eral and unmeasureable cause, for an ion of a circumstance which it is certain has been mainly produced by d more definite influences. Besides, ence that may be naturally and fairly m the Star's observations, that the y of Upper Canada is on the de- notoriously at variance with all the s of an advancing condition, which hes.

migration of mechanics and laborers nada to the United States, is no no- it is of almost yearly occurrence, we believe, continue to take place time to come, were the voice of completely hushed.

rte we have had a disproportionate f poor to rich immigrants from Eu- f labourers to capitalists. As well be expected of a barren rock to sup- ilense population, as of a limited ca- afford employment to an unlimited f labourers. We have, it is true, ivated lands to nearly a boundless ex- but the labourers, during the time they ducing them to cultivation, require to plied by others, or from a previous stock of their own, with food, clothing and implements, until those can be furnished from the proceeds of their own industry. It can excite no surprise that the native capital of this country, in its infancy, should not increase so rapidly as to afford full employment to the large additions yearly made to the population; and it is, in these circumstances, no proof whatever of any "falling off in the means of an industrious subsistence," when a portion of the immigrant labourers are tempted to the neighbouring States, whose resources are more developed and capital more abundant, by the prospect of higher wages and more constant employment. This state of things is perfectly consistent all the while with the rapid advancement of the country, and a rapidly increasing production and capital. The number of additional labourers for which there is annually a demand in this country, ought alone to be deemed a sufficient evidence of a vast increase in the "means of an industrious subsistence," instead of the small fraction of them which may leave it for the adjoining States, on account of higher wages at the public works, being taken as an evidence of a falling off.

But, this disproportion between the numbers of immigrant capitalists and immigrant labourers has been, we are well assured, much increased by the system of land granting which obtains, both in this and in the Upper Province. Capital to the amount of many thousands of pounds are annually lost to the country from this cause alone. The vexatious and expensive delays in the Colonial land granting system, the door it opens to the play of private malice and roguery, drive many a capitalist to the American territories in the West, who might have settled in Canada. Again, our antiquated feudal usages in this Province have a prejudicial influence even beyond the sphere of their actual operation; and make capitalists suspicious of the value of those portions of our soil, where they are happily not recognized.

We would far rather see an emigration of the surplus labourers, than to see any attempt made, as has been done, to convert them into proprietors of land before they are possessed of sufficient capital to cultivate it properly.

From the Report, in this day's paper, of the Committee of Management of the Champlain and St. Lawrence Railroad Company, it will be seen that every thing connected with that undertaking is in a highly forward and promising state, and that there is every prospect of the Railway being in operation by July. We think, with our contemporary the *Gazette*, that "the opening of the Railway will be one of the proudest days in "the annals of Lower Canadian improvement."

At a meeting of the Stockholders of the Champlain and St. Lawrence Railroad Company, held on Monday last, the following Report of the proceedings since the last half yearly meeting was submitted, approved, and ordered to be printed:—

The Committee of management of the Champlain and St. Lawrence Railroad, beg to submit to the Stockholders of the Company a Report of the progress of this undertaking, since they had the honor of addressing them on the 14th December last.

Shortly after the period just mentioned, contracts were entered into by the Commissioner of the Company, for preparing all the materials required for the superstructure of the Road, and also for the distribution of the same, when completed, together with the iron along the line of road, and we are happy to state that notwithstanding the unfavorable weather for such work during the past winter, the Commissioner reports that these several contracts have all been regularly fulfilled, and the various materials for completing the road now lie along the line, ready prepared to be put down thereon.

Contracts were entered into with the Messrs. Wards, early in the winter, for the completing of twevle, and the castings of eight freight cars, together with a variety of castings of iron work for turn-outs, splicing plates, &c. &c. all of which are rapidly progressing, (splicing plates being completed, and in a great measure distributed along the line.)

A locomotive ordered in September last and made by Stephenson of Liverpool, who ranks among the first in this department of engineering, was to be shipped, say our correspondents, about the end of March, and may be expected among the first vessels; the Company have been most fortunate in the reasonable execution of this order, as well as in that for the iron, which the present high price of that material will clearly justify.

