direction be laid out and beautified in such a manner as would not only be an ornament to the city but a monument which would be held "sacred to the memory of our departed fathers by the present generation and those who are to come after them" The Grand Jury have had a plan made of the manner in which the grounds might be laid out, which they beg leave to submit to the court, and they have no doubt but that sufficient funds could be collected by private subscriptions during the next three or four years, to commence, carry out and fully complete the object contemplated.—Having been called on by the Court, the Grand jury appointed a Committee to inquire where a suitable public burial ground could be obtained, and as the result, reported that they knew of no place in the vicinity so well adapted to the purpose as the new Rural Cemetery, and recommended that a suitable portion of those grounds be purchased.

The Grand Jury feel bound to express their disapprobation of the conduct of the authorities, in having taken no steps to prevent the spread of the small pox.

They understand that due notice was given when the disease first appeared, and that it may be attributed entirely to apathy and neglect that it was not then arrested, much difficulty and the loss of many lives, has been the consequence. It is reported that there are upwards of 1500 cases of Small Pox at this moment in this city; now that the cholera may be daily expected to make its appearance, the Grand Jury beg urgently to insist that a rigid and general cleansing and purifying be enforced, if the court have any power in the matter. The Grand Jury would recommend that some improvement be made in the board of health, as the grand jury have no confidence in the efficiency of that body as at present constituted. The grand jury have learned that a question is now before the court which has already and may again be decided in the affirmative, regarding payment to be made to W. G. Lawton, Esq., of a sum of money said to be owing him by George Matthew, late overseer of the poor, the sessions having already paid to Mr. Matthew sums supposed to more than adequate to discharge all his obligations, the grand jury, while individually sorry for Mr. Lawtons loss, cannot sanction this misappropriation of the public money, and hereby beg to record their earnest remonstrance against it, while doing doing so, they have again to notice that it is chiefly owing to the majority of the magistrates of this county appearing to forget that with the honours of the office they undertake to perform certain duties.

That such individuals with official sanction are allowed to play upon the community. Careless masters in this as in every other case make careless and dishonest servants, and it is hard that the Public should have to suffer both as individuals and a tax paying community, from such negligence on the parts of those who have voluntarily undertaken the management of Public affairs.

The Grand Jury have visited and inspected the different Public Institutions in the City and County. Their standing grievance, the Lunatic Asylum, is now completely removed, the site of the new establishment appears to be more healthful, pleasant and better suited in every way for the purpose than any other that could have been obtained in the Province and is probably not surpassed in the World. When we say that the Building and all its arrangements are as far as we can judge worthy of the site we have said all that is necessary, the whole reflects great credit upon this Commissioners, on Dr. Peters, on the Architect and Builder, as far as situation and comfort go. Patients of the higher class need not now be required to leave the Province.

The Grand Jury perceive that one of the Commissioners of the Lunatic Asylum is a paid Officer of that institution—an arrangement which they think out of order, as in their opinion no officer should set in Judgement upon his own accounts, still they would not wish to reflect in the least any discredit on the officer alluded to.

The Provincial Penitentiary was also visited and found in its usual admirable state of efficiency. There are certain arrangements contemplated in this establishment which the Grand Jury think will be injurious to the public. But as the establishment is not under the control of the Court, they have addressed the Executive on the subject, a copy being herewith furnished. The Grand Jury observed only two women in this prison instead of the usual number, between fifteen and thirty.

On enquiry they found that the sessions some time since discontinued to pay the usual charge for taking the prisoners out on the ground that the Constables or Police as they are miscalled, were paid for their whole time, and had no right to *extra pay* for this service, since that time the loose women have been allowed to pursue their usual avocations without hindrance, the grand jury present this matter to the Court without comment, and request that the parties guilty of this direlection of duty be at once discharged from office.

The Grand Jury are not satisfied with the management of the alms house, while unwilling and sorry to have to complain of individuals, duty compels them to recommend that a change be made in the keeper.

The Marine Hospital is in its usual good condition.

The Orphan Asylum has been visited, this institution also seemed to show a want of looking after. The children do not appear to be well fed nor properly cared for. The attention of the Jury was called to the new heating apparatus in the Gaol it having been newly put in operation, the Jury do not feel competent to express an opinion as to whether it will answer the purpose or not.—They request that the pipes in the corner rooms be immediately bashed up with some non-conducting body, as the prisoners are suffering in health from the intense heat of these rooms.

[Notwithstanding this earnest remonstrance of the Jury, up to the present moment, not the slightest attention has been paid to this request; consequently, prisoners confined in the rooms immediately over the boiler-room, are suffering from extreme heat, while those up stairs, in the extreme end of the building, are suffering for want of it.]

The Grand Jury are glad to find that the water closets appear to be well adapted for the purpose.

