

## THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

To the Editor of the British Wasp.

Sir, If we regard Medicine as a trade, calculated merely to benefit, in a pecuniary point of view, the individual who follows it as such, no trade requires, for its successful prosecution, a less amount of knowledge and honesty. If we view Medicine as a liberal profession, tending to and minister to the corporeal ailments of our fellow creatures, no profession demands a greater amount of wisdom and moral worth.

The question often presents itself,—how is it that of two medical practitioners, the one an ignorant and mendacious boaster, the other possessed of education and talents, and relying solely on those for success in his profession, the latter does not immeasurably outstrip the former in professional advancement,—why, indeed, the former is even tolerated?—On this subject let a writer of celebrity speak:—

"The desire," he says, "to obtain a high standing in the estimation of society has given rise to reputation, celebrity, and renown,—the main springs of worldly action—arising from a similar principle, but showing different means and results. Both reputation and renown may be enjoyed at the same time, and yet be widely different. The public is not unfrequently surprised at the reputations that it had itself created. It seeks to inquire into their origin, but not being able to discover a merit which never did exist, it gradually admires and respects a phantom of its own evolution. As society thus bestows a reputation in a capricious manner, quacks will usurp one by their intrigues or base-faced impudence, which cannot claim the comparatively honorable denomination of pride and dignity. They themselves proclaim their merit to the world. At first their impetuosity becomes a subject of derision, but they repeat the assertion of their superior skill so frequently and confidently, that they end by imposing themselves upon society. People forget whence, whence, and from whom they heard these flattering eulogies, to which at last they yield their credence, and an adventurer who thus resolves to establish a reputation, with perseverance and impudence, seldom fails."

To which let me add the moral conveyed by the following old yet good story:—"A celebrated quack was once visited by an old acquaintance from the country. (They had been parish boys together, had tossed damps in a hole together, and had cheated each other at marbles)—"I'm glad to see thee's got on so nicely Zam," said the rustic; "but how is't, man? Thee knowst, there never had so mere brains or a pumpin'." He was proceeding in this agreeable manner, when the quack took him to the wind-wind, and bade him count the passers by. After the lapse of a minute or two, he inquired how many had passed: the tiller of land answered, "ninty, or mayhap, a hundred." "And how many wise men do you suppose were amongst this hundred?" said the other, "Mayhap ova, was the reply.—"Well," returned the quack, "all the rest are mine."

Thus may we account for the disposition lately shown by some persons to trumpet their own praise; and for the presumption of an unlettered babbler, who is in the habit of writing to the shops for a barrel of "flowers," and who is continually boasting that owing to his superior education none of the civil practitioners are fit to associate professionally with him.

I shall resume the subject in your next number.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

JOHN BROWN.  
Kingston, March 24, 1845.

LAW FROM BUENOS AIRES.

By the Argentine bark Santa, Capt. Godfrid, arrived at Philadelphia, on Saturday, we have received the regular files of the British Paper and the La Gaceta Mercantil, to the 11th January, inclusive.

We learn that the Decree from the Buenos Ayres Government, under date of the 11th January, announcing the determination of an immediate and strict blockade of Montevideo, had been made public on the day the Santa sailed, but had not then been officially officially. The following, however, is a true translation:—

*Lice the Argentine Confederation!—Death to the ruthless Unitarians!*

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the Commander-in-Chief of the Squadron of the Argentine Confederation, Brigadier William Brown:

The undersigned, by order of His Excellency the Governor and Captain General of the Province, addresses himself to you, to inform you that, in consequence of the doubts which have been raised in regard to the prohibition of the blockade, issued in the notification of the 11th ult. of the port of Montevideo, under date 19th March, 1843, as also the Declaration made on the 30th of the same month, in consequence of the memoranda of their Excellencies the Ministers of H. B. M. and of H. M. the King of the French, dated 24th, and in order to avoid difficulties which in some respects might disturb the relations of perfect understanding with the friendly governments which the Argentine government sincerely desires to preserve, has determined that from the date of the initiation of this order the ports of Montevideo and that of Maldonado, should the savage Unitarians occupy it, be rigorously blockaded by the squadron of the Argentine Confederation. This blockade will be strictly enforced until the besieging army, under the orders of Excellency the legal President of the Oriental Republic of the Uruguay, Brigadier General Oribe, shall enter into the city; and that you adopt, for that purpose, all the measures authorised by the laws of nations, against the vessels who should attempt to enter into the expressed ports of Montevideo and Maldonado after having received the notification of the blockade by one of the Argentine vessels; and preventing the merchant vessels which are now in the port to sail from thence until the 20th February of the present year, at which time the interdiction will be general, and will include equally the vessels which enter and those which leave.

