The Morning Courier.

FOR THE COUNTRY.

Optimus est Reipublicæ status, ubi nihil decet sisi licentia perundi.—SENECA.

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Morning Courier.

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1836.

The Massachusetts State Prison has yielded a profit to that State of nearly nine hundred pounds for the past six months. The number of prisoners is 265.

It is much to be regretted that no plan similar to the system of prison discipline adopted generally in the United States, has been introduced in these Provinces. It would benefit the culprits themselves, be a saving to the public, and operate as a preventative of crime.

It would be idle to make any comparison between our prison regulations and those of the adjoining States. Our Jails are notoriously insecure, escapes from them are frequent, so that they do not possess the most essential requisite of such establishments, and are thus so far useless. The expensive machinery of the penal laws is thus also rendered nearly abortive, because punishment of crime, which is their object, is not made either in certainty or degree to follow conviction. The community which pays both for the administration of the laws, and the support of our prisons, such as they are, in the end suffers in its interests moral and physical, in consequence of the last link of the chain being incomplete. With the same, or even with less expense than what is now incurred, it is certain that the law may be made a terror to the evil-disposed of the community, by its sentences being strictly executed—an object which cannot be possibly obtained in the present state of our gaols.

But not only are the ends of imprisonment frustrated, which are punishment with a view to a reformation of the criminal, in our prisons; they are, themselves, the hot-beds of vice. The miserable beings who have once tenanted them, are rendered more incapable of being reformed, by the free intercourse there permitted them with characters as bad as, or more abandoned than themselves. Were we not afraid of the moral atmosphere of the community being tainted by the publication of the scenes of disgusting immorality which have occurred in the Montreal Gaol, we should wish their disclosure, to arouse the public to demand the adoption of better regulations, and the removal of its depraved tenants to a more appropriate building. There would be ample scope for the exercise of the philanthropy of a Howard, in this establishment alone, and it is much to be wished that the benevolent sympathies of the public were more directed into this channel. We would eschew all false sentiment on this subject; and while we would contend for a full measure of punishment being in every case inflicted in proportion to the crime, we conceive that the ruin of the moral character, which the execution of the law, under present circumstances, so inevitably tends to effect, is what is not contemplated by the law itself, and is a result which no human authority can deliberately sanction without incurring guilt of the most awful kind.

The system of discipline in the great prisons of the United States is such, that a sufficient degree of punishment may be inflicted upon culprits, and yet their moral character not necessarily tainted during its infliction. Added to this most valuable feature of the system, which effects all that the law requires, without doing irreparable injury to the criminal, are the immense benefits to the prisoners, of being compelled during their confinement to practice some useful handicraft. They are thus furnished with the means of honestly earning their own subsistence when they are let loose again upon society. Although the saving to the community would, by the adoption of some such system, be considerable, as is proved by its operation in the adjoining States, still its great claims upon the support of the philanthropist are to be found in its moral tendencies, as preventing instead of encouraging vice, which latter, the state of our prisons unquestionably does.

So enormous do we regard the evils of the prison discipline in this Province, that its reformation ought to be made a matter of the gravest public concern, and that it should not be any longer delayed. The Legislature are in possession of the Reports of Commissioners on this subject, and something definite should now be done. It is to be hoped, as promised, that the New Gaol of this city will be soon applied to use, and hence some abatement of the evils that arise from the occupation of the present one, may be anticipated. It is, however, most disgraceful that violent bickerings about purely theoretical political questions, should form almost the sole occupation of the self-styled people's representatives, when the subject of prison discipline and many other practical questions, which call loudly for legislative interference, are shamefully neglected from year to year.

The signal victory by the Texans over the Mexicans, and capture of SANTA ANNA, on account of which we published the other day, still wants confirmation; though many collateral circumstances render it certain that a battle has been fought between the parties, and that it resulted in the defeat of the invaders.