The Grand Jury have to complain that the Gaol Committee appear to be very remiss in their duty. They ascertained that eleven men were in one room, their only allowance being bread and water, and that they had been kept without a morsel of bread for twenty-four hours, that in one room eleven men had three beadsteads, and in another seven men had only two. The bedsteads belonging to the Gaol having been taken to Partridge Island a year and a half since, and although not required there for a year past have never been returned, that a sick person had been kept without medical attendance for a considerable time, such facts speak for themselves, and need no further comment.

In their annual visit to the Gaol, the grand jury have observed that a large proportion of the Debtors are imprisoned for sums under five pounds, that many of the debts are under one pound, and some under five shillings—the hardships attending this is, that while debtors for larger amounts are generally able to obtain bail for the limits, or if confined can get supplied with provisions, debtors for small sums having no friends to bail them are condemned to a weary imprisonment, and are frequently in a starving condition, the prison allowance even when received being quite inadequate. It must also be noticed that while creditors in the County are compelled to contribute towards the support of debtors who are unable to maintain themselves, poor debtors from the City have to be supported at the expense of the public. Thus in many instances the Public have to be taxed to the extent of some pounds for the support of debtors, owing less than *five shillings*, and then only to gratify the revengeful feelings of the creditor, as the expences of the suit, which they have to pay, (the debtor laying out his time,) would be treble the amount of the debt.

In view of these circumstances the grand jury have repeatedly brought this matter under the notice of the court, and have again to request that action be taken to do away with imprisonment for debt in sums under five pounds.

The Grand Jury have been called on to inspect the Registrar's Office, and have to present that it is too small and insecure for the purposes required, and they would recommend that a suitable Building be immediately procured.—The Grand Jury are compelled by Duty to notice that this office does not appear to be kept open in terms of his Excellency's order, published some months since, relating to the time and attendance required in Public Offices.

The Grand Jury have heard that the Corporation have it in contemplation to enlarge the present country market, by taking in the property of William Scovil, Esq., in Germain Street, and continuing the present market building—through from thence to Charlotte Street.

As at present conducted, the Country Market is, (with the exception of the Police Department,) one of the most intolerable nuisances ever inflicted upon this community, and should the same system be allowed to continue after the proposed enlargement shall have been made, the Grand Jury are of opinion that it will only tend to the increase of a nuisance which is now condemned by every respectable man in the community.

The Grand Jury present Thomas Sime, Junr., for establishing a Lucifer Match Manufactory in a house belonging to Thomas Duffy, in Princess Street; they request the Court to take such steps as will tend to suppress the same, or any such nuisance as is calculated to increase the risk by fire.

The Grand Jury present Thomas Clifford, Hand Carteman, residing in a house owned by James Nethery, in Church Street, for keeping a disorderly house.

The Grand Jury present Bernard McShaffery for selling Liquor without License. The jury beg to remark that McShaffery informed them on oath that he had paid four pounds to His Worship John R. Partelow, but that he had not got a licence.

The Grand Jury present —— Dunn, Confectioner, in Dock Street, for selling spiritous Liquors without licence.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed.

R. JARDINE.
Foreman.

Grand Jury Room.
Dec. 16, 1848

Robert S. Hutchison, Secretary.

The following Petition accompanied the presentment.

To His Excellency Sir Edmond Walker Head, Bart., Lieutenant Governor of the Province of New Brunswick, &c.

THE PETITION

of the Grand Jury for the City and County of St John, humbly sheweth—

That Your Petitioners having in the course of their investigations into the public affairs of this County, ascertained that certain operations, now going on and contemplated in the Provincial Penitentiary, are, in the opinion of the Grand Jury, calculated not only to defeat the end of that institution, the prevention and punishment of crime but to interfere with the labour of the honest mechanic, and finding that the Court with which they are connected have no control in the matter beg most respectfully to bring under your Excellency's consideration the following particulars.

The convicts in the Penitentiary have for some time past been employed in brick making and brush making, a broom factory has lately been established there, and the Grand Jury understand that a Pail and Wooden-ware manufactory is in contemplation, and to lessen the manual labour in the Penitentiary, a steam engine is about to be erected.

With regard to the first view above expressed, the defeat of the object of the institution, the Grand Jury begs respectfully to submit to your Excellency that if a steam engine be used to do the hard labor—the Penitentiary will cease to be a place of punishment. The convicts will be made equal in position to the higher class of Mechanics, with all the ease but none of the cares of the honest operative.

Convict Labour, when applied to articles manufactured in the Province, injures the *Honest Mechanic*, because he cannot compete with it on equal terms. The produce of Convict Labour is sold for what it will bring. The honest Mechanic must live by his trade. The Brickmaker cannot afford to sell his bricks under forty shillings, and is unable to sell at all, because, if the convict bricks do not command the market at thirty five shillings they will be forced into it at thirty shillings, or in fact any other price.