The superior style in which passenger cars are got up in the city of Troy, in the United States, together with the inexperience of the mechanics in this city in the construction of such carriages, induced the Committee to send the Engineer of the Company, Mr. Casey, to Troy in January last, who entered into contracts with Messrs. Eaton & Robertson for two, twenty-four passenger cars, and with Messrs. Eaton & Gilbert for two, sixteen ditto, *complete for the road*, and which by late accounts from that place are being finished in a style of elegance worthy of the establishments from which they will emanate, and no doubt with the view of extending their high reputation to this country.

It is most gratifying to state that the wharf at Laprairie, after undergoing an ordeal of no ordinary nature, remaining uninjured in the slightest degree, thus justifying the high terms of commendation made use of in the Report which we had the honor to submit at the last half-yearly meeting.

The work upon the station house at Laprairie was recommenced on the 13th April, and completed, as far as practicable for the present, on the 3d instant. The work also upon the station house at St. John's, is now rapidly progressing.

The state of the graduation of the road is matter of much congratulation to the stockholders, for our Engineer reports, and we use his own words. "That the admirable state of the banks will not only facilitate all our operations this year, but is a guarantee that the superstructure will hereafter suffer little if any derangement from the frost. All streams and discharges have been uncommonly high this year, and two or three small culverts will be added to aid the passage of the water across the road,—this is all the extra work required." The Engineer also states that about 1200 feet of the timber superstructure has been laid down ready to receive the iron, and that the workmen employed in this branch improve daily in expertness.

We have much pleasure in stating that the steamboat building by Mr. Lindsay, to run in connection with the Railroad, will be ready to launch in a day or two, and as the contract with the Messrs. Wards for the engine was entered into as early as the 1st December last, there is every reason to suppose the boat will be ready to take her station upon the ferry about the 10th July.

It now only remains for us to state that the reports of the Engineer and Commissioner are such as confidently lead us to expect, that with favorable weather the road may be opened from station house to station house about the 15th July next, and that there is still every reason to suppose the estimate set forth in the Engineer's report of December last, will vary but little from the sum necessary to accomplish this desirable result.

PETER M'GILL, *Chairman.*

It is in contemplation to form a Mutual Insurance Company for the Newcastle District.

Mr. DANIEL JONES, of Brockville, had, we perceive, the honour of Knighthood conferred upon him by His Majesty on the 16th March.

The accounts from Texas are of a more favourable nature than those formerly received; but nothing decisive of the result of the war has yet taken place.

The following were among the passengers in the packet ship *Columbus*, from Liverpool: Thos. Kay and lady, James Connell, E. Thompson, Wm. Knox, John Speirs, J. G. Rodger, J. Seaton, of Montreal; Chas. E. Lovejoy, of Quebec; Bela Flint, of Brockville, and J. Buchanan, of Toronto.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING COURIER.

Ast alii Sex
et plures, uno conclamant ore—

Has it never struck you, Mr. Editor, that the Band of the 32d Regiment, would be a great acquisition to the fashionables of Montreal, were it to play occasionally upon the *Champ de Mars*, during the beautiful summer evenings only to be found in Canada? I am sure that nothing would be enjoyed more.

Their worthy Commander, if applied to, would surely have no objections. Your's, &c.,

May 10. PETER PIGTAIL.

Art of Printing.

When we look round the world, and contemplate the comforts and conveniences which the gigantic powers of Art have superseded to the spontaneous bounty of Nature, a sentiment of pious gratitude ascends to that "Giver of every good and every perfect gift," who has made man so shrewd and penetrating, so fertile in ingenuity, so provident and successful in seeking resources to guard against the casual evils of his existence, and to ameliorate his condition.

Illustrious among the arts of invention, stands the Art of Printing. Its first appearance was a new era in the history of our species; an event involving and securing the dearest interests of the human race. Too long had a cruel superstition held mankind in the heaviest chains of spiritual thraldom. The long land the despotism of ignorance filled the political atmosphere with thick clouds and deadly vapours. Printing arose—threw around her on every side, the radiations of reason. Revelation and Science were taught to wear the garb, and speak the language of common sense. The Holy Scriptures, translated into the vernacular tongues, were made familiar to general apprehension. It was then that the Demons of Mischief, unequal to the contest, withdrew for ever. The mitre and crown lost their false lustre, and power began to assume the forms of protection, friendship, and peace.