The *Albany Journal* says that, "the canal packet boats plying between Rochester and Buffalo, are now running opposition lines; in consequence of which, the price of fare on that route has been reduced to *fifty cents*. The Buffalo and Detroit steamboats have also brought down their fare to the same price. *Passage is five dollars, and meals is one dollar.* Thus a man can travel in the best style from Rochester to Detroit, a distance of nearly 500 miles, for $5.50." Who would miss seeing the one thousand and one cities of the west, for $3.50.

The effects of the land speculations in Maine last year, are beginning to be seriously felt, and many who were deeply affected by the mania have been irretrievably ruined; yet a new speculation in the purchase of Lands in the wilds of the West, is this spring received into favour by the American public.

A man named SALMON was tried in the Central Criminal Court, London, on the 6th April, and found guilty of manslaughter, for having recommended and sold Monsanon's Pills to a Captain JOHN MACKENZIE, which caused his death. The Jury recommended him to mercy on the ground of his being the vendor only of the pills.

We understand that the degree of M. D. will be conferred on four young gentlemen of the medical faculty of McGill College, in the room of the Natural History Society, at two o'clock this afternoon. The public will be welcome to witness this interesting spectacle.

VALUABLE CARGO.—We understand that the *Toronto*, COLLINSON, arrived in port yesterday, has on board the most valuable cargo ever brought to this port from London, the customhouse value there amounting to £80,000 *sterling*.

The *Canadian Eagle* Steamer arrived yesterday afternoon, after being aground about thirty hours at the foot of the Richelieu, without receiving any damage. The cause of her grounding was owing to a cloud, or large body of fog that intercepted the lights, and caused her to run out of the channel. She struck about 12 o'clock on Friday night, where she remained till the following tide lifted her off. She was then taken to the beach and allowed to lie till the tide left her dry, so as to admit of the seams being temporarily caulked. She will go on the blocks, when she reaches Quebec, to be repaired. A very flattering and complimentary letter, signed by all the cabin passengers, has been presented to Captain VAUGHAN for his superior skill in managing the vessel on the occasion, and quieting the fears of the passengers.

During the greater part of Sunday and yesterday we had heavy rains, with a cold bleak easterly wind.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING COURIER.

SIR,—That the state of political parties in Canada has been but imperfectly known at home, is not to be wondered at, when we consider the activity of the Radical party on the one hand, and the hooding course of one portion of the Constitutional press, combined with the general indifference of the mother country to Colonial affairs.

It is, however, a truth, which, from the numerous and powerful ties that an enlightened friend is more dangerous than an enemy; and many sufficient reasons, which will occur to the mind of every one, might be adduced in support of the assertion. In such a light, I consider the present line of conduct pursued by a contemporary journal in reference to the Commissioners appointed by the Home Government to enquire into the state of the Province. Every thing that open abuse and unqualified calumny could do, formerly proved to be the result of the Radical party, has been surpassed by the editor of the *Herald*. Whatever proceeds from the highest authority known in our Constitution, is surely entitled to the respectful consideration of the subject; but the principles advanced, and the sentiments penned by this journal, are derogatory to the character of a British subject, and an insult to the Sovereign authority. The unseemly epithets so grossly bestowed by that journal, I consider as none to the advantage either of the conducted savage, or to the personal honour or character of the Editor. Indeed, so far from the subject of the attack in the Commissioners, that he cannot upon the ground of mere ignorance, be accused of the charge, he is apparently oblivious to, or, what Cicero, as he appears to consider himself, one day advancing principles that he would do honour to the Authors of all the Rebellions, and the most swelling himself for the liberty of the press, under a free and liberal Government, to insult with impunity the Sovereign, whose is the sole, and honourable, of the Constitution of society. Like the Jackass of the ballads, he thinks to shake his political hemisphere with a rank bray. Mr. Editor, he reminds me of the universal wonder of a Tom Cotton's memoirs, who

"Kick out his small toes, with the air of a king
Who believed a beauty, a paragon every thing."

Seriously, however, if I were asked which journal affected the most mischief to the Constitutional cause, the Radical *Herald*, or the Tory *Gazette*, I should unquestionably affirm the latter. Let that journal be circulated throughout Britain, enlightened and liberal as is the country, at the present time, and it would make more converts to the Patriotic Battles than a thousand Rodmuchs could effect. The people of Britain would consider that as a very bad cause indeed which required the support of such a journal as the *Herald* of this day.

