

THE
British American Journal.

MONTREAL, AUGUST, 1861.

SUSTENTATION OF CHARLATANISM IN HIGH PLACES.

We have little doubt that quackery or charlatanism in its various grades would speedily sink into insignificance, if it were not for the countenance which it occasionally receives from well disposed but misguided men. Those, who are out of the profession, are, *ipso facto*, susceptible of easy deception. Knowing little or nothing of medicine themselves, whatever virtues may be attributed to any especial medicine, they are ready nay willing to take for granted; and if they themselves are afflicted, a belief in the efficacy of the remedy proposed has itself often worked a cure. That faith, imagination, and credulity have worked wonders in favor of certain especial medicines, and are even now working them, any reflecting mind can determine for himself, by reading the hosts of quack advertisements, and by casting a scrutinising glance around him. A physician can scarcely enter a house without encountering some quack remedy or nostrum, the composition of which no one knows but the patentee, all which is a proof that while these infirmities of the human mind exist, men are not wanting to take advantage of them; but that they should be seconded in their attempts in imposture by regularly qualified medical practitioners, some of them having enjoyed the highest honours of the profession, surpasses belief.

We have been driven into these thoughts; to which we have given expression with no inconsiderable amount of pain, by having received a copy of a sheet called "McLean's Family Herald," published by George Mc'Lean, No. 83 Bay Street, 3 doors below King Street west, Toronto, the object of which is to puff off McLean's "Heather Balm," "Heather Bloom," and "Vegetable Hair Die," (we wonder he did not call it Heather Hair Die) and Heather Bloom Hair Restorator."

For the purpose of exhibiting the extent to which Mr. McLean's sureties have pledged themselves, (for be it remembered that Dr. Hallowell of Toronto, late Professor of Materia Medica in Trinity College, in that city, confesses that he has made an analysis of the "Heather Bloom," and has discovered that it contained no mineral remedy, although he abstains from specifying upon what vegetable