To whom we are, under God, indebted for this beautiful art, does not clearly appear. The cities of Mentz and Hacerlem—the one in Germany and the other in Holland—have long contended for the priority of the discovery; and the claim of individual invention seems to be equally balanced between GUTTENBURG and FAUST of the former city, and KOSTER of the latter. Enquiry and Discussion have done all they could to fix the merit of this important invention, but without success. Numerous claimants have perplexed the question with their dissertations; and as it is simply a speculation upon a matter of fact, in no shape qualifying the utility of this art, we may safely abide the issue of this uncertainty. To the world at large, the question is not momentous. It is the consequence and not the origin of the discovery, which claims our gratitude and admiration. Indeed, we may challenge all history to adduce a single event which has occasioned an astonishing a revolution in the affairs of Men. The learned lore of ancient times was ponderous and unwieldy. The awkwardness and embarrassment of multiplied manuscript, levied an enormous tax upon the patience of the honest enquirer; and Erudition was startled at reviewing her own labours. The human mind, wanting the gentle excitement of facile intelligence, was sunk in torpidity; or, if roused to action, it was roused by unnatural impulse—roused to pursuits of ambition and avarice—a stranger to the love of wisdom—a sweet commerce with ourselves, and a diffusive spirit of communicative knowledge.

These are some among the many results of this sublime art. The very exercise of it is attended with a peculiar pleasure, such as few others in an equal degree more inspire. The compositor at his case, may consider himself the organ of intelligence to thousands, and sustaining a character of influence over an extensive range of the human empire. Duty to God, love to his kind, enthusiasm of truth, and usefulness in the world, flow from his employment, and rise in sweet association in his mind. He feels himself serving the cause of God and Man, and his labour becomes his pleasure.

The worthy FRANKLIN, to whom was paid this unpeopled compliment, by an ingenious compatriot, EXPUVIT FULMEN CELO, SCEPTRUMQUE TYRANNIS, was a typographical artist, and to his latest moment gloried in the appellation of a printer.

May 10. B.

Lower Canada.

We understand that no Marine Boarding Officer will now be appointed to the Quarantine Station, and that Dr. Poole, the Boarding Physician, will do the duty of both, and have liberty to clear the ship immediately on a satisfactory examination of her, by giving her a sailing passport to Quebec. This will certainly afford more despatch than heretofore to the vessels in a healthy condition. Those with more than thirty emigrants will still have to land. In the spring, without proper shelter, this is a source of bitter complaint.—*Quebec Gazette.*

The Commissioners for the Marine Hospital, which is now supported by 1d. per ton on shipping arriving at this port, and where mariners are entitled to be received, is about to be put into operation under the commission. The physician, it is said, will be Dr. Hall, the resident physician Dr. Efland, and the keeper Mr. Michel Glackemeyer.—*Ib.*

Upper Canada.

The Constitutional Society has been re-organized, and received some important additions to its members. On Friday evening there was a general meeting at the British Coffee House, when officers were chosen, and a subscription entered into, to further the purposes of the Society, which are to disseminate throughout the country the most true and correct political information; and by all legitimate means to foster allegiance to the Parent Country, and defend the genuine principles of Civil and Religious Liberty, from the aggressions of politicians and agitating demagogues, who for years past have filled the the land with turbulence, disaffection, and discontent, in the hope of private gain and self aggrandisement, to the manifest injury of the public weal. We are sorry it was not in our power to attend the meeting, but have heard with great satisfaction that some admirable speeches were delivered on the occasion; especially by the Solicitor General, who by his late masterly effusions in the Assembly, has forever confirmed his reputation as a great Constitutional Lawyer, and by Dr. Rolph of Ancaster, whose oratory is of a most splendid order, in no respect inferior to that of the celebrated Shiel. The speeches of both these gentlemen were greeted with triumphant acclamations. The latter was tremendously just upon some of the prominent Revolutionists, peculators, and plunderers. Bidwell he characterised, as the cold, cautious, prudent, calculating, malignant plotter of rebellion, and M'Kenzie his chief instrument, as a worn out hack in the holy cause of agitation, a prey to malicious envy, sweltering venom, to protrude on the world he hated, but could not imitate, and the perfidious Duncombe, lost no particle of his well earned notoriety from the neglect of either orator. We leave these miscreants to scratch and scramble for the palm of excellence, for their respective shares in their emulous strife to perpetrate evil; and may they learn from their late dastardly proceedings, the lesson that a Province like this, fraught with all the elements of comfort and happiness to man, is not to be thrown into confusion and ruin by a few upstart spirits whose ambition so far transcends their merits. We hope the Constitutional Society will meet with the support of every true friend to British supremacy, and that each will spare whatever he can afford, to promote the hallowed work of spreading just notions of men and things, in which alone the moral poison which has been so diffusely scattered can find its antidote.—*Toronto Patriot.*

