The Morning Courier.

FOR THE COUNTRY.

Optimus est Reipublicæ status, ubi nihil deest nisi licentia peccandi.—SENECA.

VOL. II. MONTREAL, THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 16, 1837. No. 89.

Speech of Sir George Strickland at the Great Reform Dinner at Leeds.

SIR GEORGE STRICKLAND, speaking on the subject of a Reform in the Lords, said:—The first, and for a long period the only plan which was before the country was, that the King should be ordered to make a numerous creation of new Peers. But he must say that he thought a more unsatisfactory or a more clumsy expedient never was proposed, for he would ask this one plain question—has they not already Lords enough? Nay, of what was it that they complained? That the old, the well-known, the respected aristocracy of the country—the real, the true House of Lords had been overwhelmed and swamped by the deluge of Pitt Peers.—He said it with feelings of high satisfaction that the people had no reason to complain of the Peers who had such names as those of Fitzwilliam, of Russell, of Cavendish, of Campbell, of Hamilton, of Carlisle, or of Howard. It was the richest merchants and bankers—the speculating lawyers of broken fortune and shattered principles, living upon pensions taken out of the pockets of the people, of whom they had reason to complain. It had been estimated that the King, in order to exercise his undoubted constitutional prerogative of swaying the majority of the House of Lords by new creations, would be obliged to make an addition of not less than 100 new Peers. But whilst the House of Commons was limited in number, and the House of Lords went on accumulating at this rate, was it not evident that the balance of the constitution must be shaken? Besides, as had been well and wittily observed, if we went on thus continually multiplying the number of Peers, we must double the width of Downing-street, widen all the avenues to Government, double and quadruple the number of sinecure places and unearned pensions, to make room for these hungry expectants after place, power, and public plunder.—(Cheers.) Another plan had been proposed which, he confessed, was more difficult to deal with; because at first sight it seemed to be better founded on reason. That plan was that the House of Lords should, in some manner, be elected by the people.—(Great Cheering.) He had already taken an opportunity of expressing his dissent from that scheme (expressions of disapprobation,) because he thought it would be opening a wide and dangerous breach in the long-tried and established principles of the British Constitution (Cheers and hisses.) He thought that two popular assemblies could not long exist together—that one of them would become predominant, and the other fall into disuse. They would then have a government consisting of one uncontrolled popular assembly, with a merely executive king; when the great danger to be apprehended would be the establishment of a military and kingly despotism—or else the no less fearful despotism of a wild democracy.—(Cheers and hisses.) He knew that there were persons enamoured of their early reading, who would say that in the small republics of ancient Greece the human mind made the most astonishing advances; that the arts of architecture, of sculpture, of painting, and of eloquence, arose to a pitch of perfection of which at this day we were only the humble imitators; but there personal safety and liberty were unknown, and we still read with feelings of anxiety the stories of many great men, who, having well served their country, were sacrificed to bursts of sudden popular phrensy, or for ever banished from their country. If they looked to more recent examples, they found standing conspicuously forward the republic of Venice, but that soon degenerated into a cruel oligarchy. At Venice, as in every other state where commerce was allowed unrestricted freedom, it spread itself into all parts of the world, and brought home vast accumulation of wealth; but there, again, personal safety and liberty were unknown, and it was necessary to whisper only a breath of suspicion against any individual, and he was suddenly and silently seized and cast into gaol, never to rise from it unless it were to pass over that which was emphatically called the Bridge of Sighs to meet his doom upon the scaffold, or to be plunged into a still more dreadful prison within the earth, or below the sea, there to drag out a few days of loathsome existence. These were examples—these were warnings from a story to teach them that they on a sudden hastily trod only to depart from the long tried or well-known principles of the British Constitution.