

and the son of a butcher. Whitfield, son of an innkeeper at Cloucester. Sir Cloudesley Shovel, rear-admiral of England, was an apprentice to a shoe-maker, and afterwards a cabin boy. Bishop Prideaux worked in the kitchen at Exeter College, Oxford. Cardinal Wolsey, son of a butcher. Ferguson was a shepherd. Neibhur was a peasant. Dean Tucker was the son of a small farmer in Cardiganshire, and performed his journeys to Oxford on foot. Edmund Halley was the son of a soap-boiler at Shoderitch. Joseph Hall, Bishop of Norwich, son of a farmer at Ashby de La Zouch. William Hogarth was but an apprentice to an engraver of pewter pots. Dr. Mountain, Bishop of Durham, was the son of a beggar. Lucian was the son of a statuary. Virgil, son of a porter. Shakspeare was the son of a woolstapler. Horace, of a shop-keeper.

UNFETTERED CANADIAN.

TORONTO, MAY, 1849.

Opening of the Discussion between Dr. N. B. Wolfe, M. D., and the Editor.

QUESTION.

"If the restrictive laws which now protect the medical profession were removed would society at large be benefited?"

EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTE, CHAP. III, GEO. IV.

(Passed 17th February, 1827.)

VI. *And be it further enacted by the authority of the aforesaid,* That it shall not be lawful for any person, not being as aforesaid a member of the Medical Board, or not being licensed as aforesaid, or not having been heretofore licensed by any Medical Board, or not being actually employed as a Physician or Surgeon, in His Majesty's Naval or Military Service, to practice Physic, Surgery or Midwifery, in this Province for hire, gain, or hope of reward: *Provided* that nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to prevent or prohibit any Female from practicing Midwifery in this Province, or to require such Female to take out licence as aforesaid.

VII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the practice of Physic, Surgery or Midwifery, for hire, gain, or hope

of reward, by any person not licensed, as aforesaid, or not being actually employed as a Physician or Surgeon in His Majesty's Naval or Military Service shall be a misdemeanor, and may be prosecuted and punished as any other misdemeanor can be; and that upon the trial of any person charged with such misdemeanor the burden of proof as to the licence or right of the person tried, to practice Physic, Surgery or Midwifery, in this Province, shall be upon the defendant; but no prosecution shall be commenced for such misdemeanor after one year from the offence committed; and no person convicted of such misdemeanor shall be sentenced therefor to a longer period of imprisonment than six months, or to a greater fine than the sum of twenty-five pounds.

By referring to our last number, page 95, the reader will find the correspondence which led to this discussion, in connection with which it may be proper to state, that in commencing our lecture at Prince Albert we invited opposition, and stated our willingness to debate our positions with any gentleman prepared to gain-say them; the Dr. was, therefore, fully justified in so framing the question, as to throw himself simply on the defensive.

In our exposition of the question we are disposed to be perfectly free and liberal, in return for our friend's honesty, in candidly admitting that the laws referred to were framed to *protect the medical profession*. Let it be remembered then, that we will not act upon the advantage given us in the statement of the question, but allow the argument to proceed as though the question stood thus—*In the aggregate would the inhabitants of Canada be benefited by throwing the Medical Profession open to universal competition?*—In sustaining the affirmative we submit.

I. THAT THE MEDICAL PROFESSION HAS NO RIGHT TO SPECIAL PROTECTION—(a) A right to special protection must be sustained by a special cause, (b) but no such cause exists, (c) and hence the right does not exist. 1. *The right cannot be predicated on the simple fact of medicine being a profession.* Each of the sciences is a profession, School teaching and Divinity are professions, yet no one concedes the right in question to any of them.

2. *The Right cannot be based on the importance of the profession to the well being of the community.* The world admits that the profession of