To shew more forcibly the injury done by this system, the Grand Jury will state a case that has occurred:—

A Mechanic has this last summer invested his all, some few hundred pounds, in a Pail Machine, Steam Engine and buildings, and as one machine of the kind will supply the whole province, this mechanic will be ruined if the Penitentiary factory go on.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Excellency to direct that no article be manufactured in the Penitentiary, which would compete with or do injury to the Honest Mechanic—and further, that no Engine be erected but a tread mill, and that no other motive power be used but hard Labour.

And as in duty bound Your Petitioners will ever pray.

(Signed)

R. JARDINE.
Foreman.

Grand Jury Room,
December 16, 1848.

BRITISH EXTRACTS.

ARMY STATISTICS.—The following abstract of the Army estimates for the current year will be of service:—The whole number of men voted was 138,769. Of this number 24,922 are borne to the Indian establishment, and are not, therefore, paid for by the Home Government. The East India Company also, it is to be observed, pay a sum of £60,000 a-year into the British Treasury to cover the outlay for retiring pay and pensions, and other similar home expenses incident to the service of this portion of the Army in India. The Army actually maintained out of the taxes of the united kingdom comprises, this year, 113,847 men of all ranks. Of these there are—Officers, Trumpeters, and Drummers, 8,308; and Rank and File, 100,677. The total cost of the Army for the year is £6,318,680. About one-third of this sum is paid for what are called non-effective services, as follows:—In-persioners, of Chelsea and Kilmainham Hospitals, £38,580; out-pensioners, £1,223,810; superannuation allowances, 38,232; compassionate allowances, bounty warrants, and pensions for wounds, £98,000; widows' pensions, £129,855; half-pay and Military allowances, £414,715; full pay for retired Officers, £57,000; Army pay for General Officers, £76,000; rewards for Military services, £15,507. The effective services are estimated to cost £4,201,178. Out of this sum 108,000 men are provided with food, clothing, lodging, arms, and medical attendance. If we allow £32 per head per annum for these purposes, (and we do not see how they be effected for much less,) this makes £3,464,000; leaving for the 4,862 Officers, £737,178; which gives them, on an average, very nearly £150 a-year each.—*Globe.*

SUPERSTITION.—Within the last few weeks, the fishing boats of Padstow have caught several thousands of herrings, but one boat being more unfortunate than the others, some persons persuaded the crew that the boat was *bewitched*.—They then determined to break the charm by nailing a horse-shoe to the bottom of the boat, which they did, and the next night caught 1400 fish, which confirmed the belief that the boat had been bewitched!—*West Briton.*

SCHOOL GARDENS.—In the immediate neighbourhood of Nottingham are an immense number of small gardens, occupied and cultivated by all grades of society; and, the friends connected with High-pavement Chapel Boys' Sunday School have purchased two of these inclosures, in each of which is a commodious summer-house. One of these gardens is cultivated by the elder boys, and the other by the juniors. Each garden is subdivided into smaller allotments, which are assigned to their respective tenants, boys from ten to fourteen years old, who cultivate and crop them according to their own fancy, a small portion of each being devoted to flowers. The diligence and ability displayed by these youthful gardeners is really astonishing. In connection with these gardens, and to excite emulation, a vegetable and flower show is instituted. This is held in the school-rooms at Nottingham, and prizes are given for the best productions in vegetables, as well as for stand s of pansies, verbenas, collections of annual and perennial flowers and nosegays.

A NEWLY-ESTABLISHED NUNNERY.—The Park Hotel at Norwood has recently been purchased by a French count and countess, for 7000*l.*, and converted into a nunnery. Already 20 nuns have entered this establishment, to which a school is to be added for the education of young ladies in the Roman Catholic faith, and a new chapel in contemplation is, it is said, to complete the Roman Catholic undertaking.

A WOMAN KILLED BY A SHEEP.—Sunday morning, as a poor woman, named Hannah Dawson, of Methley, aged 81, was going across a field in the occupation of Mr. Farrer, of the Rose and Crown Inn at that place, she was attacked by a tup lamb, and so much injured that she died on Tuesday.—*Leeds paper.*

Mr. T. M. Gladstone, civil engineer, in proposing a plan for supplying Liverpool with water, argues, that if the geological strata on which the town stands were properly examined by the application of the Artesian principle, an abundant supply would be obtained, and that excellent coal would also be found.

