

pretenders and quacks of every description started up, the numerous students and practitioners who pursued that path, stopped short in their enquiries, and, from the multiplied objects before them, remained satisfied with superficial acquirements.

But, not to digress too far, it is impossible to credit an anonymous writer, against the honour and reputation of those gentlemen at Quebec, unless we are favoured with something more in proof than mere assertion.* By what unaccountable precedent, does a FRIEND TO TRUTH assume the prerogative of judging of the qualifications of a student, when, (though I admit it is a very reprehensible custom, and think that all examinations of the kind ought to be public) he could not I believe, be possibly admitted to hear him examined? And I am still more surprised when he tells us that "young men of six years study, and much experience have been repeatedly sent back from the medical boards of Quebec and Montreal, whilst others of two years study have been admitted." But, let this be so, yet the only inference to be drawn from it, is this:—that the former were persons of consummate stupidity, and totally unacquainted with the elements of the science; whilst the latter were persons of shrewdness, ability, and industry; for, were they qualified, not all the doctors in Christendom could prevent them from being licensed.

I am by no means a friend to oppression, or to the combinations of men of power and influence against those whom they may fear as competitors, or even regard as enemies: but, at the same time, I am a no less strenuous foe to calumny and false assertions. To see the fair reputation of a man, or of a public institution, blasted by the tongue of slander, should awaken the indignation of every friend to humanity. Under this impression, I have stepped forward to parry the attack of A FRIEND TO TRUTH upon the gentlemen of the Montreal general hospital, with whom I disclaim any acquaintance or intercourse. And I repeat that some board of examination ought to be established, as the only avenue through which students can pass, and where fools and numskulls would be kicked out; for I contend there is no character in society more detestable and odious than

* A FRIEND TO TRUTH, gave me, in confidence, along with his communication; names and dates to all the circumstances here mentioned. These I, of course, do not consider myself justified in publishing, unless I have his special leave. L. L. M.

† It is not to the establishment of a board of examiners that objections are made, and in fact A FRIEND TO TRUTH advocates the law of Lord Dorchester, under which the boards are appointed; but to the injudicious nomination of examiners, and particularly to the confining the nomination to a set of privileged