We are informed, that an agent is now on the way to New York, in behalf of 'The Newcastle District Loan Company,' established at Peterboro', to procure engraved plates for the drafts of that institution; and, we are assured, that as soon as they can be obtained, the company will commence active operations. We also understand, that a letter has been received from one of the first mercantile firms in Montreal, approving the principles of the institution, and promising the managers every support.—*Cobourg Star.*

The recent floods upon the breaking up of the frost, have carried away two of the piers of the bridge over the river Otonabee, at Peterboro', and the communication between the eastern and western parts of the town is, in consequence, entirely cut off for the present.—*Ib.*

The Steamboat 'Northumberland,' is now lying on her beam ends, near the landing place, at Sully, Rice Lake. This is unfortunate, as it will take some time to get her in trim; and the back country roads offer no very inviting advantages, in lieu of the means of transport thus suspended.—*Ib.*

Commercial.

We beg to call the attention of merchants in the Upper Canada Trade to the advertisement of JOHN SIMPSON, Esq., Collector of His Majesty's Customs at Coteau du Lac, by which it will be perceived that the Act of 6 Will. IV. cap 24, passed in the last Session of the Legislature, makes it obligatory on the conductors or persons in charge of boats or carriages, containing merchandise destined for Upper Canada, to furnish the Custom-House at the Coteau, with a statement in conformity with the schedule appended to the notice. We believe that the intention of the Legislature in making this enactment was to afford as correct data as possible, by which to estimate the quantity of goods, &c., transported to Upper Canada that had paid duty at Montreal or Quebec, and no doubt with a view to a future correct apportionment of the duties between the two Provinces. We have been authorised to state, that Mr. Simpson, acting most obligingly communicated with the Committee of Trade, upon the manner in which the provisions of the Act could be complied with, so as to be the least troublesome or vexatious to the Trade, it was considered that the best system would be for the Shipper to transmit to the Forwarder, with the ordinary way-bill, the statement required, blank forms of which are now printed and may be procured at this office. The same regulation extends to the Ottawa route, the Comptroller of the Coteau du Lac Custom-House being about to be stationed at the foot of the Carrillon Rapids.

At auction yesterday the following sales were effected:—3 pipes and 8 hhds. OTARD, DUPUY & Co.'s Brandy, at 5s 10d @ 5s 11½d; 3 hhds Spanish do. at 4s; 3 puns. Jamaica Rum, proof 1 to 3, at 4s; 8 do, proof 1 to 2½, at 4s 3½d @ 4s; 24 puns. Demerara Rum, proof 1 to 4½, at 3s 3½d @ 3s 4d; 16 hhds. Trinidad Sugar (a good average sample), at 53s 6d @ 53s 6d.

Exchange on England has further advanced—negotiations of Merchants' Bills have been made at 8 @ 8½, prem. The Montreal Bank is not drawing.

IMPORTS FROM UPPER CANADA.

TUESDAY, *May* 10.—1775 barrels flour, 1129 pieces black walnut, 60 brls pork, 36 do ashes, 22 cases vinegar, 60 bundles black walnut chair posts.

REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK MARKET FOR THREE DAYS PRECEDING

SATURDAY, *May* 7, 1836.

ASHES.—The arrivals of Pots through the canals have been considerable, but the demand continues good, and the price is firmly maintained. Further sales of several hundred barrels at $6,50. Pearls are yet scarce; the few that have arrived are held above our quotation.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—The market is still very heavy, and we notice a further decline on most descriptions, particularly Western Canal; sales of that description have been made at $6,87½ @ $7,12½; and Troy, $6,87½. Sales of Georgetown from store at $7,25 @ $7,12½; and Howard-street, $7,19 @ $7,25; one lot of Georgetown was sold from the wharf at $7.

