

is of vital, practical, importance to the community at large. Their present existence can only be attributed, to the unpardonable remissness of professional men, in neglecting to press the matter upon the attention of the Legislature.

It may possibly seem strange to you, Sir, that the mode of petitioning the Legislature, should have been adopted, in preference to an application, to the Head of the Government. But this course has not been pursued, without some hesitation, and a good deal of delay ; for a petition was presented to his Excellency the Governor-General, so far back as the month of June last, numerously signed, by gentlemen connected with the profession of the law, by which the subject was brought under his Excellency's notice, in very respectful, but at the same time very urgent terms. And it is only in consequence, of the entire silence of the Ministers of the Crown upon the subject, that the present course has been found unavoidable. Were the matter one of ordinary interest, possibly it might have been allowed to share the fate of other abuses, which having been cherished for a season, have only been redressed when the magnitude of the evil, become apparent to the mass of the people, has *obliged* the adoption of some remedy. But the evil, to which it is desired to