

these motives, the adoption of such a benevolent plan, although I am aware that some detractors have asserted that by non-prevention of crime, more grist is brought to the mill of the police-magistrates, and their officers, and occasion given for larger acquits to be presented to government, for rewards for theft-taking and expenses in discovering stolen property; exclusive of the large stores that are occasionally accumulated at the police-office of articles *too numerous to mention*, taken from reputed thieves, for which no claimants appear, and which disappear from time to time by a species of conjuration that few can fathom the arcana of: for I hold this to be nothing but the envious slanders of those who have no share in the loaves and fishes.

In regard to public works, not, as in other countries, do you follow the pernicious plan of commencing them at that season of the year that ensures fine weather for their completion, to the manifest prejudice, and very great annoyance of the jobber, and contractor, who are consequently deprived of all possible excuse for the imperfect discharge of their undertaking, or the protraction of it, until another job can be got; and whereby the opportunity of speculation is limited by circumscribing the period of employment. By your plan, however, these evils are most happily avoided; you generally commence public works at that period of the year, that must necessarily retard their completion at least for another-season, if not two; thus affording the citizen at whose cost these works are performed, the pleasure consequent upon delay, when he most ardently desires expedition; and to the undertaker, the pleasing prospect of having the same work to do over again, at no very distant period.

But, gentlemen, that on account of which the citizens of this place stand most indebted to you, is the very satisfactory manner in which you have accounted to them for the appropriation of public monies. You do not perplex the illiterate with prolix details of things, perhaps incomprehensible to their weak minds, nor weary the indolent by making them wade through long columns of pounds, shillings, and pence, before they arrive at the conclusion. That troublesome practice has been abandoned by you; let others pursue it; happily for public officers, it is done away in Montreal. What trouble and inconvenience are spared the public, by your simple, but yet admirable plan! And who would have thought that the merit of compressing into one single line that which, in other countries, occupies whole pages of foolscap, by the substitution of the single words, *sundry sums, expended at divers times and places, for sundry purposes*, was reserved for your genius to accomplish. In truth, gentlemen, the beauties of your system, take it all in all, bid defiance to illustration, its advantages challenge definition; and what is puzzling above all, the public are acquies-