

ican agricultural population to the folly and iniquity of the course which their legislature has been pursuing, they are not so shrewd and quick-sighted as they have usually been accounted. When a farmer or a cotton planter is called upon to pay taxes from which he has been hitherto exempt, he will naturally ask himself why this increase of burthen should be laid upon his shoulders; and he can hardly avoid coming to something like this conclusion: "I must give more for my tea and coffee, in order that I may also have the pleasure of paying a higher price for hats and coats, my shirts and my stockings. I do not exactly see my account in that. The manufacturer can afford to pay taxes on his groceries, because he obtains higher prices for his products. But where is my compensation? It seems to me that this tariff is merely a scheme for making me pay the manufacturer's taxes, and my own also.—*Manchester Guardian.*

For the "Spirit of the Times."

One of the most amiable dispositions in children, and most requisite for their happiness, being that of self-denial to assist the distressed. If you think the following lines (in honor of children who reserved a portion of their Christmas dinner for a prisoner) worthy of a place in the "Spirit," they are at your service:—

Dear children you'r offering these tributes to Heaven,
From a feast by the liberal prepared,
Was the sweetest of incense, by charity given,
And by sufferers with gratitude shared.
Dear girls! bright examples! may pleasures attend
On your steps while you virtue pursue;
And may you for ever be blessed with a friend,
Like yourselves—lovely, gentle and true!
F. Mc.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

PURSUANT to a Requisition, signed by 39 Freeholders and Inhabitants of the County of Cape Breton, I hereby give notice

for a stroll on the Point of the Splendor of a new building in this bridge. I served the purpose of a prison. I were confined ladies of rank. There was a regulation, that a republican soldier might marry a noble female prisoner, and thus effect her liberation. At the same time, however, he became responsible for her conduct. If it chanced that she was afterwards found guilty of any aristocratic complicity, the husband was at once considered as an accomplice.—The ladies in the prison wishing no doubt for liberty, called to us, holding at the same time billets-doux in their hands, 'Citoyen, citoyen.' We were well aware of the meaning of this. The billet-doux contained an offer of marriage. As there were some pretty girls among them, we immediately inquired for which of us the notes were intended, and they forthwith explained. The note intended for me contained an invitation to come into the jailer's lodge, and have a conversation. Away we went to the jailer's and sent for the parties in question. When they came, each one instantly rushed into the arms of her chosen squire. Mine was most affectionate and tender. I could save her life, she said; she was possessed of considerable wealth, a castle in La Vendee, &c. We sent for biscuits and wine, and, partly influenced by their

THE FREE PRESS.

SYDNEY, DECEMBER 23, 1842.

PUBLIC MEETING.

A Public Meeting of the Inhabitants and Freeholders of this County, will be held at the Court House on Monday next, for the purpose of expressing the wishes of the PEOPLE respecting various contemplated measures of REFORM, deeply affecting their welfare. On so important an occasion, we hope to see the Court House thronged by the intelligent and independent FARMERS, MECHANICS, and FISHERMEN of the County—by men having an interest in the soil—who love their country, and long to see it happy and prosperous.

The Resolutions intended to be brought forward, are such as may, without impropriety, be concurred in by EVERY INDIVIDUAL who seeks the welfare and advancement of his country, or would transmit to his children the priceless inheritance of freedom.

We trust that a spirit of unanimity and good feeling may pervade the Meeting, that wrangling and contention may be avoided, and that men of all parties may be found ready to unite for the furtherance of the public weal.

The influence of example is powerful; and this Meeting, if conducted with spirit and energy, will doubtless be followed by similar ones throughout Nova Scotia—if the genius of Reform be not wholly dormant in that country. The Legislature will not refuse the wishes of the people, when fearlessly and unequivocally expressed.

of Mr. Delavan's lecture would have been quite as apparent, had it been unaccompanied by the supplementary address to which he had just listened.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The first meeting of this Society took place on Wednesday evening last, and was numerously attended. The introductory Address was delivered by R. B. Dickson, Esq. It was listened to with attention, and received the unqualified commendation of the audience—any comment from ourselves, therefore, would be superfluous.