GRAIN.—A lot of 3500 bushels fair White Wheat, imported from Trieste, sold at $1,37½.

LEATHER.—A public sale of 12,600 sides has taken place since our last, which went off at a further improvement of about ½ of a cent on light weights and damaged.

PROVISIONS.—The demand for Beef and Pork continues steady, but for both descriptions we make a reduction in our quotations. Sales of Northern Lard at 15½ @ 16; and Western, 15 cents. Pot Butter, the demand is rather limited, and we reduce our rates.

TALLOW.—American is more plenty, and the demand is less active; no change in price.

TEAS.—The cargo of the Barque *Levant*, recently arrived, consisting of 11,418 packages, was offered by auction on Thursday, and 6950 packages sold. 2837 packages Young Hyson, 1947 Hyson Skin, and 584 Souchong were withdrawn. These Teas throughout were of finer quality than any other offered this season, and the sale went off with a good deal of animation, but at prices rather lower for equal qualities than those of the *Pactolus's* cargo. The rates were, for Hyson 60 @ $1,29; Young Hyson, 50 @ $1,1; Hyson Skin, 30 @ 56; Gunpowder and Imperial, 67 @ $1,45; and Souchong, 28 @ 28½ cents ℔ lb.—6 months.

TIN.—Plates have advanced; sales of one-third X, at $12,50 @ $13, 75 ℔ box.

TOBACCO.—A sale of 200 bales St. Domingo has been made, but we did not learn the terms; and, by auction, 23 hhds Kentucky, merchantable, 5¼ @ 8¼, average, $7,39; 9 do 3¼ @ 6¾, average, $5,75; 31 do 5¼ @ 9¾; 17 do merchantable, 6¾ @ 9¾; and 10 bales prime Cuba, 24 cents, 2, 3 and 4 mos.

EXCHANGE.—Further sales of Bills on London at 7½ @ 7¾ ℔ cent. prem.

LONDON MARKETS, APRIL 1.

SUGAR.—There having been several arrivals from the West Indies this week, in all 3100 hhds and tierces and 450 brls, together with the large quantity of Mauritius offered at public sale, has caused the demand for British Plantation Sugars to become extremely moderate, holders have submitted 6d @ 1s ℔ cwt lower prices.

TALLOW.—There was considerable interest excited early this week by extensive sales of Tallow for arrival at 43s 6d, with leave granted to the sellers to double the quantity at the same rate; since which the prices have been gradually rising to 44s @ 44s 3d for the last three months, and generally 45s now asked; the request for parcels on the spot has also been considerable at 42s 6d @ 43s; the market is well cleared of the latter. Yesterday afternoon parcels of Tallow sold at the advanced price of 44s 6d @ 45s, to be delivered in the last three months. At public sale yesterday, 172 casks Odessa sold at 42s 6d @ 43s; also 98 casks of Petersburg, Yellow Candle fetched 43s, Soap do 40s 6d @ 41s 6d.

TEA.—There has been a good demand, and profits of 2d. @ 1d. paid on the last sales of Free Trade for the fine qualities, and for Bohea and Congous the same advance has been given; the clearances for exportation are very great, and also for home consumption. The public sales advertised stand as follows:—about 46,100 packages for the 12th instant, and 16,266 to follow the East India Company's June sale.

The arrivals from Canton during the last three days have been heavy, amounting to about 32,000 packages.

METALS.—There has again been a further rise in the prices of English Lead. Iron is steady. Spelter has advanced, and a great deal done, £19 5s. paid on the spot, and £18 10s. for forward delivery.

CORN.—The supply of Oats since Monday has been good, but of all other articles the arrivals have been very moderate. For Wheat there was yesterday a very brisk demand, and prices advanced 2s. Flour as last quoted. The alterations in the duties this week are 1s less on Wheat, and 1s 6d less on Oats and Peas.

THE FUNDS, MONEY, &c.—The variations in the English Funds have been very trifling; the price of Consols has been 91¾, buyers and sellers alternately

LIVERPOOL MARKETS, APRIL 4.

