

ting four hundred inmates, but which are now made to hold, by means of some improved packing process, 550 lunatics." And we have not the excuse of ignorance to plead. The census report for 1851-2 establishes the melancholy fact, and proclaims it to the world, that there are in the united provinces close on to three thousand insane, nearly fifteen hundred deaf and dumb, and eight hundred and seventy blind. In Canada West the proportion of those suffering from mental aberration, to the entire population, is as 1 to 891; whilst in Canada East one person out of every 508 of the community is either idiotic or insane. In the former, one individual in every 1991 of the whole population is a deaf mute, and one in every 3012 is blind. In the latter, one in every 1029 is a deaf mute, and one in every 1607 is blind. So that in the entire province, one person in every 368 of the whole population is either lunatic, blind, or a deaf mute. Yet we have no provision made for them, no asylum, no hospital, no school. How long will such a disgraceful and humiliating state of affairs be allowed to remain unimproved? Well may the question which stands at the head of this article be asked of our legislators: What are we to do with our 3000 lunatics, our 1500 deaf mutes, and our 870 blind? Three years ago, by a spasmodic act of humanity, £10,000 were voted by the assembled wisdom of Canada, "for the erection of institutions for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind in Upper and Lower Canada." Whether the "jobbers" of the day thought by so doing they were making some slight return to the country which was tamely submitting to their "fleeing" operations, we know not. This, however, we know,—not one step has been taken by the authorities towards the erection of these much needed establishments. The £10,000 appears in the estimates for the year 1853, and there is an end of the matter. What we have said in a former article with regard to the insane we would now repeat:—monies are voted, and voted freely too, for the furtherance of various objects, but for the cause of the poor lunatic, the cause of him whom an inscrutable Providence has allowed to become the most pitiable and helpless of men, not one penny has been appropriated. Persons who have made insanity the subject of observation must be painfully impressed with the inhumanity of our Legislature, knowing as they do that a large proportion of insane cases, if submitted to proper treatment at an early period, will be restored to their original vigor of mind, but the same cases allowed to be confined and watched over by friends or the *employes* of a common gaol, will certainly result in incurable insanity. It is a question pregnant with sorrowful and distressing reflection, how many of the 2,802 lunatics, at present within the borders of Canada, if properly treated, would be rejoicing in the possession of an unclouded reason, who are now furious maniacs, stolid melancholics, or drivelling idiots.