—(Applause.) Another plan had been proposed, which he believed to be the favourite of the present day. It was this—that the House of Lords should be allowed only a power of revision—that they should possess only a veto for two, three, or four years. But was not that contending for a mere shadow? Was it not, in fact, almost a literal description of the present working of the House of Lords, with all its delays, of which they so much complained? But then, it might be asked, "are there no methods by which we can reform, restore, and preserve the House of Lords?" He thought there were. (Loud cheers.) He would not trespass upon their time for one moment by making any observation upon the childish custom of voting by proxy, without hearing one word of the argument advanced in support of, or in opposition to, the question to be decided; but there was another part of the report which he could not pass over in silence, because it was now almost universally brought under the consideration of the House of Commons—he meant the propriety of the Bishops sitting in the House of Lords. (Great cheering.) Their numbers were strictly limited; and, therefore, he thought this was a question of limited importance. At an early period of our history there were double the number of Bishops, together with mitred Abbots, who sat in the House of Lords. At another period of our history there were no Bishops in that assembly, at all times they sat there by indulgence.—(Cheers.) He appealed to the authority of Blackstone when he said that they sat there by virtue of a faction; that they held lay or clerical baronies. (Continued cheering.) He would now proceed to what appeared to him to be the most important view of the subject. He had already stated that by the inordinate increase of the number of Peers for party purposes during the reign of George the III. and George IV. the balance of the constitution had been shaken, and that William IV. was the first King of England who had ever been deprived of his constitutional prerogative of influencing the majority of the House of Lords by new creations. The danger of this seemed to have been fully understood at the periods of the union with Scotland and Ireland. The Scotch Peers were, therefore, limited to 16, and the Irish to 28. But, the experiment which was then tried of making the sixteen Peers of Scotland a self-elected body had produced as satisfactory a result as did self-elected corporations, for they always returned a phalanx of persons representing one set of opinions alone, to the exclusion of all others. (Loud Cheers.) That, then, was a state of the law that required to be altered and amended, and as he thought that the principle of the British constitution was that the House of Lords should consist of the whole of the ancient aristocracy of the land, he thought that sixteen who sat in Parliament for Scotland should be those of the oldest creation. To be taking together all these facts, these principles, and these precedents,—if the House of Commons were limited in number—if the Scotch and Irish Peers were limited in number—if the balance of the Constitution had been shaken, and the King deprived of one of his great constitutional prerogatives—he thought they came inevitably to the conclusion that the House of Lords ought to be limited likewise.—(Cheers.) For the sake of argument, then, taking three hundred for the limitation—he thought that they might all to be Peers of the oldest creations.—Then referring to the precedents of Scotland and Ireland, it would not be necessary to deprive the rest of their high-sounding titles, some of which had been acquired by public services, or of their seats in the House of Lords when their turns might come. This limitation, extending only to the hereditary Peerage, the King would have restored to him his prerogative by creating Peers for life, Peers for the Parliament, or, should they live so long, Peers for his own life. When rightly understood, the privileges of Parliament, and the prerogatives of the Crown, were in fact, the rights and privileges of the people; that there were certain rules and regulations established by the Constitution, to preserve the rights, the properties, and the liberties of the people. There was yet another subject of deep concernment which was certain, in various shapes, to be brought before the House of Commons. The question was, "Are you or are you not of opinion that the Reform of the House of Commons has gone far enough?"—(Cries of "No, no.") In stating his own conviction that the Reform of the House of Commons had not gone far enough, he felt the advantage of the strong ground which he had taken in resting all his arguments upon the undoubted principle of the British Constitution; for, as he would uphold the true House of Lords as a safety valve to the nation in moments of great public excitement, so he felt himself strengthened and fortified in his position that the House of Commons ought to be, "to use the words of Mr. Burke, "the true counterpart and express image of the people."—(Cheers.) To effect that, he thought that the Septennial Act ought to be repealed, and in preference to the five years proposed by some, that they should return to triennial Parliaments.—(Cheers.) But in doing that, he thought some precaution ought to be adopted, that elections on an average should not be much more frequent than once in three years.—Loud and continued cheering.

