

[FOR THE DEF.]

Mr Dawson,

By your paper of the 15th of this month, it appears that in almost all quarters of this continent, there is a scarcity of provision for the support of mankind. In Prince Edward Island and Pictou it is reported that applications are being made, for the relief of the poor and destitute inhabitants.

In your paper of the same date we read that Mr Smith has presented a petition from one Donald Henderson, of Cape John, praying to be encouraged in the manufacture of Whiskey. If the produce of the country were so abundant that it would be difficult to find a market for it, this application for Legislative encouragement would not appear so monstrous. But at a time when so many are in danger of starving for want of the necessaries of life, and when in my of the most respectable inhabitants of the Province, are combining for the purpose of suppressing the common use of spirituous liquors—both on account of the numerous evils which it occasions, and because it destroys the fruits of the earth, which at present are so much needed for the support of human beings, this application appears something worse than absurd, and presents the character of the Petitioner to the contemplation of strangers in any thing but a favorable point of view.

Instead of affording encouragement to the distillation of whiskey, is it not more reasonable to expect that the House of Assembly will impose a duty upon it as is the case in Britain. There is a Brewery in Pictou, and another in New Glasgow, where a considerable quantity of barley is appropriated to objects of very doubtful utility. Mr Henderson's establishment is of a still more suspicious character. In a year of such great scarcity as the present is universally acknowledged to be, would it be reasonable for the Legislature to encourage them to destroy the fruits of the earth at pleasure, and thus increase the scarcity of provision, the number of our paupers, and the amount of crime and misery which will undoubtedly flow from the increase of the use of whiskey, which it is the object of Mr Henderson's establishment to produce. If he cannot be prevented from distilling, let him at least pay one shilling of duty upon every bushel of barley he destroys, or on every gallon of whiskey which he distils, and let this sum be appropriated to the support of the poor, which it is the effect and consequence of the use of spirituous liquors to make. If Mr Henderson has more barley on hand than he needs for seed, or for bread, he will find no difficulty in disposing of it at a handsome profit; and if there be found some who need it for these purposes, and are unable to pay for it, we have no objection that Government would advance the price for it, in the manner contemplated by many benevolent persons at present. But we confidently trust and hope, that the House of Assembly will never grant the prayer of Mr Henderson's petition, or any similar petition from Mr Any-body-else.

Yours &amp;c

A. B. C. SUNDRIES.

March 22d, 1837.

[FOR THE DEF.]

Mr Dawson,

Sir.—Every member of this community must had with delight the organization of an Agricultural Society among us: it is exactly what our necessities demanded. But if the members of that Society wish to have their exertions well directed and crowned with success, they must adopt a very different course in choosing members of Committee, from what they did last Thursday evening. To such a Society, sir, it

is of vital importance that its Committee should be men well skilled both in the theory and practice of Agriculture; and when we see persons placed on that Committee by the Society, totally destitute of all practical farming qualifications, in room of some who year after year discover to us such convincing proofs of their scientific and practical knowledge, as no one in our vicinity can mistake; when such acts I say distinguish our Agricultural Society at its outset, we need scarcely look for any beneficial results in the end. It is a Society, sir, calculated under proper management, to do much good; but its members should recollect that their Committee of Management should consist of men of good information, and well skilled in the arts of Husbandry. Surely five such men can be found among our farmers at hand, without applying to individuals who know as little about farming as a farmer does about ploughing the ocean. I do not by the above remarks mean to insinuate, that all the persons on the Committee are unqualified; some of them certainly are eminently so; but others I hesitate not to say, are totally unfit. Hoping these hints may do good,

I am, Sir, yours &amp;c.

VERITAS.

[This Correspondent must be aware, that the Office Bearer of the Agricultural Society were elected by ballot, according to the rules, all the members being present except one or two. It is premature to censure their choice till the result be known; if it proves not to be what the society would wish, in nine months they will have an opportunity of applying a remedy.—Ed. Rev.]

## UNITED STATES.

Boston, March 14.