And that, in order to its fulfillment there no difficulty, you will make it known to the foreign Naval Commanders off Montevideo, accompanying them with a copy of this order, as has been done here by the government with respect to His Excellency the Minister of H. B. M. and other public Agents and Consuls of friendly nations residing in this city.

God preserve you many years.

(Signed) FELIPE ARANA.

The following is an extract of a letter from an officer in President Orbe's army, dated.

CAÑERO, December 31, 1844.

Since writing you on the 23d, little or nothing has occurred to communicate, except the heavy weather that has been experienced here since the 23rd. On that day Admiral Grimaldi arrived with the corvette and brig from Buenos Ayres. The Unionists were at the 27th. No steps have been taken, except in a diplomatic way, by the Admiral in order to ensure the fulfillment of the engagements contracted by the River Plate Government. The Brazilian Charge d'affaires still remains on board, awaiting instructions from Rio Janeiro.

Admiral Brown returned off Montevideo on the 29th, having relinquished the pursuit of the pirates, to the small craft understood to have been despatched from your port.

You are probably better acquainted than I am with the never ceasing ministerial changes in Montevideo. Flores has been dismissed by Vazquez from the command of the garrison, and Huerta Martínez once more brought to act on the political stage, though not without a great deal of opposition from a certain class of the military.—Pacheco Obes's successor has dwindled down into Commander of the Cerro fortress, and it is said that he has asked for his passport in order to proceed to Rio Grande. Gabriel Pereyra appears to have been on a visit to him, with a view to reconcile him to his disgrace, but with what effect I know not.

The British Paper says that in consequence of the late piratical acts of the Corrientes rebels, of their arrangement subsequently entered into between them and the Paraguayan, by which the latter, in consideration of being allowed exclusively to employ the carrying trade, have agreed to submit to the right of search on the part of the former, the government of Buenos Ayres has issued a decree, dated the 8th inst., interdicting all intercourse with those provinces, until the re-establishment of legal order in Corrientes.

Henrique Martinez, after having held the command of the fleet for four or five days, has yielded to the pressure from without, and resigned his post, the Minister of War, the 1st April, 1845, having been removed by the Ministry, in consequence of the breaking out of Lopez's revolution in this country. Captain of the port, Las Conchas, and affords in his person a rather curious exemplification of the sportiveness of fortune. Several commanders and officers of the French Legion have at last abandoned the forlorn cause of the River Plate, and taken refuge on board the French squadron.

A decree dated 26th ult., states that from the 1st inst., national vessels trading to foreign ports shall pay three dollars per ton, and foreign vessels four dollars, excepting those who by treaty are placed upon the same footing as national vessels. Foreign vessels shall pay for the health visit twenty-five dollars, and for the certificate an equal sum. Foreign vessels which have no Consul shall pay forty dollars. These dues shall be paid half at the entry of the vessel and half at her departure—National and foreign vessels which do not receive cargo, shall pay one half of the dues in question.

Practical boats have made their appearance in the Parana. We have already news of the capture of one, and are in hourly expectation of the intelligence of the taking of the rest, as every measure had been taken in order to ensure that result.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN TORONTO.—Monday being the Anniversary of Ireland's tutelar Saint, the St. Patrick's Society of Toronto, accompanied by the Sister Societies of St. George and St. Andrew, marched in procession to St. James' Cathedral to attend divine worship. The service was performed by the Rev. H. J. Grassett, A. M., the Society's Chaplain, who delivered an appropriate discourse in his usual impressive strain; after which a collection was made in aid of the charitable funds of the Society. The procession was formed, and preceded by the Band of the 2nd Regt. (kindly permitted to attend by Lt. Col. MacKay) marched through the principal streets of the city. The band being Present Week, the Society will postpone its celebration to the Anniversary till Monday next. We will be seen on an advertisement in the daily papers. At a subsequent meeting of the Society, held at Mr. McCorkell's on Tuesday evening last, the following Resolution was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be presented to Mrs. Gulkinson, and the Choir of St. James' Cathedral, for their very kind and efficient service on Monday, the 17th instant, being the anniversary of Ireland's tutelar saint.

Toronto Canadian, March 22.

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Quebec Mercury, March 10.

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Quebec Mercury, March 18.

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