Morning Courier.

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, MAR, 14, 1837.

The speech of Sir GEORGE STRICKLAND at the Leeds Reform Dinner, which we publish to-day, forms a fitting sequel to Lord MONSPATT's, which was laid before our readers yesterday. We are not called upon to indulge in hair-splitting distinctions whether these orators push their principles to the limits that are deemed necessary and safe in these Provinces, or whether their avowed creed, as reformers, harmonizes in every tint with that of those who assume the name here; but we cannot resist pointing to their speeches as containing many sound liberal principles, eloquently expressed, and as likely to prove a source of gratification to the true reformer in these Colonies, and wherever else they can be appreciated.

Something is doing in Quebec, as will be seen by an advertisement in another column, to organize a Fishing Company there, with a view to prosecute the Fisheries in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, in a more systematic way, and on a more extensive scale than has hitherto been attempted by residents in this Colony. We sincerely hope the undertaking will be crowned with success.

There was a numerously attended public meeting in the Park, New York, on the 6th instant, and though got up by the same parties, and for the same objects, as that which the other day terminated in a riot, it passed over quietly. A sufficient military and police force was in readiness to check any illegal proceedings.

"The speeches delivered at the "great" Whig Radical dinner given to Messrs. Hume and Byng, at Drury Lane Theatre, on the 23d January, are reported at length in the Times of the following day. In alluding to the dinner, that paper states, that of the sixteen Dukes, Earls and Viscounts, whose names are in the list of Stewards, not one was present, nor was there a single stranger received from one of them; and adds, that when the Most of the Majesty's Ministers was given, not even an under-stapper returned thanks."—*Saturday's Gazette.*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING COURIER.

SIR,—I enclose an extract from the Gazette for the objects, you and the people's edification, and hopefully inquire if you have extended your fleet in the course, if it be true, that of the "sixteen Dukes, Earls and Viscounts," who permitted their names to be used in the list of Stewards, none attended and none gave a reason for non-attendance.

I doubt the assertion, because some of the sixteen Nobles would certainly have been civil enough to have assigned a reason for not attending. It is true, Sirs, they have been uncivil enough, not to have done so; it is not an unusual, far less an impossible thing, for a noble to be very rude.

My motive, however, in sending you the extract is, that you may perceive the animus which animates our *leading journals* here;—there was the "devil to pay" among the "devils," so soon as Sir ROBERT PEEL's speech arrived; but there was a holy-day in Pandemonium, on the arrival of Lord MONSPATT's, and the other speeches, delivered at the great *Reform* dinners at Hull, Leeds, and London.

Really, Sir, Englishman as I am, and conscious that I am in an English Colony, I am almost made to disbelieve in the bitter fact, and to be almost ashamed of the former, when I read, day after day, month after month, year after year, the same nauseating, disgusting, stuff about the "kingly prerogative," the "aristocratic privileges," the "vested rights of the church," which fills the columns of our *leading journals*. I am almost tempted to believe I am amid the cloisters of Oxford, that the turrets of another "Front de Bœuf's" castle, are over my head, or that I have only to look out upon a royal progress and royal festivities, as in the happy days of the "Glorious Queen Bess!" I am almost tempted to believe that I have become a subject of the "Grand Monarque," instead of being a free-born Briton.

I am very far from being an aristocrat, either by birth or by principle; I am no favourer of aristocracy, nor admirer of it, yet do I not object to it as a component part of the Constitution. It is all very well in its way; but I really think the *leading journals* cast this said aristocracy somewhat too often in the teeth of "the fierce democracy:" it is a very excellent berth that of King or Lord, and methinks those lucky personages should be well satisfied with their condition, without grasping at more power than the people are willing to grant or allow them to hold.

These are my reflections upon the extract from the *Gazette*: if you please you may insert them.

ARICUS.

March 13, 1837.

To the Inhabitants of Saint Ann's Ward.

FELLOW CITIZENS,—It is but proper you should know that the Ladies of the Grey Nunnery have refused to prolong the great avenue from the country through your Ward, namely, Wellington Street.

It is proper that you should know this, that you may not indulge vain hopes of attaining the cherished object of all who inhabit your section of the city. You will not attain it by the mode resorted to in all intelligent communities, that of addressing yourselves to the reason and appealing to the feelings of "the party of the second part." The reasonable address has been made time after time; the great expenditure you have made in improving your Ward, the great exertions you have used to forward its interests and increase its importance, the time you have devoted to superintending the various improvements projected and carried into effect by yourselves, without aid and assistance from the religious community in question, all has been lost before the "party of the second part" time and again. In vain has it been represented that you have paid annual assessment whilst that community has paid none; in vain has it been represented that by your exertions and labour, a locality which formerly was little better than a swamp, has been converted into a thriving Ward; in vain has it been represented that it is in consequence of the money you have disbursed, of the exertions you have used, of the time you have devoted, of the taxes you have paid, of the labour you have patiently borne, that the property of the Grey Nuns is now so valuable (aye! in consequence of these things it is that this property is now so valuable)—but in vain, all is in vain. You are told, "the property is worth so much, and so much we shall have—the opening of Wellington Street is of no importance to us, we have opened one street and that is sufficient." This is a good deal after the fashion of argument used by one SHYLOCK, who would have his "pound of flesh!" Well, so he is. It may so chance that another "learned Doctor of Padua" may upset the trusty "Christian and charitable" arguments used by the "party of the second part." Who this learned doctor shall be, or what he shall personify, it is not easy to declare; but there is such a thing as outraged public opinion—and it is "dangerous to play with edged tools."