May 22. AN ARMED-CANADIAN.

Lower Canada.

An immense tide of emigration towards Illinois and Michigan has commenced to flow, and which promises to continue during the summer. It is thought to Canadian farmers, who are selling off their property, and are best upon establishing themselves in the far west.—These benefited have left St. John's this season with this intention, principally young men, and almost every steamboat that leaves carries off from twenty to thirty. It is said that some Canadians, who have been in Michigan and were successful in their operations, have returned to Lower Canada, and their representations have been of a nature to excite many of their friends to follow their example. We understand also that many Canadians have proceeded to the Eastern Townships, with a view to settlement, and are generally inter-marrying with the daughters of American farmers.—*Montreal Gazette.*

The timber and general cargo vessels arrive very slowly. The prevailing winds have been much against them, and we have not had a real North Easter this spring, and none of those cooling winds increasing at night which last nearly a month as have been frequently the case in May and June. If the vessels do not hasten early, there must be a hurry on the dispatch for the second voyage, or idleness afterwards.—*Quebec Gazette.*

SIR JOHN COLBORNE.—This gallant soldier, in his long course of service, has given many proofs of his generosity and feeling. Major Colborne was, we believe, aide-de-camp to the lamented Sir John Moore, and in his dispatches the General spoke highly of him. The model which Sir John Colborne was outlined acquainted was great, though unfortunate, but like his commander, he shared the battle of the 16th January, under the attack of the reserve by Soult, with very superior numbers where he received a very severe wound, from which, indeed, his friends thought he would recover. He was, however, overlooked, and on the passage a medical officer of the name of Grassot, was specially assigned to attend him. This gentleman is Dr. Grassot, now resident for a number of years in Quebec. Sir John Colborne, who had passed over Quebec, came for his passage, and, on his arrival at the house, put made it a duty to call on his former friend, who has now also grown gray and infirm in the service.—*Ib.*

PRESENTATION OF A SILVER CUP TO CAPTAIN GRANDY OF THE "CITY OF WATERFORD."—This day at noon, a handsome Silver Cup and Cover, purchased by a subscription amongst the merchants, was presented to Captain Grandy, in the Exchange Reading Room, as a testimony of the high sense they entertain of his industry and seamanship, in having, during the season the navigation is open to this port, performed three voyages, out and home, between Quebec and Ports of the United Kingdom.

Shortly after 12 o'clock, a considerable number of the Merchants, and other gentlemen connected with shipping, assembled at the Exchange Room, when the Cup being produced, was presented to Captain Grandy by George Pemberton and Thomas Trotter, Esquires, when the former gentleman addressed the worthy Captain as follows:—

"SIR,—On the part of the Merchants of Quebec, we beg to request your acceptance of the accompanying Silver Cup, presented by them in token of the high sense which they entertain of your energy and professional skill in performing three voyages from the United Kingdom to this Port, in the season of 1835, between the 12th of April to the 10th December,—wishing you all the success in your profession, which your enterprising exertions so eminently merit."

Capt. Grandy replied in the following words:—

"GENTLEMEN,—I have to request that you will be pleased to convey to the Merchants of Quebec, the expression of my grateful sense of their kindness in noticing in so handsome a manner, my humble exertions to advance the interests of the Trade. I trust that the Merchants of Quebec will long enjoy that commercial prosperity, by which they are at present happily distinguished."

The Cup is of handsome shape, ornamented at the base with fluting, leaves of vine and frosted silver. On one side is represented a ship under sail, with a floating pennant, and the name of the ship, *City of Waterford*, is seen on her flag. On the other side is the following inscription, beautifully engraved:—"Presented to EDWARD GRANDY, Master of the Ship City of Waterford, by the Merchants of Quebec, as a mark of the high sense they entertain of his diligence and naval skill, in performing three voyages to the Port of Quebec from the United Kingdom in the Season of 1835."

