

Durham, every exertion was made—by the application of the most distinguished talent and activity—to effect the disappearance of all abuses and defects in these institutions, and to secure such systems in their management, as might no longer endanger their efficiency and prosperity. To these ends a separate department of inspection and surveillance was created. The abandonment—I shall not say recall—of the government by this able and distinguished statesman, put an end to the fulfilment of the intentions he had in view with regard to every public institution in the Province. These intentions, on leaving the country, his Lordship personally assured me would be acted upon by his successor, and I have now before me, a letter to that effect from his physician, Mr. John Dorati, formerly physician to our most gracious Queen's father, the Duke of Kent.

It is not, however, to be understood, that so important a measure has since that period been entirely overlooked by succeeding administrations, and we have at the present moment, members in the government, who have long entertained the same opinion as Lord Durham, on the absolute necessity of effecting organic changes in the general government and economy of these public institutions, and who have always been impressed with the conviction that *"the amount of good secured can only be commensurate with the laws and discipline which govern them."*

It is, however, reserved to the present liberal government of the country, to originate a measure which will maintain a permanent barrier of protection to a numerous class of fellow-beings, whose moral and physical infirmities have rendered the establishment of such institutions indispensably necessary, both for the safety of society, and the calls of suffering humanity.

You will, perhaps, permit me in conclusion, to subjoin the observations of writers of great practical experience, and who have devoted many years to the important subject of ameliorating the character and condition of our public institutions, comprising Public Hospitals, Jails, Lunatic Asylums, Quarantine, &c.

"Nearly all our public charitable institutions, and others, are under the immediate control and supervision of certain commissioners appointed by government, and the executive management is intrusted to officers, under guidance of whatever rules and regulations the commissioners may, in their wisdom, dictate, but which, in time, have proved the source of incalculable mischief and trouble; yet, supposing that they have been prescribed with the best views and intentions, *"rule has no power to excite themselves, and are but a dead letter, when the*