The Ladies of the Nunnery declare they never promised to prolong Wellington Street. If that be the case, then has the Governor-General most shamefully deceived you. You will judge between the parties and decide which is the most likely to deceive? Has the Governor-General any interest to serve by resisting the prolongation of the street, or, had he any to deceive you? *Verbum satis.* Nay—it is well known to all interested, that it was all along contemplated to prolong Wellington Street; and it was with astonishment discovered that two or three individuals seeking their own interest, had paid the Nuns two hundred pounds to open a communication out of the line of Wellington Street, so that their properties might face the new street running from Grey Nuns Street to the port. Aye, it was all along contemplated to prolong Wellington Street, even by the Nuns, until the potency of *two hundred pounds* induced a change of plan. If proof be wanting that even the Nuns contemplated it and intended it, (I shall say nothing of Lord GOSFORD's assurance that they had promised,) it will be found in the fact that there is now in the hands of their agent, the original map or plan based upon the prolongation of Wellington Street! Are such maps and plans drawn without an object! Bah! the facts require no argument; but, nevertheless, it is all in vain that you have made appeals to the reason or the feelings of the "party of the second part."

It is pretended by some who are interested, that it is of equal if not greater importance to prolong Versailles Street from the continuation of M'Gill Street to Grey Nuns Street, than to prolong Wellington Street from Grey Nuns Street to the continuation of M'Gill Street. Admirable judges! Versailles Street extends some three hundred yards, it is just opened; Wellington Street extends fully a mile and is built up, and is moreover the great avenue from Lower Lachine, and yet, to my mind, discovered one, the former is of equal if not greater advantage than the latter!! It would be folly to argue such a proposition. I will leave the gentlemen alone in their glory.

Finally, Fellow-citizens, what is to be done? Let each man ask his neighbour the question, and pass it on.

March 13. VOX.

The Hon. Miss Willoughby, at Gremsthorpe, during the late snows, drove into town in Russian sledges.

Court of King's Bench.

CRIMINAL TERM.

Presentment of the Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury of the Court of King's Bench, holding criminal jurisdiction for the district of Montreal, in pursuance of custom on the termination of their duties, respectfully represent to the Court—

That in visiting the new Jail of this district, they have thought proper minutely to investigate the general conduct and efficiency of the establishment; and they willingly testify their appreciation of the condition so far as the Superintendent is concerned, but are constrained to state, that there are faults and abuses, which in their humble opinion exist, and which are incompatible with the ordinary perfection of institutions of the kind.

One of the most obvious of these faults, is, that indiscriminate association of the yet young in crime, with the matured and experienced offender, whose example and persuasion are the powerful means of leading the unprotected from moral delinquency to deep-dyed crime. Another fault, which loudly calls for remedy, is the existence of a system of that salutary labour or employment which would prevent many of those vicious acquirements which idleness, when combined with evil communication, begets.

An abuse which has latterly prevailed, is the practice of Magistrates committing lunatics and insane persons to Jail, merely for the purpose of ridding their relatives of the burden of them. The inhumanity and injustice of such a proceeding to the unhappy individuals who are thus incarcerated with the most depraved and reckless portion of their species, must be sufficiently apparent to the Court. The excitement to which they are wantonly exposed during the periods of mental alienation, and the scene of horror that must overwhelm them at their local situation, during lucid intervals, are sufficient reasons to arrest the attention of the Grand Jury in their behalf; but these are not the only evils which arise out of the system. To the wards of our Common Jail, the deformity of crime is sufficiently visible, and it becomes not in humanity to the prisoners generally, to add the deformity and loathsomeness of nature thereto.

Of great importance to the perfection and good conduct of the establishment is the remedying of some minor points. These are principally, an insecurity in some parts of the building, which may at any time be pointed out; an insufficiency of bedding and clothing, and a deficiency of proper conveniences for the prisoners.

To remedy those evils the Grand Jury earnestly recommend:—Firstly, A more distinct classification of prisoners than the present one—separating the uninitiated from those who have acquired experience and celebrity in vice. Secondly,—A system of prison discipline which shall provide employment, by which prisoners may, in some measure, be restrained in their search for new modes and means of committing crime. Thirdly,—The establishment of an Asylum for Lunatics and Insane persons; an institution which scarcely any civilized country is without—and that Magistrates should refrain from committing insane persons to the common Jail; especially as such a proceeding is contrary to the spirit of the Constitution and the Laws. As regards the other matters, the Executive will, no doubt, on presentation, take such prompt steps, as the peace of the Province, humanity, and decency require.