TEXAS.—A New Orleans paper of the 1st March has the following statement:—

"A gentleman just from Texas informs us that the utmost quiet prevails throughout the republic, that the government is fully sustained by the people and that the whole population appears to be satisfied. Families have returned to their farms, and preparations are being made for an immense corn crop. They have established a line of ten block houses, the whole distance from the Trinity to San Antonio. To each block house is appointed fifty mounted rangers. The people entertained no fears of the Indians, and apprehend nothing from their old age. The emigration is unparalleled."

A letter from Washington states that the Texan Ministers, Messrs Hunt and Wharton, have been duly accredited by the President. A diplomatic intercourse has, therefore, been established with the Republic of Texas, and her independence is, thereby, fully acknowledged. A tremendous rush is already making from the South and South-west into Texas. Vast numbers are gone, going, or preparing to go, with their domestic slaves, even from the fertile lands of Mississippi and Alabama.

ANOTHER CONSTITUTION ABOUT TO BE PEACEABLY REMODELLED.—A Convention of the People of the State of Pennsylvania is to be held next May, to alter the Constitution of that State. Among the amendments recommended to be introduced, it is proposed to curtail the Executive patronage, as that at present enjoyed is too extensive for Republican Government; to reduce the term of service of Governor to two years; to have Justices, Prothonotaries, Clerks of Courts, Registers and Recorders elected by the people; the Governor to appoint no officer for life, but Judges to be appointed for a term of years by him, with the concurrence of the Senate; and finally, if the

Legislature do not repeal the charter of the United States Bank, the convention is recommended to repeal it.

It must be acknowledged that "our neighbours" have a happy knack of improving their political condition. They have not, like us, poor Colonists, to be working for half a dozen years for an improvement in our "Constitutions," and after all to be as far off as ever from having our wishes accomplished. They meet quietly in "convention," and the work is done! — *Montreal Vindicator*.

THE PRESIDENCY.—General Jackson retired from the Presidency of the United States on the 4th instant, and was succeeded by Mr. Martin Van Buren. The administration of the Government of the Republic was honorable to the former, and the high estimation in which the talents and character of the latter are held by his fellow citizens, leaves little doubt but that the interests and prosperity of the Country will be advanced under his protecting care and guidance.

## COLONIAL.

CRIME IN LOWER CANADA.

The Criminal Term for this District commenced yesterday, as will be seen by the proceedings in another part of this number. We understand that the term will be very heavy, as independent of the great number of accused now out of prison on bail, the following table of the inmates of the gaol yesterday morning will fully establish.

	UNDER SENTENCE.		
	Males	Females	Total
Death	12	0	12
Imprisonment	21	9	30
			— 42

AWAITING TRIAL.

	AWAITING TRIAL.		
	Males	Females	Total
Crimes	44	5	49
Misdemeanours	19	5	24
Contempts	3	1	4
Vagrants	2	6	8
			— 85
Military Convicts			17
Debtors			10
			— 154

There is but one accusation of murder, but there are numerous cases of arson, burglary and other capital offences.— *Montreal Gazette*, 25th inst.

The Legislature of Lower Canada, passed an act three years ago (early in 1834) for the regulation of contested elections and other purposes, the Legislative Council and Governor-in-Chief (Aylmer) assented, the law was printed by royal authority, sent all over the Province, and to England, where the King in Council had no fault to find with it. No more was heard on the subject till last month, when an order came from London to strike it instantly out of the statute book of the Province without any vote of repeal by the Legislature! Lord Gosford accordingly proclaimed it out of the statute book, where it had been the law for nearly three years, and the *Montreal Gazette* of February 14, tells why. He says that the British party (so he calls the Tories) found that law made against them, and that obliged women to stay at home and prevented their coming to vote at the hustings, therefore the Tories addressed the colonial office, and the law was blown to atoms, in order that they may be the better able to crush the Canadian people next election.—This is an honorable, a horrible tyranny. How would Englishmen like the people in Washington to have the power of the purse and the gallows in London so as to enable them at will to cry down a British statute! — *Vindicator*.