

## A D D R E S S .

---

GENTLEMEN :—

In most civilized countries, it has been deemed wise to require, by statute, that the medical practitioner shall bear credentials from some responsible body of his fitness for his profession. Than this nothing can be more reasonable. As health is nearly comprehensive of all temporal blessings, the government that would overlook the grand agency for preserving or restoring this would be fatally wanting in one of its most sacred trusts; while the necessity for acquiring this evidence of fitness becomes very apparent when one reflects, that by far the greater part who need the medical man's services are incapable of judging of his qualifications, and yet are impelled by the strongest motives to avail themselves of such help as he offers. His patients have to exercise entire faith in his statements. Men may or may not believe the statements of others, but there is no help for them, at least for a time, but to believe the statements of their medical attendant. It cannot be otherwise. In most cases he cannot explain to his patients, and in many cases ought not to try to explain, the treatment he pursues. He must, therefore, be a man *that can be largely trusted*. Nor will any one, who thinks of the evils which the incompetent practitioner, from ignorance, presumption, or mere avarice, brings on his fellow-creatures, deem the legal safeguards which government has established as unnecessary. God only knows—for man cannot—the full extent to which credulous sufferers, panting for life, and ready to snatch at straws, have had the remains of their health wasted, and their pockets shamelessly picked by unconscionable quacks. As the law can but inadequately punish this species of villainy, it is bound to do what it can to prevent it.

Now, the law in this Province requires, that before a man shall be recognized as a medical practitioner, he shall hold a Diploma from some responsible body known to the govern-