

THE
British American Journal.

MONTREAL, NOVEMBER, 1862.

LICENSES AD PRACTICANDUM.

In the year 1847 we were at some pains to set the *British Colonist* right in its assertion that McGill College issued licensees *ad practicandum*. With a degree of pertinacity in a preconceived opinion rarely met with, the allegation was repeated in a subsequent number of that Journal, and was again promptly denied by us. After such a length of time, during which the Consolidated Statutes of Canada might have been studied and re-studied, and their import fully appreciated, it seems to us a most extraordinary thing that the Editor of a paper, occupying the high position of the *Toronto Leader*, evidently without the least inquiry into the merits of the case, should have made the same charge against the same University, and for all that he knows, against Laval University, Quebec, attaching to them, in consequence, powers superior to those of the Universities of Upper Canada, powers in fact equivalent to those of the Licensing Boards of the Province.

We have most sedulously endeavoured to prevent this Journal becoming the organ of any party, Clique or University in this Province, since we have had connection with it. Such was never the intention in its original projection; but when we find misstatements, so plain as that indicated, issuing from the press, and misleading a large proportion of the inhabitants of the country, we consider it a duty to correct them—less in the interest of the Universities which have thus been most invidiously assailed, than in the cause of truth. If we were persuaded that the observations of the *Toronto Leader* were dictated by no malevolent feeling against McGill College or the Lower Canadian Universities, we should have taken no notice of them whatever. Our belief is the reverse; the object being to arouse a hostile feeling especially against McGill College, and to disparage it to the fullest extent of ability. And before going further in the correction of the Editor of the *Leader* in his errors, we would most seriously advise him, when next he writes upon medical affairs, of which he is apparently most grossly ignorant, to consult the Statute books of the Province first, and peradventure he will then discover the remarkable fact that neither McGill nor the Laval Universities pos-