It must have been a matter of regret to the respectable part of the community, and to all who are capable of being affected by the detection of Laws necessary for public safety, to have contemplated the hazardous and novel state of the country—but more especially of the City of Montreal, at the commencement of the winter. It will scarcely be credited abroad, that at the closing in of winter, the civilized population of this city, found themselves entering on a long and dreary winter, without any Municipal means of protection against a horde of marauders, whose atrocities had thrown our Sister City into consternation and alarm—and whose approach to our own was daily expected and momentarily feared. Such was the case. The City was without watch or efficient constabulary force, and without light; and although private exertion might arrest a depredator, the precincts of the City afforded no place of custody. The hazard, difficulty and trouble of a journey to the Jail, was the only means by which a prisoner could be given over to safe keeping. The loose and disorderly part of the population, no doubt, took advantage of such a state of things in the early part of the season; and the Grand Jury consider that they would be compromising their duty, were they to pass over this subject without making a reflection upon it.

The non-existence of Laws necessary to keep in check wayward and refractory spirits, must ever be attended with danger to public and private safety, and the prostration of a high authority in the Province to sustain with a strong arm the peace and safety of the subject, is a state of things greatly to be regretted and much to be feared. It perhaps only becomes the Grand Jury to point out these circumstances and deflections, and to leave them for the consideration and responsibility of those whose duty should embrace them.

Happily for the community private exertion has, as far as was practicable, prevented the worst of the consequences that were to be apprehended. A private Watch had been established in the city during the winter, at the charge, principally, of a few individuals, but the Suburbs have remained without any protection whatever. The moral effect, however, of the Watch has not been confined to the city,—its salutary influence has, no doubt, been extended, and the Grand Jury doubt not its existence has been greatly effective in checking the perpetration of crime.

It is with feelings of satisfaction the Grand Jury now advert to the Institution of a House of Industry, supported by voluntary contribution, the blessings and advantages of which have not only arrested the miseries of want and destitution, but have, in many instances, tended to direct those to honest and honest employment, who, under other influences, would have been not only burdensome but dangerous to society. The adoption of this Institution, has been mainly confined to the laudable endeavour on the part of checking the public from being guaranteed against the abuse of their almsgiving being appropriated to the purchase of ardent spirits—and the efficiency of the establishment may be estimated from the fact of the Committees having stated their wish that no direct aid should obtain relief.

That part of the charge delivered by the Court at the commencement of the Term, which had reference to the state of crime, has had the especial consideration of the Grand Jury, and it is with humility they state what have been the deductions from their deliberations. They reduce the incentives to crime; and the preventions to the progress of public virtue (apart from the promotion of human salvation to virtue) to three principal causes. The abuse of intoxicating liquors, the want of an efficient police, and the suppression or non-existence of a legally constituted and efficient House of Industry.

The Grand Jury can have little doubt but a majority of the cases of crime which come under the cognizance of the law, are committed during a period of excitement by intoxication, and that the great number of taverns of a low description that abound, greatly countenance this. It is a matter of regret, that although the Grand Jury may recommend that great caution and circumspection should be used by the Magistrates in granting licenses to publicans and victuallers, it cannot scarcely within their jurisdiction to recommend to the Legislature a measure, which they consider would prove a more powerful check to the abuse of ardent spirits than any other, and one which would be attended with results as advantageous in the preservation of the peace, as the present facility for intemperance and excess is prejudicial to it. They allude to the establishment of a judicious system of excise laws, particularly in regard to spirituous liquors manufactured in this Province, from which an ample fund might be raised, adequate to every purpose of police; and the oppression of the measure, if oppression it were to be called, could only be a salutary oppression of one of the most fruitful sources of crime, poverty and disease.

Experience has universally taught that whenever a considerable population is congregated together, an efficient police is necessary for the preservation of good order and peace, and a powerful preventive to that licentiousness which appears hand in hand with crime. In this city, where, during the period of immigration so many thousands of individuals arrive, it is needful that some civil cognizance should be taken, especially of those who sojourn amongst us. How many are there who arrive in this country and procure a precarious subsistence, trusting to the casualties of petty shifts, gambling, &c., while the chance of their being brought to justice is more precarious than even their means of subsistence.

