

HOMINIS EST-ERRARE INSIPIENTIS PERSEVERARE

It would appear, from Dr. Patterson's letter in our correspondence column, that he is still of the opinion he pronounced at a meeting held in this city, viz., That the cause of the opposition of the Profession to the establishment of the proposed Victorian Order of Nurses in Manitoba and the the Northwest was "because they did not understand the project." Now, when men of giant intellect make dogmatic assertions, those endowed with shallower sulci, and less grey matter inside their craniums, naturally hesitate before questioning the utterance. But, the Doctor on this occasion betrays such a want or ordinary perspicacity, that, though with vivid recollection of the old proverb, "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." We must point out to Dr. Patterson the errors he has fallen into. Commissioner Robertson, in his last address, stated that "the programme which had originally been sketched out had been entirely altered." It so happened that this first scheme, as outlined in the Free Press, was that which the medical men of this city considered and pronounced upon. So that Dr. Patterson's Solonic utterance, that he alone of all the profession was able to understand the aim and object of the proposed order, must be taken cum grano. Dr. Patterson's arguments strike us as illogical, his reasoning as unsound, and his figures astray, vide, the remark as to the solitary nurse in the Northwest. The Doctor must have been thinking of that one swallow that does not make a summer. We deny that any statement in the article alluded to in Dr. Patterson's letter was written without due consideration. The subject is one for the head, and not for the heart only. As to his statement that "there was more than one dissident at the meeting of city physicians," the fact remains that every member voted for the motion, save only and except Dr. Patterson. If he was aware that there were some present who voted for the motion, but were yet in favor of the scheme, I am afraid he cannot hold a very exalted opin-

ion of their policy. We are aware that Dr. Patterson is adverse to helping young men in their first start in life; and, though he accuses the writer of the article he criticizes as jealous, narrow-minded, picaresque, and insinuates that he is fearful, in a professional sense, of this order being established, with an interlineation, the emanation of some other great mind, viz., "I am sure the profession at large does not dread them." The readers of his letter between the lines will readily grasp the fact that it is Dr. Patterson who is afraid that the young and vigorous intellects coming into the ranks of our profession will lessen the emoluments of those who are on the downward path of life. We sympathize with the Doctor in this, being in the same boat, but we have learned to bow to the inevitable.

The Doctor also finds fault with our depicting weather that is occasionally to be met with in this country. We read not infrequently in the winter season of coaches, railway carriages, etc., being snowed up in England, Scotland, and other countries. There is no desire to conceal such climatic conditions. We read of cyclones, earthquakes, and hailstorms devastating parts of the United States, and had the same notoriety been given to the disadvantages as well as to the true and indisputable advantages to be met with in Manitoba and the Northwest, there can be little doubt that a much larger resident population would now be found on our fertile prairies. It is the misrepresentation of the country, and its climate, that has exercised a baneful influence on immigration. We do not think it is necessary for the editor to defend himself on this head. We fear that the Doctor, in the solitary grandeur of his position, has fallen into a spleenetic mood—we might borrow his own term "a fearful mood," in trepidation that those young medical men who he states are hanging about, not knowing where to rest, carrying one's mind back to the dawn and the deluge, will settle in these districts, where they are so badly needed, or mayhap still nearer him, when competi-