

erection has proved a great accommodation to the public. It is to be regretted that a building which, elsewhere located, is calculated to be an ornament to the City, should be retired into a dark corner of an obscure lane.

SOTHERN'S LYCEUM is quite a gem in its way, built entirely of wood, but very nicely ornamented both inside and out. It is situated near the corner of Queen-street and Spring Garden Road, and although at some distance from the chief part of the City, is rendered quite a place of resort in the Summer and Winter evenings by the very excellent theatrical performances that without regard to expense, Mr. Sothern produces.

#### COMMERCIAL.

The very geographical position of Halifax, apart from other considerations, sufficiently indicates it as destined, in the short future, to become the great commercial mart of British North America. We have not, just now, very much to boast of in this respect; but then, the Halifax merchant has been, ever, proverbially "slow but sure." So surely does he ordinarily move, that a failure,—a bankruptcy,—of any magnitude, has so far been an event of very rare occurrence. Amid a crash which, but as yesterday, reduced to powder many a colossal firm on both sides the wide sea, the commercial fabric of our little city,—comparatively small and, as might be fancied, feeble,—stood the shock bravely, only vibrating upon its broad foundations.

MERCHANT'S EXCHANGE READING ROOM.—The conveniences accruing to the Commercial community from the foundation and present judicious management of this Institution, we have some fear, are not sufficiently appreciated by the class of citizens most interested. The very comfortable "lounge" which, in a Reading Room, is here provided for gentlemen who would "kill time" and *ennui*, might insure the institution a more lucrative patronage; but the true value of this establishment lies in this,—it forms a common centre, towards which all the rays of commercial intelligence, foreign and home, shed upon our City will naturally tend. It is a place where

"Merchants most should congregate"