The opening of the new Roman Catholic Church, Liverpool, took place on Monday. This edifice has been upwards of three years in course of erection, and is the first in Liverpool in connection with the order of the Jesuits. The building, which is an exceedingly large one, will cost, when completed, upwards of 30,000*l.*

A FLOATING RAILROAD.—We are happy to say that a plan has been devised for carrying trains bodily across the Tay at Broughty Ferry, where it is about a mile and a half broad, Mr. Robert Napier is at present building, in his yard at Govan, a floating railway for the Edinburgh and Northern Company. It is being built of iron 180 feet in length, and 39 in breadth. It is to have three lines of rails on deck, so as to enable it to take on a railway train of 500 feet in length, and is to be propelled by engines of 250 horse power. As the main line of railway on each side of the Tay is considerably above the level of the sea, stationary engines on either side of the Frith are to be employed to draw up or lower the trains. This railroad steam-boat is expected to be launched in a few weeks. In the meantime, and before the above improvement is completed, the Edinburgh and Northern Company have made arrangements for having their cattle and heavy goods for the English markets carried by the east coast lines to England, on very moderate terms.—*Perthshire Courier.*

THE SLAVE TRADE.—The Siren, 16, Commander Thomas Challoner, arrived at Spithead on Monday afternoon, from the coast of Africa. The vessels were all healthy on the coast when the Siren left. The slave trade was carried on briskly. The Britomart, 19, Commander Chamberlain, had recently captured two off Cape Mumba, one of them full of slaves. The Bonetta had also been fortunate in making several captures, as also had the Alert and Sealark; the last-named vessels had taken three. The Siren has been in commission two years and a half, two only on the coast, having gone there from the Mediterranean. During her two years on the coast she has captured six vessels, but only one with slaves on board.

IRELAND.

There was on Thursday a meeting of Roman Catholics held to protest against the exclusion of members of their persuasion from juries. The object of the meeting was to prevent if possible the constitution of an exclusively Protestant jury in the case of Mr Duffy, by the "setting by" of Roman Catholics, as was done in the cases tried at some recent commissions. The principal speaker was the Rev. Dr. Miley.

LORD RIVERSTON.—We are credibly informed that Lord Riverston has given instructions to his agent, Mr. Michael Kelly, of Beahan, to remit his tenants a half-year's rent. We also understand his lordship has expended over 500*l.* in improving his and their properties—he has enabled many of his tenants to emigrate to America, and we believe there is not a single pauper from his lordship's property in the union poor-house.—*Galway Vindicator.*

The *Tipperary Vindicator* gives an appalling account of the condition of some districts in the North Riding of that county:—"In a townland in the immediate neighbourhood of Borrisokane, where twenty-five families lived in comfortable circumstances, nine of those families emigrated within the last few months, and four of them died, leaving twelve on the townland, some of whom are in the most indigent circumstances, desirous of leaving the country if they could. The village of Ballymackey has become a heap of the most squalid pauperism—whilst it does not contain one-fourth of the once comparatively happy cottiers by whom it was inhabited, death having made sad havoc among them. Of Toomavara the same may be said in a great measure; and in nearly all the rural chapels on Sundays it is observed that the congregations are thin, scanty, and ragged, not numbering half what they were a few years ago."

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE.—On Sunday morning an attempt to assassinate W. W. Despard, Esq., of Killophy Castle, Mountcastle, was made by a villain, who discharged a gun at him from behind a hedge. The shot, it is said, took effect, seriously wounding that gentleman, Mr. Despard was one of the witnesses on Mr. S. O'Brien's trial, after which it was intimated to him he would be shot.

MR. SMITH O'BRIEN'S SON.—It may probably be interesting to our readers to know that this gentleman has a son in the college for the deaf and dumb at Rugby. Master O'Brien is between nine and ten years of age, very intelligent looking and remarkably quick at comprehending anything communicated to him by the usual signs. During the whole of the proceedings attending the trials of Irish agitators, Master O'Brien has kept up a continued intercourse with Mr. Bingham, the talented master of the college, sometimes expressing considerable anxiety as to the result. But upon the writ of error being argued he became more sanguine, and now looks forward with confidence to his father being ultimately restored to liberty. When speaking of his father in his domestic character, nothing can be more affectionate than the terms he makes use of, both as regards the feelings that he entertains towards Mr. O'Brien himself, and the kindness and affection that the latter universally displayed towards all the members of his family.—*Sunday Paper.*

DEFAULTING TENANTS.

In our publication we reported a case before the insolvent judge at Maryborough, by which it appeared that certain tenants on the estate of Mr. Charles Putland, owing from two or three years' rent, refused to surrender their holdings, although their landlord (who they acknowledged to be one of the best in Ireland) offered them £20 each to enable them to emigrate to America; forgiving all arrears, upon obtaining possession of his property.

We cannot well conceive any state of society more deplorable, than where tenants, such as those, are at all tolerated. They hold their land without the means of employing labour in its proper cultivation, and thus enabling them to pay their rents; while the deluded peasantry, who ought to be earning remunerative wages in working it—as they would be if in proper hands—are too often used to intimidate and deter others from taking land, as it is termed, "over the heads" of defaulting and outgoing tenants. We have ever been averse to harsh or arbitrary proceedings but we confess that we would show no quarter to such unprincipled conduct as this—that any persons should be allowed to hold the property of others, without at least, discharging the reasonable obligations by which they have become possessed of their holding.