On the same evening, C. H. Delavan, Esq., American Consul, was unanimously elected an Honorary Member of the Mechanics' Institute. He expressed his acknowledgments in a brief but eloquent speech—in which he spoke of the wonderful advancement which had been made by the mechanic arts within a few years, and dwelt on the surprising triumphs over the obstacles of nature which enlightened and ingenious MECHANICS have achieved.

For multiplicity of inventions, the nineteenth century is indeed without a precedent. Man, in his natural state, is the most helpless of created beings: he can neither fly like the eagle, swim like the seal, nor burrow like the mole. The horse excels him in speed, and the elephant in strength. But, aided by the MIND and SKILL of the Mechanic, he may with equal safety soar above the clouds, explore the depths of the ocean, or ransack the bowels of the earth for treasure: drawn by locomotives, he may travel with a celerity which shall

his sense, the fleetest courser; while he is in some degree pre-empted engines of any he may elevate the bad, or traduce the good. This influence differs from that of others who operate on the public mind, in that, while theirs is confined to particular and distant occasions, his acts incessantly. The orator agitates only while he is speaking: the preacher is hemmed in by the walls of the church and the limits of a Sabbath day; the statesman seldom steps out of his bureau; the man of science is fixed among his retorts and crucibles; and the teacher has an existence only in his school-room. But the editor is perpetually at work. As the mails carry his speculations from one city to another, and from one state to another, his actions spread like the waves of a pool, in concentric circles, and before the last ripple has subsided, the water at the centre are again disturbed. Even while he sleeps his thoughts are awake, they are diffusing good or evil, they are entering other minds, to mould them to a better or worse condition: they rest not,—stay not,—on, still on they wing. They flight. and whether benign or pestiferous, are producing their inevitable impressions.

Why is a bankrupt's property like a riddle that no one can solve? Because it is given up.

undertaking,—and we may here remark that the "Day Star," is as well worthy of patronage as any paper published in the Province—with the exception of—the "Spirit of the Times."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Rev. Wm. Elder, of Sydney Mines, has sent to this office, for publication, a letter disclaiming any participation in the late controversy between Lieut. McKinnon and Dr. T. E. Jeans. As we have formed a resolution to publish nothing further on this subject, from either party, we cannot deviate from our purpose. Suffice it to say, that Mr. Elder disavows, most clearly and explicitly, having at all had a hand in the matter.

LAUNCHED, at the North Bar, on Wednesday last, from the Ship-yard of Messrs. Archibald & Co., a fine Brig of about 200 tons burthen, named the "CREMONA."

SHORT PATENT SERMON.

Dow, Jr., of the Sunday Mercury, in a late sermon on the importance of preparing to die, says to the ladies:—Ah! soon those sparkling eyes will lose their lustre in the dim evening twilight of existence. Time will kiss every particle of paint from your cheeks—the roses will fade in the wreath of loveliness, and you will be no more an object of attraction than a dried mullein stalk in a sheep pasture. To men he says:—

What is man but a vegetable that springs from the dust; buds, blossoms, ripens, sows its seed, and then amalgamates with its original dust. In the Spring time of youth he flourishes like a squash vine near a barn yard—in the Summer time of manhood he exhibits both fruit and flowers—in the Autumn of age he withers and decays—and then the winter of death hides him forever from the

the she... man? Justified... authorised me... ed the confusion. Yes, sir, authorised you!" "Oh!" said the minister, with a sly glance alternately at each, "if you don't approve of it, I'll forbid the banns next Sunday."—"Sir," said the lady, "you have been too officious already; nobody requested you to do anything; you had better mind your own business!" "Why, my pretty dear!" said he, patting her on the cheek, "what I have done has been all in the way of business, and if you do not like to wait for three publications, I advise you, sir"—turning to the gentleman—"to procure the license, the ring, and—the fee, and then the whole matter may be settled as soon as tomorrow." "Well," replied the gentleman, addressing the widow, "with your permission, I will get them, and we may be married in a day or two." "Oh! you may both do as you please," pettishly, yet nothing loth, replied the lady. It was but a day after, the parson received his fee, the bridegroom his bride, and the widow for the last time threw her gloves over the back of the pew; and it was afterwards said that all parties were satisfied with their gains.