The Grand Jury have had ample means of observing during their investigations, that there exist numerous associations whose members are habitual purchasers (of course at a very inadequate price) of stolen goods, and that there are persons whose only apparent means of support is by the commission of petty thefts.

It must be obvious that many depraved individuals having escaped from the restraint and negligence of the police of European cities, arriving here find ample room for the progress of the career of depravity. The conclusion, therefore, that may safely be come to is, that while this city remains without an efficient police, it will continue to be the place of resort, and the abode of the wily, the cunning and the depraved.

In the opinion so passed by the Court, that "crime is in many instances produced by poverty and idleness," the Grand Jury decidedly agree; and in turning their attention to a remedy for this evil and its effects, the establishment of an efficient House of Industry is what they confidently look forward to.

It must be remembered that from the close of the navigation until the arrival of the shipping during the following spring, there are a very great number of persons who are thrown entirely out of employment. Idleness, therefore, with many, is involuntary, and there is every reason to believe that many would willingly betake themselves to any employment, were such to be had. Against the improvidence of a thoughtless and ignorant portion of the population, it is the duty of a vigilant Legislature to provide, and it should be imperative not only upon the Legislature, but upon charity, to preserve from misery—consequently from sin—from want—consequently from misery, that portion of the population which, in default of proper guidance, becomes even dangerous to society. As regards the expense of an establishment of the kind, it may be stated that a properly regulated House of Industry should produce a fund, from the labour and work of its inmates, approaching very nearly the amount of its expenditure.

The Grand Jury cannot pass unnoticed the Act of the Provincial Parliament passed in the 58th year of His Majesty George the Third, by which certain properties bequeathed by the late Mr. Martin for wards vested in trust for the establishment of a House of Industry. Whether or not the fulfilment of this trust comes within the jurisdiction of the Grand Jury, they may remark, that a great responsibility is withholding from its legitimate purposes this property rests somewhere, and they cannot disguise their opinion, that a great moral delinquency is by such a proceeding incurred, inasmuch as it is withholding from the poor and unfortunate that which is lawfully theirs.

(Signed) R. GREENSHIELDS, Jun., Foreman.
THOMAS CHEVALIER.
P. BURKMAR.
JOHN MOSS.
H. EMMONS BENNETT.
JOHN M'KENZIE.
F. FRASER.
F. MOUNTS.
A. DE SALABERRY.
ALEXR. FRASER.
T. MASSON.
G. A. MASSON.
E. BELFOUR.

Grand Jury Room,
14th March, 1837.

Lower Canada.

We were favoured with Boston and Augusta papers of the 4th instant, by Messrs. M'Cord, Bass, and Whitney, of this city, who came in by the Kennebec road in Monday last. They say that it is easier much quicker from New York by that route in four days and a half. Twenty days and a half in the time required from Boston, and no debate till within 20 miles of Quebec. They were, however, detained by the snow-drifts on this side of the Kennebec Chaudière.

The weather since Wednesday has been mild; on that afternoon, and during the night, there was a heavy rain, the first since November. There were sporting in the Jardin Canadien, Wolfe's Cove, and another on Sillery, but as the spring time are near past, it will probably hold true, there could be no harm. There are three theatres, one to the upper Town, one to the lower, and one at Mr. Sharpley's, Sillery Cove.—*Ib.*

THE MIDDLESEX REFORM DINNER.—A good deal of confusion took place yesterday in the committee-room of the Middlesex Reform Dinner, in consequence of the rush for tickets. We understand that there were applications for seventeen hundred beyond the number that can be accommodated in Dwyer's Theatre. Some of the stewards even, who had neglected to send for their tickets at the proper time, found to their disappointment that they had come rather "too late for dinner," as their tickets had been disposed of to other applicants.—*Sun.*

SNOW AT LENOX.—Lenox, Jan. 2.—Yesterday we had a fall of snow, which is quite a grand event in this latitude. The last we had was during the severe winter of 1833. Most of the good people of Lenox had heard of such a thing, and many had seen it, but the "youngest inhabitants," the five years olds and six years olds, seemed strangely puzzled to guess what it was that was falling from the sky. The manufacture of snow balls, which gives so much occasional employment to our juvenile population, is of course in a very backward state here, owing to the scarcity of the material; and so that emblem of purity and innocence melted away in a few hours, our urchins without once suspecting that it was capable of affording any sport.