We have heard a great deal about inconsiderate landlords—and we admit, that sordid and selfish naterers are not always inseparable from landlordism; but the injury inflicted upon the country by idle and improvident fellows, who permit their farms to be waste, while they should be rendered productive by the employment of the people, and refuse to pay rents from two or three years, are a thousand-fold more destructive to the interests of society. For the sake of the labouring classes, as well as the proper assertion of the rights of property, the sooner such "farmers" are got rid of the better. Even wholesale "extermination" is a lesser evil than *they* inflict themselves on the community.—(Leinster Express.)

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, JANUARY 12, 1849.

REMARKS ON TRADE, &c.—The prostration of trade and commerce in almost every part of the world, at the present period, is a deplorable picture to look upon, and a gloomy subject for the press to treat of. But so many and so various have been the causes assigned therefor,—and so important have been the differences in opinion, that the discussion has pervaded the entire social, religious, and political world; all kinds of treatment have been prescribed by *les docteurs*,—and while the faculty are discussing, the patient is lingering, until life is nearly despaired of. In our little Provincial home, the disease is assuming a threatening appearance,—and "hope deferred, maketh the heart sick:"—we seem to be making little progress towards a restoration,—and we cannot but express a fear of a general debility, if not a total extinction, of what has been considered our staple trade for half a century. There is, however, a great firmness of character and determination to hold out to the last, and overcome the complaint with which the countenances of our friends and fellow citizens are impregnated. There is a fault in the machinery of the mercantile world; prudence and discretion have become as it were secondary considerations with the "merchant" of the sixteenth century—indeed those qualities seem to have been discarded from the *majority* of the "Exchange," and replaced by an anything system of self-destroying credit, which is practised to so great an extent, that it is no uncommon thing to find among the merchant "princes," and merchant "people," individuals trading and speculating on one thousand times the amount of their bona fide capital; and a good and sufficient reason this is, so far as we are able to judge, why nine out of every ten engaged in trade fail to be successful. So universal is the practice of doing business on credit, that in New Brunswick there are instances of individuals, entire strangers, coming among us, commencing in a small brokerage and exchange office, not only without ordinary means, but even without a good and satisfactory letter of credit—gradually entwining themselves, year after year, into the good graces of the community, and into the confidence of our monied men and institutions, so that their exchange, and promises, and endorsements, are viewed as *undoubted*;—they are prominent as candidates for responsible offices in our Institutions, and caressed, fondled, *dreaded* and respected;—and when the time arrives that the game can be played no longer, a pressure in monetary matters squeezes out the truth, that it has been all sham—no reality—the community have patronised the "system" and must contribute towards making up deficiencies of not hundreds, or thousands, but tens of thousands of pounds: and every man among us has to bear his proportion of the tax,—which had they to pay in the shape of a public assessment, would make them consider themselves as slaves to tyrannical masters. Not only do populous cities encourage and countenance, this oppressive system of credit, but we also find it in country towns and villages—the small trader there is not even content to conduct shopkeeping within his own capital—he too, must branch out, and get rich—all is credit—and as it is as liberally received, so it is as liberally given,—until the poisonous and subtle influence is found to pervade almost every class and occupation in society—No man so unknown—no matter what may be competence or standing—but may obtain credit: if it is refused him by one, another stands ready with open arms to embrace him and proffer it to him. Men have been known to obtain thousands of pounds worth of goods—*who could not borrow one hundred pounds in money.* With these facts staring us in the face, is it any wonder that commercial revulsions are becoming of more frequency, and assuming a more protracted and threatening aspect? Men in these days, who are engaged in trade, are not measured by the amount of their bona fide capital; they take a position chiefly from the amount of business they do—no matter how speculative and reckless such business is conducted: their life is one of toil and anxiety, occasioned more from a desire to keep up the appearance of a "commercial house,"—rather than do a small, safe, and comfortable trade, which would enable them to retire at a suitable time of life, on a handsome competence for themselves and their families. This appears to us to be a prominent cause of the universal commercial embarrassment, which particularly characterises the present age;—and for which there appears to be no relief, but in a revulsion like that we are now witnessing. We have said this false system pervades all ranks and classes of society; even the farmer's son turns with disgust from the honourable occupation of his parent—he is deluded by the glittering bait of credit placed within his reach—he is now become a merchant,—he uses the name of his parent to ornament the back of sundry bills of paper—"it is a mere form"—he pursues for years the delightful occupation of buying and selling—a crisis comes,—he finds his cash account short, and his book debts long—he is embarrassed, and so is his parent,—who, if he does not happen to have means to spare, is dragged with the son into Bankruptcy, and ruined. This is no fiction—but an "ower true tale"—of frequent occurrence throughout these Provinces: and will continue to occur, so long as men's judgment thus get the better of their prudence. The system is a contagious one. The mechanic too, looks around, and beholds his neighbour living better than he does, without labouring from morning till night with his hands—he is attracted by the better style in which his house is furnished; he cannot nor never will, as a plodding honest industrious mechanic, ever be able to attain to such "*respectability*"—he believes trading to be a more honourable occupation—and resolves to throw aside the implements of his honest toil. He too gets credit—opens his place of business in high spirits—customers increase so rapidly that he is compelled to employ extra clerks to keep his day-book, and post up his ledgers;—he keeps better company—has better furniture than he was wont to have in days gone by—his standing requires that he should keep a horse and carriage,—and increase the number of his household servants;—"a crisis" comes—he talks with his neighbours about the "imbecile government"—and hears them discuss political subjects as the cause of "all the distress." The Banks suddenly refuse him their accustomed accommodation—friends are not as willing to back his paper, as they were formerly—creditors press their claims, because the crisis presses them—he can no longer bear the position in which he is placed—but goes into Bankruptcy,—and eventually leaves his country to return to the occupation he was best fitted for, and which if he had adhered to—in all likelihood would have afforded him a comfortable and honorable livelihood. This case is no fiction.—The every day labourer too,—so soon as he can gather a few pounds—opens a shop—and becomes in a few years a merchant—he, too, as readily procures credit for any amount of goods and notes,—and eventually, fails; his creditors are taken by surprise, for they thought him very honest, and some say they would have given him more goods, if he had asked them, rather than let him "stop."—and all the while, probably the man had not one recommendation, to entitle him to the confidence of any person, beyond a few pounds, which he might have had the capacity to control. These is a sad state of things wherever this mode of business is countenanced—there can be no other results but Bankruptcies and compositions—all eventually coming out of the pockets of the real capitalist, whose safe and prudent course of business was always discarded, and who is seriously told by nine tenths of those engaged in trade "that he would not have had the capital, *if they had not employed it.*" The system is deceptive, and so vastly is it practised, that the most barefaced swindling is countenanced by society, and looked on as "misfortune;" the sympathy strangely seems to be with the *debtor*, none with the *creditor*. Can we wonder, then, that we have such a state of commercial chaos, as there is now admitted to be? Can we expect any other result from such causes, but ruin and prostration, when realities occur around us, which directly prove the causes of such a deplorable position? No: and while we seek for a remedy alone in government measures, in reciprocity, in protection, or in free trade; we lose sight of prominent causes; and only prolong and foster the iniquitous system. You may cover the demon of "credit," with all the golden tinsel of Reform and Retrenchment, but it will again show its hydra-head, only to annoy and destroy its worshippers. Men by this system have been driven to the most ultra radical notions, and adopted free trade and reform doctrines, as a *dernier resort*, and the finale of all their vagaries. These latter day notions, the fruits of which are ripe in Continental Europe, have bro't no relief to the mother country, where unparalleled distress is apparent in every branch of trade. We need a moral reform, and a moral retrenchment, a freedom of trade from the shackles of credit, and a reciprocity of confidence, based on worth and property. Trade cannot be permanently better, until men are taught to feel that their own safety and comfort depend, solely by adhering to punctuality, honesty and probity in all commercial transactions. Business in trade and manufactures must be based on some fixed capital. Let all calmly reflect on the vast amount of the tax, which BAD DEBTS have entailed on the Province, during only twelve months past, and we feel satisfied that it will be admitted that there is far greater necessity for a "Reform Club" to discuss the growing incubus, credit, on our trade, than there is for delivering the oratorical disquisitions on free trade, retrenchment, and annexation. Some men, there are among us, who having avoided the settlement of accounts and pleading "the destruction of their books and papers by fire," and refuse to pay one farthing of their honest debts, suddenly assume important positions in our community, as politicians, and are constantly, both in public and private, crying out at the "dishonest government," and these men have their "party," and their supporters; the majority, in all probability, possessed of no property or interest in the country, but talk and act as if they were the only men who could conceive and carry out an honest measure. Their chief cry is "Responsible Government." Family compacts, "dishonest Tories," and such like; while in reality, their chief object is to blind the government and the people to the ruinous result of a "credit system," which they have fattened upon, and by which they are now wholly and solely subsisting. Such scheming, it is our purpose to unmask; and we hope our feeble exertions will accomplish some good. Beware of all clubs or organisations, calculated thus to dazzle and deceive.

