

point of the cowering and cheeping ministers; dukes, by the momentary flashes of the truths of sorrow, were seen to be flunkies for that hour; and there was not in fact a hindrance in the whole horizon, unless it were the apparition-bugaboo of Mr. Wakley, and the looming of medical anti-votes at some remote election. But a parlor was snigger: a small party was stiller: a memorial was less fatiguing and more polite: it pledged to no movement, and could easily be forgotten: and so the winter was a winter indeed, and Lord Panmure, so far as homeopathy is concerned, has hibernated through it, after being comfortably tucked in by his friend, Lord Robert Grosvenor, who then retired himself, with London stones crying out at his window, into Sabbatical rest.

Yet somehow or other, the memorialists did good without intending it: they accidentally caught the tail of *The Lancet* in the shut parlor door, and made the creature squeal horribly. It squealed on the 7th day of April. Its last about homeopathy,—and the last of everything is its tail,—was, that the thing was utterly evaporated and earthless; whereas, in parading all the inverted comma "great people" who were now knocking at Lord P.'s gate to introduce homeopathy to him, this mendacious tail was most undoubtedly caught: and there is reason to believe, nipped off. Henceforth, then, at our public dinners, Wakley's brush shall hang as his sole life-trophy over the head of Lord Robert Grosvenor.

Let us peruse somewhat this *Lancet* tail-joint, or article. (I believe articulus is Latin for a joint.) The editor will not "condescend upon this occasion to enter upon any facts or argument to prove the transcendental folly of what is called the homeopathic system." He is careful to explain what is *not* going to be the staple of his remarks. I almost thought after that he was going to sing a song; because, barring facts and argument, the next ready thing is certainly poetry. Yet he went on in prose. He says, he "denies in toto that a know-

ledge of theology, skill in manœuvring soldiers, the art of navigation and naval warfare, or patent faculty for legislation, carry with them the slightest competency for judging of the effects of medical agents upon the human frame in health and disease." He is assuredly right here. It would be a shocking look-out for all common flesh if men did not know when they are well or ill, and when treatment is making them better or worse, unless they were profound divines, generals, admirals, or peers of the realm. In that case they would be obliged to take the doctor's word for it; which is what we object to. On the contrary, that which gives them competency for this decision, is their very skins, and the consciousness of ailing, or well-being, which God has put inside them. To this must be added the solicitous faces of friends about, who by signs that they fully understand, and which vitally concern them, "judge of the effects of medicinal agents upon the human frame in health and disease." The same law by which a patient would be precluded from judging a system of medicine, and changing it for another and a better system, would also prevent him from calling in further advice in any case: the ear of each patient would be nailed to the doctor's door-post: and appeal to physician, or other doctor, would be impossible. The sick would find it as difficult to move from place to place, as it is difficult to get out of Russia without a permit from the Czar. We seem then to have the editor with us so far. Yet subsequently we find that a knowledge of "the science of medicine" is indispensable "for judging of the effects of medicinal agents upon the human frame in health and disease." I can't think so. If that were the case, none but the most expert physicians could ever find out whether they were ill or well. A consciously sick man would be an impossibility, except in the case of graduates, M.D.'s, M.R.C.S.E.s, and L.A.C.'s. More impossible still would be a consciously cured man out of the sacred pale of Esculapius.—No man could know whether his stom-