

who practice the Allopathic system should be incorporated for the management of their own affairs; provided their powers be carefully defended, and restricted exclusively to those who practice their system: and provided also, that the same power and privilege be granted to those medical Gents who practice the Botanic system of medicine. This would appear to be a portion of that justice, for which the Liberals of Canada have long been contending; and which it will be impossible for a popular Government long to withhold. I am however free to express my dissent to incorporating Medical societies, not believing it to be conducive to the best interest of the medical profession, nor to afford to the community a guarantee against the impositions of quackery. It surely is a fact that no sane man will attempt to disguise, that there is a far greater amount of quack medicines vended by those druggists who are of the privileged order than by every other class in Canada.

I would however be willing to ask some of the friends of medical monopoly, what good to the community have ever been effected by medical laws? Have they been the means of qualifying the Medical practitioner, successfully to attend the bed of the sick? Have they led to any new and important discovery, or to the simplest, safest, and speediest means of relieving suffering humanity? Have such discoveries generally emanated from the schools of Physic? I trust the observation of every intelligent man has prepared him to answer these questions in the negative, and must necessarily extort the confession that such discoveries, have generally emanated from some obscure and illiterate individual, like Dr. Thomson "whose name" says Dr. Waterhouse, "will be transmitted to posterity as a benefactor of mankind." Allow me to ask what would have been the fate of the Botanic system of medicine, for the discovery of which, Dr. Thomson was so nobly and justly eulogized had it been left to the tender mercies of those physicians enjoying the protection of Medical Laws. It does not need the spirit of Prophecy to predict this answer, that had not public opinion been more powerful than even legislative enactments, and kindly lent its nurturing care, sheltered it safely under its protecting wing, that best of all medical systems; that great boon to the world had died in embryo, and it and all the great blessings designed by it to doctor-ridden world have been swept into oblivion.

In conclusion, I would say I discovered that the leader of the great liberal party, in Canada West, voted for the second reading of the obnoxious measure. The course he may see fit to pursue at its third reading, and his success in stripping it of its objectionable laws, will be duly noticed. And I would suggest for his consideration the expression

of a respectable medical Gent living not far from Picton, who said, that Teetotalism, Radicalism, and Thompsonianism, all run in the same channel. Not a bad compliment indeed, paid to the Botanic. *A short sentence, but full of meaning*,—that that intelligent portion of our community, who had been endeavouring to apply the great moral lever, to uproot the heinous vice of intemperance, to reform and renovate our social, and political system, had not forgotten that our medical system was still imperfect. I trust I will not be exceeding my privilege, when I say that those Gentlemen, Messrs. Merritt, Flint, and others, who so honorably opposed a measure calculated to cultivate the persecuting spirit heretofore manifested by the medical faculty, and extend their power to indulge therein,—have well earned for themselves the thanks of the friends of the Botanic system of medicine in Canada, and on their behalf I feel great pleasure in thus tendering it to them.

T. C.

Crafton, 1849.

TO THE READER.

A COMBINATION of causes induced me to examine the system of Medical Botany, and deliver this course of lectures. Of the character of an author I am neither ambitious nor repugnant. Were the Items summoned together, "of all that creep and all that soar," in this department of literature, the amount of remuneration might not be very seductive. I am but a pioneer in a path unknown, and may have stumbled in my course, or failed to clear the way; still I am persuaded enough has been done, to excite the attention of the curious, and rouse the penetration of the profound. Of all the interests of this mortal life, the preservation and care of health, is one of the most important and absorbing.

I know the subject on which I have discoursed is one highly unpopular; and may subject me to the reproach of *some* of my best friends: but the die is cast, and the ordeal I am willing to encounter. From the

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