A prominent cause of complaint, is the present lax Bankrupt Law of the Province; we feel confident that we express the opinions of nearly the whole mercantile community, when we say, it is a disgrace to our Statute Book, and if it be allowed to remain in force another year, without important stringent alterations by the Legislature, few of our merchants will remain in business, to be subject to its noxious influence. Many persons there are, beyond all doubt, whom sheer misfortune have made shipwreck of; with such, every honest and feeling man must readily and deeply sympathise, for all of these, there should be a safe and honourable mode of forgiveness of all their obligations, until such times as they should be able to liquidate a part or the whole of their debt. There is a moral and religious obligation, which no man professing the Christian religion and practising its precepts, can resist, and which he never will strive to avoid, when it becomes in his power to comply with it. A Bankrupt Law to relieve all such, on these conditions, is the law we require; not a law which makes *equals* of the honest and the dishonest—not a Bankrupt law through means of which men are discharged as *innocent*, when they are clearly *guilty*. There is much more might be said on this head, but we abstain, because we understand it is the intention of the Legislature, this winter, to abolish or amend the Bankrupt act. We, in conclusion, as the editors of a public journal, whose duty it is to point out radical defects in society, whenever and wherever they are apparent, are of opinion that the time has now arrived, when we should strive to remedy the system of over-trading, which impregnates all classes of society: and we earnestly trust that these dull times will have some effect in rooting and grounding men in the principles of a prudent and judicious course in the exercise of their commercial transactions at home and abroad. We cannot expect much from our Legislators, they seem to take delight in wasting the public monies; it is not their earning, or probably they might be more frugal; but they will have yet a lesson to learn, from the announcement which will great their ears next session, "that the Provincial debt is nearly as heavy, as when the loan was contracted." New Brunswick, as a noble Province of the British Empire, is not much worse in circumstances, than other and older countries; especially when we consider the calamitous fires, the bad debts, bad legislation for twenty years past, and the timber and deal trade, all have conspired to produce the present state of things; her ancient honorable character may be regained, by an effort in the right direction, by the good and wise of her inhabitants: to regain it we must fearlessly and independently encounter the almost overwhelming influence of the primary causes of our troubles and misfortunes —*Overtrading and the Credit System.*

