

lic auctions are permitted to be held every day in the principal business street. At one corner may be seen a collection of old stoves and decaying furniture, with the auctioneer standing on a three-legged table, shouting out the merits of some antiquated frying-pan; at another, and not very far distant, we catch sight of a piece of red calico flaunting in the breeze, and hear the stentorian lungs of the seller resounding in praise of its colour and texture, and so on along the range of vision. This taking place opposite to the doors of the principal hotel, is little calculated to convey a favourable idea of the business activity of the place—faint but distinct glimmerings come through the mind of Dickens' pictures of Bailiffs' Sales and Rag Fair.

It is somewhat singular that the most prominent object the spectator sees in approaching or entering nearly every city with which we are acquainted is its prison—as if it were a monitor put to warn the visitor against any breach of those laws, under the security of which he was moving about and enjoying himself. So it is with Kingston, on entering the bay from the westward—the Provincial Penitentiary is the principal object of interest. A large and apparently secure place it is. Horribly dismal to look at, and much more so to think of. In spite of all exertions to render this system of punishment as complete as can be, at considerable expense, statesmen are fast losing confidence in it. It is not found to be productive of that amount of moral reform which was anticipated, and daily experience shews that the confirmed offender gains no good, while the novice in crime runs a great risk of being confirmed in his evil course. In the meantime it is the only effective institution for long-continued personal restraint in the country, and is generally well filled. Indeed, it may be questioned whether it is not a happy mode of existence to many a poor creature, whose physical defects or acquired habits unfit them for obtaining a livelihood in a less constrained state of existence. Here they are provided with a sufficient amount of wholesome nourishment, and made to keep themselves in health by proper occupation and exercise. It is a premium upon laziness and waywardness; nor are instances wanting in which it can be shewn that crime has been committed for the purpose of

obtaining the shelter and comfort it bestows.

There is one advantage which Kingston possesses over Toronto, for which its inhabitants cannot be too grateful. The number of pleasant outlets for recreation which exist. An evening's row up the Cataract to Kingston Mills, is a treat in which many a Torontonion would rejoice on a sultry summer's day. It was here we saw, for the first time in Canada, the delightful river scenery so familiar to us in boyhood. The bold overhanging rocky banks covered with parasitical drapery, the cool refreshing pools, in which we will be bound thereported some of our finny friends of yore—and here too we pulled a bunch of green filberts in their long jackets. The rushes—the lilies—all, all were here. But for those stupendous piles of masonry before us with their large gates of wood, we never could have believed we were on the far famed Rideau Canal. Then there is the daily trip up the Bay of Quinté to Picton, Napanee, Belleville and Trentport, with all the varied scenery around the tortuous journey. The visit to Amherst and the cruise among the Thousand Isles which dot the waters before them. These are all resources which cannot be over-rated, where, as in this climate, retreat from the sultriness and confinement of City life is so desirable and so necessary for healthful enjoyment.

We have said that this is the easiest and quickest point of communication with the neighbouring states. Kingston is five hours nearer New York than any other point of Upper Canada, and an enterprising company is now cutting a canal through one of the Islands, which will reduce the distance between Kingston and Cape Vincent from twenty-one to twelve and a-half miles, by this means they will much facilitate the trade between the two countries and forge a link which will bind still more closely the growing bonds of union between them. The inevitable current thus given to the commerce of Western Canada, is truly unfortunate, and would seem to call loudly for some active measures to secure a more speedy and direct communication with the Mother Country. It is a matter of regret, to find individual localities directing all their energies to the furtherance of their individual interests, irrespective of the national prosperity. Until we possess fre-