

It does not become us to say one word in regard to the editorial management of the Journal. That that duty could have been better performed, we have not the least doubt. We have, however, to the utmost of our power laboured with a single view to its prosperity, and with fidelity, however much our efforts may have fallen short of the desired mark.

The lapse, now, of a very few weeks must determine the cessation or the continuance of the publication, either of which contingencies must depend upon the subscribers themselves, whose verdict we await. And, however much we may regret the former event, as a stigma upon the Profession, and with no prospect of the renewal of another attempt at journalism, as it would be impossible to publish another periodical on the same or more favourable terms, the Profession will have to thank themselves if left without a representative.

THE MEDICAL PRESS—THE PRIZES IN OUR PROFESSION.

THE VACANT SURGEONCY OF THE PROVINCIAL PENITENTIARY.

In fighting the Great Battle of Life few prizes are gained by the members of our profession, compared with those obtained in other professions. Of the three black Graces,—Law, Physic, and Divinity,—the first unquestionably monopolizes the largest portion of the good things of this world. In our own Province at the present time, with, we believe, one exception, every Minister of State is a member of the profession of the law. We do not envy our brethren at the bar the honours and rewards so largely shared among the members of their profession. We content ourselves with noting a fact patent to all who give themselves the trouble to reflect, and to reason upon passing events. Thirty years ago Mr. Wakley, of the London *Lancet*, discovered, or thought he had made the discovery, that it required more medical than legal knowledge to fit a man for the office of Coroner. He inculcated this opinion with much earnestness in his journal, and made many converts to it. But the office, it was argued, was a judicial office; the Coroner is a judge in his own court; the office had invariably been filled by a member of the legal profession. We remember that in 1834 the office of Coroner for the eastern division of Middlesex became vacant. The prize was worth between two and three thousand pounds sterling per annum. The lawyers put forward a candidate with strong local influence. The medical profession, almost to a man, sided with Mr. Wakley, and he was induced to offer himself as a candidate. The electors were the freeholders of the county. The legal interest put forth its full strength, determined that a valuable piece of patronage should not be wrested without a struggle from the profession, and a precedent set to all counties under British rule where the court of the Coroner exists. The contest continued for several days; each of the candidates polled some thousands of votes, and spent some thousands of pounds, but public opinion was not yet ripe; the electors would not sanction the innovation; the legal candidate received the largest number of votes in a closely contested election, and Mr. Wakley was defeated.

But the medical candidate was not disheartened by his defeat, costly and annoying as it was to him. He felt the strength and justice of his cause, and