

## REPORTS.

The Government did me the honor to approve of, and adopt my offer, and the reception of my report to the Government upon my return to St. John's, and that of my report of last year, embodying some of my observations at home, by the Government and Legislature, leave me no room to suppose that my exertions were without success.

Corrected in some things, and established in others, regarding my views of the system of mechanical non-restraint in the treatment of the insane, I benefitted by personal observation of the effect of good treatment, and by communication with those excellent Physicians who had practised it; and the professional architectural details of the new Asylum I submitted to the examination of the resident Architect at Hanwell, requesting him, if necessary, to furnish me with an entirely new plan, irrespective of that of Mr. Purcell and myself,—as we had no object in promoting the adoption of an inferior plan beyond the question of expense—£3000 being our limit. Upon this (although the sum appeared too small to the Hanwell Architect) that gentleman undertook to do as I requested; and further, upon the commencement of the building at St. John's, he promised to select and purchase the necessary items at the Hanwell contract prices; thereby ensuring the supply of a cheaper and better article through his experience and position than could be procured in general; and providing against the casualty of a bad or inappropriate material or manufacture being sent out. In constructing his plan, I desired him to provide for the heating of the building by steam or hot air, should its adoption hereafter be deemed advisable. Before leaving Hanwell, as I could not get the plan finished in time to bring with me, I, of course, bargained for its price; and with great liberality, Mr. Harris agreed to take £15 stg., instead of £20, which was his charge, upon my representing to him that I was employing him, in some degree, upon my own responsibility.

The plan referred to, in every way satisfactory in itself, awaits the time when the rapidly improving condition of the colony shall have so far advanced as to justify the Government in erecting the long projected Lunatic Asylum.

Upon my return from my mission, I was painfully convinced that the Government, from the embarrassed state of the finances of the colony, had determined that the erection of a Lunatic Asylum should be deferred for a considerable time. But having gone so far into the matter, upon my urgent representations, as the Cottage which had served for a Fever Hospital was still in the hands of the Government, I was instructed by His Excellency to fit up this small building as a temporary retreat for the Insane, and to commence their proper treatment, in so far as circumstances would permit. I need not say how cheerfully I set to work to effect a long cherished object, even situated so differently from what I had hoped, and reasonably expected to have been, at the commencement of my undertaking. And whatever has been accomplished during the two years' occupation of Palk's Farm, in carrying out a new system, has been done without additional cost to the Colony; for, as I showed in my report for 1848, the rent, wages, and all other charges forming the annual expenditure of the Provisional Asylum, did not amount to so much money as had been incurred under the old system in the Hospital. During the past two years my duties have been to instruct the attendants from day to day; to treat the Insane themselves, and to superintend the economy of a constantly increasing household; besides the difficult task of attempting to provide internal and external accommodation, by a sort of daily patchwork, for Lunatics in a state of freedom, combined with security.

But during the past year (1849) a great increase of the numbers of insane patients has taken place, viz.: from 23 to 42, being an increase of three-fourths. The increase of expense, however, has been but one-third, including the cost of ten other patients, treated during the