profession, and of allaying and discouraging the political and private heartburnings and bickerings among its members which are so prevalent at the present day; and that it will assist to direct into a far nobler channel an activity so fruitless of private or public good, and help to lead to results that shall not be unworthy of attention and admiration in a cosmopolitan point of view. At all events, we sincerely invoke the aid and assistance of all true lovers of science in this part of the world, and the encouragement of every sincere philanthropist in the British American provinces, in the furtherance of our noble aim and object.

DR. MARSHALL HALL.

The Medical Profession of Toronto have been highly gratified by a visit to this city of the celebrated Dr. Marshall Hall. On Wednesday evening, 20th June, a public Soiree was given to him by the medical profession, at Ellah's hotel. At this meeting Dr. M. Hall demonstrated his peculiar views and discoveries of the nervous system, which have been lately so largely discussed in Europe. By a series of interesting experiments upon the living frog, he showed the nature of reflex action—as it is called,—that it had its seat in the spinal cord, and was entirely distinct from the other nervous centres. Having removed the head of the frog with a pair of scissors, and with it the brain, the centres of the voluntary system, so that all the power of sensation and voluntary movement was destroyed; by pinching the extremity of one leg, involuntary muscular action was immediately excited, and was so powerful, as, when the body being suspended by the hind leg, to draw up the whole body with violent spasmodic influence; that this influence originated in the nerves of the skin, was shown by removing a portion of that structure from the leg, when upon touching or pinching the part no muscular action occurred, although it was as active as ever in the limb which was still covered by that structure. The learned Doctor remarked that these facts clearly showed that the action began in the nerves distributed to the skin, and carrying the influence to the spinal cord, again diverged as from a centre, and excited the action of the muscles to an involuntary movement, completely independent of the will: demonstrating also, that most of the involuntary spasmodic affections of the animal frame had, in all