ASHES.—There has been a limited demand for Montreal Pots, and only 90 barrels have been sold at 37s @ 38s ℔ cwt.—Of Montreal Pearls 60 barrels have been disposed of at 47s @ 47s 6d ℔ cwt. chiefly the former price.

TIMBER.—The Pine market has been remarkably dull during most of the past month, which has caused a decline in price. The Quays are however becoming very bare, and as very few vessels are expected for some time, the consumption will have to be supplied from the yards, still the heavy stocks preclude the idea of any material improvement in price, unless an animated demand should spring up. St. John's cargoes may be quoted at 20d ℔ foot, and Quebec at 19d to 19½d ℔ foot.

OILS.—For Linseed there has been an animated inquiry, and prices are again rather higher.—Palm has also experienced an improved demand, and 80 tuns have been sold at £35 10s @ £36 ℔ ton, with about 400 tuns in one hand, the price of which has not been allowed to transpire.

CORN MARKET.—The imports of Grain, &c. since this day sennight are to a very moderate amount. At Tuesday's market there was again rather a better demand for Wheat, a few parcels were taken on country account, and, on the whole, a fair business was done at the prices quoted in last week's report; 6s. 9d. for the best Irish red, fs. 4d. @ fs. 5d. ℔ 70 lb. for fair runs. Not much passing in Flour. A little sour Flour in hand has been sold at 18s. @ 20s. ℔ 196 lb.

MALAGA, FEBRUARY 20, 1836.

There is very little Fruit in market. Keg and bloom Raisins, in boxes, are not to be had at any price, and what little there is of other kinds is very high. Wine is scarce and rising, and Sweet will continue so for years to come. Staves are without price or sale.

Wines, both sweet and dry, as well as Fruit, have taken a rapid and unexpected rise. In Sept. and Oct. last, Brandy was sold at $65 @ $66 ℔ pipe, and is now in lively demand at 110, which has caused an advance in the price of new Wines of full 50 ℔ cent, and at this there is little or none to be had, particularly the sweet. The next shipments cannot be invoiced under a material advance on even present prices, which are higher than in the fall.

March 2.—Wines have advanced very considerably more than was expected, and choice quality will stand in $11,50 for Sweet, and $11 @ $11,50 for Dry. You may expect but few shipments from hence this season, as the stock collecting was never before known to be so low.

Sketches by "Boz."—New Series.

NO. I.—OUR NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOURS.

We are very fond of speculating, as we walk through a street, on the character and pursuits of the people who inhabit it; and nothing so materially assists us in these speculations as the appearance of the house doors. The various expressions of the human countenance afford a beautiful and interesting study; but there is something in the physiognomy of street-door knockers almost as characteristic and nearly as infallible. Whenever we visit a man for the first time we contemplate the features of his knocker with the greatest curiosity, for we well know that between the man and his knocker there will inevitably exist a greater or less degree of resemblance and sympathy. For instance, there is one description of knocker, which used to be common enough, but which is fast passing away—a large round one, with the jolly face of a convivial lion smiling blandly at you as you twist the sides of your hair into a curl, or pull up your shirt collar, while you are waiting for the door to be opened; we never saw that knocker on the door of a churlish man—so far as our experience is concerned, it invariably bespoke hospitality and another bottle. No man ever saw this knocker on the door of a small attorney or bill-broker; they always patronise the other lion—a heavy, ferocious looking fellow, with a countenance expressive of savage stupidity—a sort of grand master among the knockers, and a great favourite with the selfish and brutal. Then there is a little pert Egyptian knocker, with a long thin face, a pinched-up nose, and a very sharp chin; he is most in vogue with your Government-office people, in light drabs, and starched cravats; little spare priggish men, who are perfectly satisfied with their own opinions, and consider themselves of paramount importance. We were greatly troubled a few years ago by the innovation of a new kind of knockers without any face at all, composed of a wreath, depending from a hand, or a small truncheon. A little study and attention, however, enabled us to overcome the difficulty, and to reconcile the new system to our favourite theory. You will invariably find this knocker on the doors of cold and formal people, who always ask you why you *don't* come, and never say *do*. Everybody knows that the brass knocker is common to suburban villas, and extensive boarding schools; and having noticed this genus, we have recapitulated all the most prominent and strongly defined species. Some phrenologists affirm that the agitation of a man's brain by different passions, produces corresponding developments in the form of his skull. Do not let us be understood as pushing our theory to the length of asserting that any alteration in a man's disposition would produce a visible effect on the features of his knocker. Our position merely is, that in such a case the magnetism which must exist between a man and his knocker would induce the man to remove, and seek some knocker more congenial to his altered feelings. If you ever find a man changing his habitation without any reasonable pretext, depend upon it, that although he may not be aware of the fact himself, it is because he and his knocker are at variance.

