

more serious trouble, which was diagnosed as pleurisy, and there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the diagnosis. The doctor "bled copiously," which was "usual in most cases." John Wesley had recommended a glass of tar-water taken warm every hour, which was at least harmless, while the "Yarb doctor," Samuel Thomson, prescribed tea of mayweed or summer savory, or a sweetened infusion of horehound leaves, equally innocuous. But with the regular profession then and for long after, the great panacea was bleeding.

The patient grew worse and his brother, in whose care he was, became dissatisfied with the medical man. He had no hesitation in saying openly that "the d—d old scoundrel might just as well take a pistol and blow his brains out as murder him by inches"—"if he dies, I shall always think he murdered him." The doctor himself was full of hope, and did not think there was any necessity to send for another medical man, and for a time refused to do so. But the friends were insistent and at length Dr. Lafferty was sent for.

Dr. Lafferty was one of the best-known men at the time in the district; born in New Jersey, the son of the Attorney-General of that Province, he became an army surgeon. Taking to wife in 1800, a half-breed Indian woman, he settled down to practise his profession at Drummondville. Without much medical learning, he was of great natural ability and sound common sense. He became a member of the Legislature in 1828 for Lincoln and was defeated in 1834 by only one vote. He died in 1842, aged 65. "A fine old gentleman of the old Canadian school," and skilled in the old way, he had no use for new-fangled methods or instruments, and could never be brought to see the advantage of the stethoscope (which he called the "telescope").

Dr. Lafferty could not at that stage say whether Dr. Raymond's treatment had been proper, but he administered purgatives to the patient then *in extremis*. This treatment gave some relief, but there was no hope, and the unfortunate man died.

The brother was very violent; he told Dr. Raymond that he was not fit to practise, he was an impostor, an old woman, he knew nothing and should not impose himself, being so ignorant, upon the public. This kind of talk the angry brother repeated to several and at length Dr. Raymond brought an action against him for slander.

The case came on for trial at Niagara, September 17th, 1831, before Chief Justice John Beverley Robinson (not yet a baronet or even a C.B.) The facts above detailed were clearly proven and it looked as though nothing could save the defendant. But in those days the law and practice were full of traps for the unwary, and often a litigant with an honest and unanswerable case failed by reason of some slip of his at-