The cost of the Cup, which is very handsome, was £32 10s. Sterling.

Captain Grandy quits the *City of Waterford* to take the command of the new ship, *Robert Fleming*, of which he is part owner, and which is now at Quebec, and will receive her between this Port and Liverpool. She will be ready for sea on the 20th instant, and will carry with her the best wishes of all that she may prove as speedy and successful under the command of Mr. Grandy, as the *City of Waterford* has shown of late, that the vessel he has been entrusted with.—*Quebec Mercury.*

On Saturday, while coasting the river, the *Sloughbeck* lost her main-top gallant mast and a boy, who was on it, fell upon the main hatch grating, which was partly open, and he lodged there, without receiving any injury, except having his trousers torn to pieces, and he used to tell he had an uneasy Nelson, though he never felt particularly easy on the 19th instant, having been presented a knight of fully 10 years. There was no medical gentleman on board who attended the sailor; he was, however, carried to the house, put under a duty to call on his former friend, who has now also grown gray and infirm in the service.—*Ib.*

Upper Canada.

FIRE.—A barn, the property of Mr. Robert Gardiner, of Hamilton, on Saturday last, accidentally took fire, from a spark of lighted wood which a child was carrying across the yard. We regret to say a large quantity of oats, about 300 bushels of wheat, with other grain and property, was entirely destroyed.—*Brockville Recorder.*

United States.

DIVIDENDS.—The Receivers of the Mutual Insurance Company have declared a dividend of eighty per cent. on the amount of the claims upon that Institution, payable the 23d instant. The Receivers of the Atlas Fire Insurance Company have declared a dividend of thirty per cent. payable on the 20th instant. The Receivers of the Union Insurance Company have declared a dividend of twenty per cent. payable on the 1st of June.—*N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.*

ABERNETHY AT HOME FAVOURED.—The celebrated John Parsetti, the stickiest and best comedian that Covent Garden Theatre ever boasted, gave Tokely some good advice on the subject of drink. Tokely was an excellent comedian, and could be have conquered his libulous propensities, must have reached a lofty eminence; but he sank beneath the vice, and added one more name to the long, long list of men of mind who have yielded to the triumphs of rum. Fawcett admired his talent, and did his best to wean him from his practices, but in vain. Tokely came drunk to the rehearsal more than once, and Fawcett, irritated at his conduct, spoke to him thus:—"What a beast you must be, to will in this way so early in the morning. Look at yourself, and if the liquor has not drowned every spark of shame, blush while I draw your picture:—Unwashed hands and face—a long beard—foul linen and dirty boots—a fiery and loathsome breath—an unsteady gait—and the countenance of an idiot.—You have brought in obliged pay to your friends, of defiance to your enemies, of annoyance to your manager, a curse to your family, and a disgrace to the profession you otherwise might honour. That is what you gain for a momentary gratification. If you love drink, and nothing course able to stop you, at least get drunk like a gentleman, and never fall you have dined." Tokely was too blue to remember any of this sermon more temperately, but the last line. The next morning he was called to rehearsal at ten o'clock. He entered the stage door and stood before Fawcett most obviously serious. The manager shook his head more in sorrow than in anger; but Tokely cocking his hat, and buttoning up his coat in all the swaggering confidence of right, said he would commence. "Its well, Sir," said Fawcett, "I have followed your advice, its all right! I've dined."—*Monthly Magazine.*

