

INTRODUCTION AND PROSPECTUS.

“Is there not a cause,” Freeman of Canada! why this Banner of Liberty and Reform is thus hastily thrown upon the breeze? Can we be pronounced rash or precipitate in sounding the alarm, when we see the chains of an infamous bondage already forged, and waiting only the sanction of Parliament, to entwine, shackle, and gall the limbs of freemen? Can you believe it, Freeman of Canada! that a portion of our M. D’s., embodying the selfishness and arrogance of the sect, are laboring indefatigably to urge through the present House of Parliament, a bill of such appalling atrocity, as to subject you, and me, and each one of us, to a fine of *Five Pounds* for every day on which we may be found administering the most simple medical relief to a suffering friend?!!! We say a portion of the sect, for the highminded among them everywhere, spurn this bill with contempt and shame!

When we knew no more of the bill than we have already stated, our inward voice cried, *shame!*—But let the Dr’s., pass their bill, they will find that an Upper Canada jury will never give them a verdict! Upper Canada jurors will render this bill, like the law of libel, a dead letter upon our Statute Books!—But what was our astonishment, and indignation on ascertaining that this bill, this abominable conception of reckless audacity, actually provides for the conviction of the offender before a *single* Magistrate! upon the oath of *two* witnesses! Thus leaving *no* hope of escape, as every locality can furnish *tools* prepared for the meanest scoundrelism! Under this conviction we exclaimed, the bill must be opposed!—But when we further ascertained that this bill provides for throwing the convicted parties into the common jail, till the fine and *costs* are paid, for a period not less than *three months*, indignation rose to the full; prompting a *vehement* desire, to sound the shrill notes of alarm till the remotest woodman heard the voice and *thundered* back the death knell of medical intolerance!

Actuated, then, in the first place, by these promptings, and finding that