Entertaining these feelings on the subject of knockers, it will be readily imagined with what consternation we viewed the entire removal of the knocker from the door of the next house to the one we lived in, some time ago, and the erection of a bell instead. This was a calamity we had never anticipated. The bare idea of anybody being able to exist without a knocker, appeared so wild and visionary that it had never for one instant entered our imagination. We sauntered moodily from the spot, and bent our steps towards Eaton-square, then just building. What was our astonishment and indignation to find that bells were fast becoming the rule, and knockers the exception! Our theory trembled beneath the shock. We hastened home; and fancying that we foresaw in the swift progress of events, its entire abolition, resolved from that day forward to vent our speculations on our next door neighbours in person. The house adjoining ours, on the left hand, was uninhabited, and we had therefore plenty of leisure to observe our next-door neighbours on the other side.

The house without the knocker was in the occupation of a city clerk, and there was a neatly-written bill in the parlour window, intimating that lodgings for a single gentleman were to be let within. It was a neat, dull, little house, on the shady side of the way, with new narrow floorcloth in the passage, and new narrow staircarpets to the first floor. The paper was new, and the paint was new, and the furniture was new, and all three, paper, paint, and furniture, bespoke the limited means of the tenant. There was a little red and black carpet in the drawing-room, with a border of flooring all the way round, a few stained chairs, and a Pembroke table; a pink shell was displayed on each of the little sideboards, which, with the addition of a tea-tray and caddy, a few more shells on the mantelpiece, and three peacock's feathers tastefully arranged above them, completed the decorative furniture of the apartment. This was the room destined for the reception of the single gentleman during the day, and a little back room on the same floor was assigned as his sleeping apartment by night. The bill had not been long in the window when a stout, good-humoured looking gentleman, of about five-and-thirty, appeared as a candidate for the tenancy. Terms were soon arranged, for the bill was taken down immediately after his first visit; in a day or two the single gentleman came in, and shortly afterwards his real character came out. First of all he displayed a most extraordinary partiality for sitting up till three or four o'clock in the morning, drinking whisky and water, and smoking cigars; then he invited friends home, who used to come at ten o'clock, and begin to get happy about the small hours, when they evinced their perfect contentment by singing songs with a half-a-dozen verses of two lines, and a chorus of ten, which chorus used to be shouted forth by the whole strength of the company, in the most enthusiastic and vociferous manner, to the annoyance of the neighbours, and the special discomfort of another single gentleman over head. Now, this was bad enough, occurring as it did about three times a-week on the average; but this was not all, for when the company *did* go away, instead of walking quietly down the street, as anybody else's company would have done, they amused themselves by making alarming and frightful noises, and counterfeiting the shrieks of females in distress; and one night a red-headed gentleman in a white hat knocked in a most urgent manner at the door of the pomdered-headed old gentleman at No. 3, and when the powdered-headed old gentleman, who thought one of his married daughters must have been taken ill prematurely, had groped down stairs, and, after a great deal of unbolting and key-turning, opened the street door, the red-faced man in the white hat said he hoped he'd excuse his giving him so much trouble, but he'd feel highly obliged if he'd favour him with a glass of cold spring water, and the loan of a shilling for a cab to take him home; on which the old gentleman slammed the door and went up stairs, and threw the contents of his water-jug out of window—very straight, only it went over the wrong man; and the whole street was involved in confusion.

