

world. That, in addition to the law of bankruptcy, the Parliament of *Great Britain*, from time to time, steps in between the creditor and the debtor, and by an act of insolvency, releases the body of him from confinement, and exonerates the property which he may in future acquire, whose amount of debts does not come within the purview of the bankrupt law, and who surrenders all that he possesses for the benefit of his creditors. That, in this Province, the insolvent debtor lies solely at the mercy of the creditor, whose whim, whose caprice, whose malice, or whose inhumanity, may immure an unfortunate debtor within the walls of a loathsome prison during the term of his natural life, by paying the trivial sum of five shillings per week. The sum of two hundred and sixty pounds, paid in this way, will detain an individual in prison for the term of twenty years!! What heart but must sicken at the idea, when coolly reflecting on the fact?—That there are now in confinement, in the prison of *Montreal*, six persons, exclusive of the other debtors, imprisoned in said gaol for debt, who receive from their creditors five shillings per week, under what is called the poor debtors act. That the money appears to be thrown away by the creditor, for no other possible purpose, than, merely, for the sake of keeping the debtor in confinement. That, four, of the aforesaid six persons, have wives, and are fathers of families.—That the law obliging the plaintiff who imprisons a poor debtor more than one month, who is not worth the sum of ten pounds, to pay him five shillings per week, so long as he is kept in confinement at his suit, passed on the twenty-first day of April, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five; twenty-five years ago. That such has been the decrease of the value of money, that fifteen shillings will not now purchase as much of the necessaries of life, as five shillings would at that time. Wheat was at that time, at one shilling and eight pence per bushel; it is now at eleven shillings and three pence per bushel. Beef was at that time, at twelve shillings and six pence per cwt.; it is now at thirty shillings per cwt. Pork was at that time, at twenty shillings per cwt.; it is now at fifty-two shillings and six pence per cwt. Mutton was at that time, at three shillings per carcass; it is now at seventeen shillings and six pence per carcass. Butter was at that time, at three pence per lb.; it is now at one shilling and three pence per lb.; and all other necessaries of life in the same proportion, of at least three to one. The common price of boarding, was, at that time, at one dollar per week.

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