☞ The Harmonist Family gave their first Concert in this City at the Mechanics Institute on Wednesday evening, and the performances were attended by a considerable number of our Citizens, both Ladies and Gentlemen.

They came before the public, after having solicited the absence of criticism and lenity in regard to any fault in the routine or other business of a Concert. We, therefore, feel inclined to overlook any little fault which occurred, as they were only those incidental to any performers when making their first appearance. They do not intend, we understand, to appear again before the public before the lapse of a considerable time, during which their endeavours will be devoted towards greater perfection and the remedy of any discrepancy which may have been apparent at their late Concert. We trust, that they may receive ample *encouragement* when they again appear.—*Bee.*

The exports of Timber, Deals, &c. from the Port of Quebec, during the year 1848, to Ports in Great Britain and Ireland, are as follow:

Oak, tons, 20,675; Pine, 26,985; Birch, 2243; Red Pine, 113,297; White Pine, 263,552; Deals, standard, 1,061,427; Deal Ends, standard, 98,109; Lath Wood, cords, 3720. Handspikes, 5,136 pieces; Oars, 11,266 pairs; Spars, 2700; Masts, 506; Ash Timber, 1507 tons; Tamarac, 2850 tons; Railway Sleepers, 286,778.—The export of Flour in barrels from Quebec to Great Britain for 1848, were 195,188 barrels; to this Province and Nova Scotia, 39,483 barrels,—besides immense quantities of Meal, Corn, Beef, Pork, and other provisions.

The exports from Montreal were 157,585 barrels of Flour, besides, Wheat, Oatmeal, Butter, &c.

AGRICULTURE.—A lengthy paper read before the Newcastle Farmers' Club, in the early part of December, on the subject—"What can Science do for Agriculture?" will be published in our next number.

PRIZES IN THE FISHERY DRAFT, 1849.

Thos. Crozier,	No. 1	Wm. H. Williams,	51
James Gorman	2	Wm. O. Smith,	52
Wm. S. Bailey	3	Thos. Bridges,	53
Daniel Keefe	4	Thos. C. Hennigar,	54
John T Smith	5	James Nixon,	55
Samuel Mills	6	John Ritchie,	56
John McCormick	7	James Hannah,	57
William Dunbar	8	Thos. Hanford,	58
James Halpin	9	James Sullivan,	59
Sarah Lawton	10	Wm. Crothers,	60
John Hunter	11	Jas. Hancock,	61
Daniel Coveny	12	John Harvey,	62
George A. Garrison	13	Irvin White,	63
George A. Lockhart	14	C. Smiley,	64
George Morrissey	15	Jacob Barnes,	65
John Smith, joiner,	16	John C. Ward,	66
John Napier	17	Thos. Robinson	67
Robert Ritchie	18	Wm. Ball,	68
Jeremiah M. Swift	19	Joseph Crispin,	69
Mary Foley	20	Steven H. Fought,	70
John Purvis	21	John Leonard,	71
George Whittekir	22	Hugh W. Chisholm,	72
Richard Calvert	23	Wm. Fullis,	73
Sampson Manaton	24	Thos. Lockey,	74
John Dougherty	25	Chas. McLauchlan,	75
Diademiah Hunt	26	George McFall,	76
James Hewitt	27	Wm. Thompson,	77
Jane Lockhart	28	Wm. H. Tyson,	78
William Till	29	L. H. Waterhouse,	79
Mary Bell	30	Geo. Sealey,	80
John Leary	31	Wm. Thomson,	81
Patrick Clifford	32	Mary Barr,	82
Alexander McQueen	33	James Lawton,	83
Hugh Chisholm	34	E. Barbour,	84
Maurice Sheehan	35	John Benson,	85
Israel S. Lawson	36	Wm. Carson,	86
William J. Starr	37	Robert G. Hunter,	87
Robert McFarlane	38	Wm. Wymond,	88
James White	39	Matthew Graham,	89
Thomas Griffiths	40	Alex. Thompson,	90
Sarah Millidge	41	Hugh Caswell,	91
Timothy Connor	42	Robert Kyle,	92
Sarah Charlton	43	Samuel Parker,	93
Jane Halsall	44	Jacob Smiler,	94
Margaret Hopley	45	John Murphy,	95
James E. Barnes	46	Wm. Carson,	96
Wm. Hutchinson, jr.	47	John Cook,	97
Charles Whittekir	48	David Coleman,	98
John McDougall	49	Edward Murray,	99
John Ritchie	50	D. J. McLauchlin,	100

