

a licence by the college upon any grounds, either his curriculum may have been inadequate or his examination unsatisfactory,—it does not matter what is the cause—and that individual need only have a private act drafted at the cost of some hundred dollars or so,—need only, in addition, obtain the interest of one or two members; it does not matter how he obtains that interest,—whether from previous personal acquaintance, or from absence of previous acquaintance, but the possession of some spare dollars,—and that private act is passed by the Legislature, in spite of the protests of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, indeed, the stronger and more forcible those protests, the greater the likelihood that the private bill will be passed and that one considered incompetent by the elected representatives of the profession is admitted to practise within the limits of the Province.

Such a condition of affairs is intolerable and, unfortunately, complete redress would not seem possible, at least, until that millennium when the people of this Province as a body elect as members of the Provincial Legislature those who, as a body, are worthy of respect and worthy of such responsible positions. Such a millennium seems, if anything, to be coming year by year more distant rather than nearer. The most that we can do is to recognize ourselves how intolerable a condition of affairs this is, and to educate public opinion, in season and out of season, until for very shame our Legislature hesitates to pass bills of this nature.

The Quebec Legislature reminds us of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. From the Middle Ages the distinguished occupants of this position, the Primates of the Church of England, have had the right to confer, at their own will and pleasure, the degree of Doctor in Medicine and, degrees so conferred are registrable. Fortunately, for now many generations, the Archbishops of Canterbury have rarely used their privilege, nor have they employed it in the case of those not already qualified to practise by the possession of other diplomas. How ridiculous it seems that an individual theologian should possess these powers! Yet that theologian is a man of high culture and, as a man, above reproach. But if absurd in his case, is it not yet more absurd that equal powers are, not only possessed, but acted upon without the advice of the profession being sought, by that heterogeneous rabble which constitutes our Provincial Parliament at Quebec?

Let it not, however, be thought that we consider that the blame rests wholly with the Provincial Parliament. We feel convinced that there would not be so many private bills to grant the privilege of practising within the Province, if the regulations of the college were