The London papers were in a great ferment about the extraordinary despatch of the *Morning Herald*, which anticipated all the conservative journals (and the others also) in the publication of Sir Robert Peel's speech. It was indeed a great performance, for the speech, having been delivered late at night, on the 13th, was presented to the readers of the *Herald* in London on the following day, and in Glasgow on the 16th at 11. A. M.; the distance being 408 miles, and the length of the speech six closely printed columns. This beats Mr. Kendall's express mail.

CHANGES IN DISEASES.—M'Culloch, in comparing English tables for the last two centuries, finds that apoplexies and inflammations have vastly increased, and consumptions diminished, as also deaths from surgical operations for stone, &c. Dyspepsia, liver disease and gout might be added to the new productions of this modern luxurious age, in part or in whole growing out of the substitution of spirituous liquors for beer. The general and cheap use of wine, sugar and good food has, on the other hand, greatly circumscribed the march of typhus and other pestilential distempers; while the new scourges of cholera, black vomit, &c. have taken the place of plague, sweating, sickness, &c. of the olden time.

DRESS HERRINGS.—A writer in the Dublin Review advances a queer theory about fish. He says their bones do not diminish in bulk; in other words, augment in density by age, as those of other vertebrated animals do; and therefore, if they were long lived, this accumulation of osseous substance would soon make the sea solid with fish, and convert it into an ichthyological golgotha, with skeletons of the deceased finny tribes *mountain high!*—Rather a far fetched supposition, we must confess.

A Baptisal Party.

(From "*Sketches by Boz*," *Second Series.*)

It was a Monday that was appointed for the celebration of the nuptials of an ornamental painter and decorator's journeyman, and Miss Amelia Martin was invited, among others, to honour the wedding dinner with her presence. It was a charming party, of home-town the locality, and from rather the apartment. As to the company! Amelia Martin herself declared, on a subsequent occasion, that much as she had heard of the ornamental painter's journeyman's connection, she could never have supposed it was half so genteel. There was his father, such a funny old gentleman—and his mother, such a dear old lady—and his sister, such a charming girl—and his brother, such a manly, looking young man—with such an eye! But even all these were as nothing when compared with his married friends, Mr. and Mrs. Jennings Rodolph, from White Conduit, with whom the ornamental painter's journeyman had been fortunate enough to contract an intimacy, while engaged in decorating the concert-room of that noble institution. To be sure they sang separately, was perfectly divine, but when they went through the fragle duet of "Red Ruffian, retire!" it was as Miss Martin afterwards remarked, "thrilling!" and why (as Mr. Jennings Rodolph afterwards observed)—why were they not engaged at one of the patent theatres? If he was to be told that their voices were not powerful enough to fill the house, his only reply was, that he would back himself for any amount to fill Russell square—a statement in which the company, after hearing the duet, unanimously concurred.

When the conversation resumed its tranquillity, Mr. Jennings Rodolph claimed his right to call upon a lady, and the right being conceded, he invited Miss Martin would favour the company—a proposal which met with unanimous acceptation—whereupon Miss Martin, after sundry hesitatings and coughings, with a preparatory choke or two, and an introductory declaration that she was frightened to death to attempt it, before each great judge of the art, commenced a species of treble chirping, bordering on the extatic allusions to a sound resembling a gentleman of the name of Hen-ry, with an occasional relapse into madness, and damaged hearts. Mr. Jennings Rodolph frequently interrupted the progress of the song, by ejaculating, "beautiful!"—charming!"—"brilliant!"—"or!"—"ghastly!" &c., and at its close the admiration of himself, and his lady, knew no bounds.

"Do you ever hear as sweet a voice, my dear?" inquired Mr. Jennings Rodolph of Mrs. Jennings Rodolph.

"Never! indeed I never did, love," replied Mrs Jennings Rodolph.

"Don't you think Miss Martin, with a little cultivation, would be very fine signor Rossi Bosh, my dear?" said Mr. Jennings Rodolph.

"Do! my dear, said the lady, I never heard any thing so sweet as that duet, I'm sure I shan't be able to sleep a wink all night, I shall be so nervous, I know I shall. I feel that I shall dream of it, I know I shall. I never heard anything so charming in my life, I'm sure I shan't be able to sleep a wink all night, I know I shan't, I feel I shan't, I'm so nervous, I know