Now a joke's a joke, and even practical jests are very capital things in their way, if you can only get the other party to see the fun of them; but the population of our street were so dull of apprehension, as to be quite lost to a sense of the drollery of this proceeding; and the consequence was, that our next door neighbour was obliged to tell the single gentleman that unless he gave up entertaining his friends at home, he really must be compelled to part with him. The single gentleman received the remonstrance with great good humour, and promised from that time forward to spend his evenings at a coffee-house—a determination which all took general and unmixed satisfaction. The next night passed off very well—every body was delighted with the change; but on the next the noises were renewed with greater spirit than ever. The single gentleman's friends being unable to see him in his own house every alternate night, had come to the determination of seeing him home every night, and what with the discordant greetings of the friends at parting, and the noise created by the single gentleman in his passage up stairs, and his subsequent struggles to pull his boots off, the evil was not to be borne. So our next door neighbour gave the single gentleman, who was a very good lodger in other respects, notice to quit, and the single gentleman went away, and entertained his friends in other lodgings.

The next applicant for the vacant first floor was of a very different character from the troublesome single gentleman who had just quitted it. He was a tall, slim, young gentleman, with a profusion of brown hair, reddish whiskers, and very slightly developed mustachios. He wore a braided surtout with frogs behind, light gray trousers, and wash-leather gloves, and had altogether a rather military appearance. So unlike the roystering single gentleman! Such insinuating manners, and such a delightful address! So seriously disposed, too! When he first came to look at the lodgings, he enquired most particularly whether he was sure to be able to get a seat in the parish church, and when he had agreed to take them, he requested to have a list of the different local charities, to be intended to subscribe his mite to the most deserving among them. Our next door neighbour was perfectly happy. He had got a lodger at last of just his own way of thinking—a serious, well-disposed man, who abhorred gaiety and loved retirement. He took down the bill with a light heart, and pictured in imagination a long series of quiet Sundays on which he and his lodger would exchange mutual civilities, and Sunday pipes. The serious man arrived; his luggage was to arrive from the country next morning; he borrowed a clean shirt and a prayer-book of our next-door neighbour, and retired to rest at an early hour, requesting that he might be called punctually at ten o'cock next morning—not before, as he was much fatigued. He was called, and did not answer; he was called again, but there was no reply. Our next-door neighbour became alarmed, and burst the door open. The serious man had left the house mysteriously; carrying with him the shirt, the prayer-book, a teaspoon, and the bed-clothes.

Whether this occurrence, coupled with the irregularities of his former lodger, gave our next-door neighbour an aversion to single gentlemen, we know not; we only know that the next bill which made its appearance in the parlour window, intimated generally that there were furnished apartments to let on the first floor. The bill was soon removed. The new lodgers at first attracted our curiosity, and afterwards excited our interest.

They were a young lad, of eighteen or nineteen, and his mother, a lady of about fifty, or it might be less. The mother wore a widow's weeds, and the boy was also clothed in deep mourning. They were poor—very poor; for there only means of support arose from the pittance the boy earned by copying writings, and translating for the booksellers. They had removed from some country place and settled in London; partly because it afforded better chances of employment for the boy; and partly, perhaps, with the natural desire to leave a place where they had been in better circumstances, and where their poverty was known. They were proud under their reverses, and above revealing their wants and privations to strangers. How bitter those privations were, and how hardly the boy worked to remove them, no one ever knew but themselves. Night after night, two, three, four, hours after midnight could we hear the occasional taking together of the scanty fire; or the hollow and half-stifled cough, which indicated his being still at work: and day after day could we see more plainly that nature had set that unearthly light in his plaintive face which is the beacon of her worst disease. Actuated, we hope, by a higher feeling than mere curiosity, we contrived to establish first an acquaintance, and then a close intimacy, with the poor strangers. Our worst fears were realised; the boy was sinking fast. Through a part of the winter and the whole of the following spring and summer his labours were unceasingly prolonged. The mother attempted to procure needle-work, embroidery—anything for bread. A few shillings now and then were all she could earn, and the boy worked steadily on; dying by minutes; but never once giving utterance to complaint or murmur.

It was a beautiful autumn evening when we went in to pay our customary visit to the invalid. His little remaining strength had been decreasing rapidly for two or three days preceding, and he was lying on a sofa before the open window, gazing at the setting sun. His mother had been reading the Bible to him, for she closed the book as we entered, and advanced to meet us. "I was telling William," she said, "that we must manage to take him into the country somewhere, in that he may get quite well. He is not ill, you know, but he is not very strong, and has exerted himself too much lately." Poor thing! The tears that streamed through her close widow's cap, too plainly showed how