

plation to remove the then gaoler, and a person of a different character was expected to take charge of the prison, the sheriff promised the Grand Jury that the principal grievances should be redressed, attributing great part of the evils complained of, to the intractability and singular temper of the then gaoler. It was expressly promised, that, an alteration should take place, in the close confinement of the prisoners to their wards, and that, until a court yard could be appropriated for their use, they should be admitted to take the scanty portion of air and exercise, which the limited freedom of the hall of the prison, could afford. The indiscriminate exclusion of their friends from visiting them inside of their wards, was also to be abrogated or modified; and, in general, promises of a satisfactory change in the management of the prison, were liberally made, and too readily believed. Relying upon the performance of these professions, the Grand Jury abstained from making their presentment so ample as they had intended, and as had been at first drawn up, and confined it, as far as regarded the gaol, to the few remarks that will be found in the extract of their presentment, printed at the end of the following;

Abstract of a representation relative to the Gaol of the District of Montreal, made to the Grand Jury of the Court of Oyer and Terminer.—Sessions May 1821.

After a short exordium, the representation proceeds in these words:

“The community at large is interested in the matters which will be laid before the Grand Jury, in as much as the well ordering of a prison, the safe custody of its inmates, and the distinctions