusing the bill he proposed. The system of persecution going on against this class of practitioners would raise them in public estimation; and, indeed, in many of the isolated parts of the country they did a great deal of good. He (Mr. Flint) was satisfied that the more this system was tried, the more it would prevail. He hoped the Committee would, therefore, allow him to bring in a bill to amend the law, so as to accord the petitioners the privileges they sought for.

Dr. Nelson hoped the Committee would believe that he did not oppose the bill for personal reasons, but because he was well aware of the great danger frequently arising from the practice of the Thompsonian system.—Sorry was he to say that he had known two cases of death in this city, clearly and undoubtedly caused by the Thompsonian medicine. The parties who practised it, were in general, perfectly ignorant of the theory of medicine, and very frequently most illiterate, and with the utmost recklessness experimented on the living bodies of the unfortunate patient entrusted to their care. Such conduct was most atrocious, and the quacks who acted in that manner were scarcely worthy of the name of men. The hon. gentleman then went into a long description of the genus "quack," describing their characteristics, their ignorance, and their absurd pretensions which frequently impose upon the ignorant and unsuspecting. If that bill were passed, if the House chose to sanction the practice of

these people, he called on the Ministry to refuse to give one farthing to Mc Gill College. What would then be the use of taxing the country for the support of a college which taught a system that was vitally condemned by the bill, and by the vote which would pass it into law. It would be said that there was one protection for society. It would be said that if the root doctor caused any injury by his medicines, he could be prosecuted; but who would be willing to prosecute except in very glaring cases? And even then, the party who had lost a member of his family would perhaps step in to protect instead of prosecute. He called on the House to uphold its dignity, and reject the bill, and not so far insult the profession as to put a set of ignorant men on the same footing with those who had spent large sums of money, and years of their early life, in acquiring a knowledge of their profession.

Dr. DAVIGNON moved, amid great uproar, that the Chairman do leave the Chair.

MESSES. CAUCHON and Mc CONNELL took the floor simultaneously to address the Chair, and remained standing for some time amidst great disturbance, and cries of "chair" and "dispense."

The Chairman having decided that Mr. Mc CONNELL was up first, the hon. member proceeded to address the Committee, and bore testimony to the advantages of medicine composed of roots and herbs. We had, he said, a Liberal Ministry, who should endeavor to give equal rights and privileges to all men, and they should therefore give these Thompsonian doctors the privileges they petitioned for.

Mr. FLINT said the difference between the regular practitioner and the quack was this, that the regular practitioner treated his patient this way—

"He bleeds, he pukes, and he sweats him, And if he dies, why then he lets him!" whereas the Thompsonians—whom the hon. member for Richlieu called "quacks"—did not bleed in any case. (Laughter.)

Dr. DAVIGNON'S motion was then carried by a very large majority, and the committee rose.—H. R. D.

#### Misfortunes of the Poor.

The slightest misfortunes of the great, the most imaginary uneasiness of the rich, are aggravated with all the powers of eloquence, and held up to engage our attention and sympathetic sorrow. The poor weep unheeded, persecuted by every subordinate species of tyranny.

GOLDSMITH.