

is neither necessary nor advisable ; under no consideration other than that of unavoidable necessity should any fellow-being be cast into a mad-house. The retrospect of even the most fortunate of those who have been subjected to this alternative must be distressing. No one who has carefully and with christian commiseration examined even the best wards of our most celebrated modern Asylums will fail to shrink from the apprehension of so dire a calamity befalling himself, as that of becoming an inmate.

The absence of adequate Legislative provision for the support of the poor in this Province, has led to the introduction into this Asylum of many destitute and harmless people, who, under other circumstances, might have been more economically, if not more comfortably, supported in suitable almshouses in their own localities ; and some of them indeed might, with a sufficient out-door allowance, have been permitted the continuance of that most prized of all human privileges, personal liberty.

The repeal of the present Lunatic Asylum Tax, a measure recently proposed by His Excellency the Governor General, will, if followed, by the institution of liberal Municipal provisions for the support of the destitute of all descriptions, be productive of good results.

Were our various Counties and Towns required to contribute to the support of the Asylum, exactly in the proportion in which they make use of it, the outcry against the Executive and the Legislature, because of defective accommodation for lunatics, would cease.

When I visited the Lunatic Asylum at Augusta, in the State of Maine, in the year 1855, about one hundred beds were vacant ; though the estimated insane population of the State amounted to 1365, only 155 of this number were in the Asylum. The Medical Superintendent, in his report