MISCELLANEOUS PURSUITS.—An Edinburgh gentleman of the last century, notwithstanding his profound contempt of astrology, was in the habit of consulting the stars in matters of gallantry, and in pursuit of the fair sex: he was also, however, remarkable for a ridiculous degree of niggardliness. One day, a young lady, the daughter of one of his friends, paid him a visit at his suburban villa near the coast, and was received with a profusion of his usual complimentes. Taking her to see his observatory, he exhibited with great triumph a remarkably fine pine-apple, which he assured her should be here, and, as it happened to be quite ripe, she should have it immediately. The lady, who knew her entertainer well, had a shrewd suspicion that his gallantry on the present occasion had carried him somewhat beyond the boundary of his intentions. She was resolved, however, not to be thus baulked of her prize; and possessing a lively offhanded manner, she proceeded to instruct upon the map between the apple herself. "Nay, my lovely young lady," said Mr. ——, who appeared to be rather disconcerted at the turn matters were likely to take, "you shall not fatigue those delicate arms with such an unmanly load; I pray you may depend upon it I shall send John (the gardner) into town with it to morrow on purpose, along with some other nice things besides." But Miss B., wholly considering that, in such a case the property of the bird in the bush would be lost to her, hush! hush! was inapplicable, would not listen to this proposal, but continued to importune him in the most playful manner imaginable, till he was at last fairly forced to yield, which, notwithstanding his sordid propensities, he did with the worst grace possible;—and the apple of contention was carried off in triumph.

A DISCOVERY.—No maxim is more erroneous than that which says that "love letters are only interesting to the party addressing, and the party addressed." A lady's letter, in the perfect purity of her heart, is beautiful in proportion, and distinguished in station, cannot but have charms for the least curious. If they involve a piquant story, all the better. A packet of characteristic opinions, from a lady whose name has been recently recorded for some time past, has just been discovered, and will appear in the *Court Journal* on Saturday. They show how prudent it is to compose letters for who can tell in how many ways that the writer may yet turn out to be a Princess.

THE TRUNK OF DUNS.—The title of Duke was conferred on Napoleon with that of the Duke of an ancient. It is derived from the Latin word "Dux," which signifies a leader or guest. The first person created a Duke was Edward, the Black Prince. He died before his father Third, conferred on him the title of Duke of Cornwall—a title which, though afterwards shared in the Principality of Wales, has ever since been possessed by the heir apparent to the crown. The celebrated Henry Plantagenet was the first who assumed the title. Quakers were not, having, from many of the period, they were only confirmed, with the exception of the Princes of the Blood Royal, on those who had distinguished themselves in the service of their country. The prevailing impression is that they did not begin to be conferred in the beginning of the seventeenth century. In 1572, the title was entirely extinct. It was revived by James the First, in the person of Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset, who was created Duke of the Isle of Wight.—*Monthly Magazine.*

LOVE AND WAR.—The Earl of Surrey and family are passing the Easter recess here. The Earl of Surrey's chief navigation ship (the Donjewell Castle) arrived off Gravesend on the 19th instant, and was seen off the Nab Light on Monday morning. The Silver Fleece, standard on Sabbath, early on the night of the 21st ultimo, was seen off the Nab Light, and was expected to come up with the Donjewell, that very morning, but Commodore Napier, taken in London for Sheerness, was discharged on the beach in a much damaged state, and has since been shipped for the dock yard, Portsmouth. The ship requires an extensive repair. The coal sloop stranded at the same time, and in the same place, is now a wreck. Five colliers arrived opposite yesterday on Monday, one several merchants' stack of coals being exhausted.—*Brighton Gazette.*

EXPENSIVE OF RAILWAYS.—At Middlesbrough, a few years ago an obscure fishing village, now becomes a centre of the iron port town on the river Tees, below Stockton, on laying the foundation of an exchange, it was stated, among other remarkable facts connected with railways, that the projectors of the Stockton and Darlington rail. road only ventured to anticipate, as the great, the probable export of coal from the Tees, a quantity not exceeding 10,000 tons per annum. This successful undertaking has not been the [illegible] 20,000 [illegible] 20,000 [illegible] exported from that river. The Clarence railway, now recently brought into operation, runs to the river Tees, a coal field south east of the city of Durham; down the navigable valley stone on this line a new railroad, upwards of twenty miles in length, is projected, terminating at the valuable lime-stone quarries near Forterley, in Weardale. Merchandize and agricultural produce are estimated to yield an income of £31,370 towards the total estimated revenue of £34,357, the remainder being produced by coal and lime; coal being charged at the moderate rate of 1d. per ton per mile, and lime 1½d. per ton per mile, and lime 1½d. per ton per mile, and lime 1½