LETTER FROM CALIFORNIA.

MURDERS

The most exciting news from this place, though, and the all-absorbing topic of the day, is the discovery of a *placer* or deposite of gold, about three hundred miles from San Francisco, in the valley of the Sacramento. About two thirds of the American population of California are now there, and the other third is going Mechanics and laborers have left their tools, farmers their ploughs and fields of grain, and soldiers (i. e. volunteers) their muskets, to dig and wash gold. More than half of one company of the New-York regiment has deserted and gone there. They walked in to their muskets, "one fine morning," and turned in their muskets, saying that they would have no further use for them—that pickaxes, spades and shovels should henceforth be their weapons, and forthwith decamped. The crew of the brig *Malek Adhel*, Capt. Phelps, refused duty at San Francisco, and departed for the gold region, but with a promise to make all their sales to the captain; who, by this arrangement, will certainly lose nothing. Many of the crew of the *Southampton* have deserted, and the officers are obliged to be constantly on the alert to prevent more going. I think, however, that there will, ere long, be too many cooks for the broth on the Sacramento; but as the sickly season will soon set in there, they will die off like sheep with rot, and make room for more. There is, of course, much fighting up in the gold region, and many quarrels terminate fatally. The Governor has now gone there to settle some difficulties, and strange matters generally.

Provisions are very scarce, and to obtain them many murders have been committed, or the purchase of them, at exorbitant prices, has indirectly, but eventually, led to murder. One story, relating to an affair of this kind, may deserve a place here: A man who had what is called a *good hole*, had been digging incessantly for two days, when he was accosted by one carrying a bucket containing food of some kind. The whole of this the *digger* purchased for about one hundred dollars in virgin gold; and while devouring it, the man who had sold the provisions took possession of the hole.—After finishing his repast, the gold-hunter ordered the fellow out; but on his positively refusing to come, knocked his brains out with a pickaxe, took from the pockets of the corpse the virgin gold that had purchased a meal, and then dragging the body out of the hole, himself continued the digging. This, I believe, is really true, just as I have told it.

LOOK ON THAT PICTURE AND ON THIS."—The two following paragraphs, from American papers, present a curious contrast. We shall call the first, the text, and the second the sermon:—

"With our *free institutions* we may congratulate ourselves that we are the most favored people on the face of the earth."—*Extract from Mr. President Polk's Message.*

"Peter Roberts, a methodist preacher, was the other day sold on the Court House steps, at Louisville, for seventy-five dollars and a half!"—*Extract from an American paper.*

UNITED STATES EXPENDITURE.—The expenditure of the United States government for the year ending Sept. 30, 1848, was as follows: State Department $7,849,631,76; War Department $25,313,804,44; Navy Department $9,988,608,93; Treasury Loans, &c., $11,728,730,47.—Total $50,870,175,68.

REMARKABLE INSTANCE OF ANIMAL LONGEVITY.—A pony, the property of Mr. Barnes, of Pangbourn, died this year at the extraordinary age of 41 years. Up to the time of its death it had not been known to suffer any disease or ailment, and had won several races.—The evidence of good treatment is also shown in the length of life of this serviceable animal, which, if generally adopted, would furnish further instances of animal old age.—*Reading Mercury.*

MONTREAL, Jan. 4.—The deputations appointed at the late Free Navigation meeting, headed by His Worship the Mayor, yesterday, had an interview with his Excellency the Governor General, and presented to him a Petition to Her Majesty, embodying the resolution adopted by the meeting, signed by nearly 3000 of our citizens. His Excellency received the Deputation with his usual urbanity and assured them that he would have much pleasure in forwarding the Petition,