

squad of maniacs in the charge of a monomaniac! Should it be the case, we hope the discussion of the question we now agitate will correct for ever such mal-practice. And should the statement be unfounded (as undoubtedly it is, and was perhaps made in the indiscretion of party tactics, unworthy, however, of such a case on cool reflection,) we hope to receive hereafter from British and American Asylums an indignant denial of so grave a charge—the charge of converting the defenceless lunatics not only, as heretofore in our asylums, into “grooms” and “drawers and carriers of water,” but into *servants and keepers and watchmen*, without courts of law to which it is in their power to appeal, and without a Government to heed their complaints, and without a Parliament to redress their wrongs.

Legislative Assembly.

WEDNESDAY, 16th July, 10 A.M.

THE TORONTO LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Mr. W. H. BOULTON moved to refer the return of the address relative to the petition of John Coppins, on the subject of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, to a select Committee. He entered at some length into the charges brought against the Medical Superintendent of the Asylum, and hoped that government would consent to an inquiry.

Mr. HINCKS opposed the motion. It was, in fact, passing a censure upon those most respectable gentlemen who directed the affairs of the Institution. Before such a motion was granted, a strong *prima facie* case should be made out to prove the incompetency of the Directors. Nor should the House put reliance on the truth of charges preferred against the respectable Medical Superintendent, by parties who had been dismissed from the Institution for incompetency and petty pilfering, &c. —The hon. gentleman proceeded at some length into a review of the evidence taken before the Commissioners appointed to examine into the charges which had been preferred against Dr. Scott; he also read an extract from a letter written by Dr. Widmer to Dr. Scott in which the writer says to the effect that he had always been treated

with the utmost courtesy by Dr. Scott, with a view to disprove this statement as to Dr. Widmer being called “an old fool.”

Mr. BOULTON (Norfolk,) supported the motion. He thought there was sufficient evidence to show the fact of grave misconduct on the part of the Medical Superintendent, which ought to be thoroughly examined into by a select committee, as was proposed. He strongly condemned the practice of punishing the patients in the Institution by keeping them upon bread and water.

Mr. HINCKS replied that no patient had been put upon bread and water diet for any offence committed against Dr. Scott personally. In every Institution of the kind it was necessary from time to time to keep the very disorderly and fractious patients on low diet, for very obvious reasons.

The hour of 2 o'clock, P.M., having arrived, the house adjourned until 4 o'clock, P.M.

(AFTERNOON SESSION.)

Mr. W. H. BOULTON moved the appointment of a Select Committee to consider the Report on the state of the Lunatic Asylum.

Mr. H. J. BOULTON made a violent attack on the authorities of the Lunatic Asylum, asserting that as consumers of the cabbages and carrots of the institution, they were public delinquents. He also said that his blood boiled at the cool announcement of the Commissioners that, from a natural infirmity of temper, Dr. Scott was hasty in his manner and language.

Hon. Mr. PRICE suggested that hon. gentlemen who possessed the right of liberty of speech on the floor of the House, should be careful how they made charges of so gross a nature against gentlemen of the highest respectability, who had not the means of replying. He had learned from every member who had visited the Asylum, the highest commendations of Dr. Scott, and it was absurd to suppose that the charge brought by some that he had gained his office merely through the influence of his father-in-law, Mr. Roaf, could be sustained. But it appeared evident that every means would be put in operation to throw discredit on a public officer, filling a most important station, when the only blame at-