

with, and their places supplied by men less likely to make the Institution, an instrument to further their own designs, sacrificing everything until they have been attained.

We beg to call the attention of our readers to a favorable opening for practice, in a flourishing village in the Eastern Townships. From what we understand, it is a practice well worthy the attention of a medical gentleman having at his disposal the small amount of capital required. We beg to refer to the advertisement.

Our space is so crowded this month, that we have been compelled to forego the insertion of several editorial articles.

The Government—The House of Assembly—The Lunatic Asylum.

(From the Toronto Examiner.)

Much discussion and the most painful disclosures having taken place in the Legislature respecting the Lunatic Asylum, we shall throw together, for the convenience of our readers, the principal events that have marked the humiliating history of this ill-governed and ill-fated Institution. The Rev. Mr. Grasett, the Rev. Mr. Roaf, Martin, J. O'Beirne, John Eastwood, Dr. William R. Beaumont, and others, appear from the returns made to Parliament to have been the first Commissioners in the year 1813, and the two first named Priests have contrived, up to the present time, to figure conspicuously in all the mismanagement and discreditable transactions which have degraded our Asylum below any in the civilized world. Dr. Rees was the first Medical Superintendent; and received, as the law then required, his appointment from the Crown, under the high recommendation of the Hon. Dr. Widmer. During his superintendency many gross abuses grew up in spite of his zealous and unremitting efforts to avert and correct them. We shall quote from the entries made by Dr. Rees in the records of the Asylum to show his meritorious exertions and undeserved ill success. As early as the 24th August, 1843, he recorded, as a

spur to the official duty and common humanity of the Commissioners, "That no patient be allowed to go without stockings and shoes, as many are suffering from the neglect of this oft repeated injunction, and it must be immediately enforced." And so little did the Commissioners heed the condition of the lunatics, or the recommendation of the Superintendent, that repetitions of the same order disgrace the records of the Institution—for example, "The male patients appear wholly destitute of stockings or shoes or moccasins." The following entries will show the respective merits of the Superintendent and the Commissioners:—"The cistern provided for the patients' heads, and ordered to be regularly used for that purpose, is not yet in a fit state." Dr. Rees recommended "to ascertain the expense of getting water from the water works,"—but he wholly failed; nor did the Commissioners secure a bath to wash away the filth and ordure even from the most wretched and sordid lunatic. Dr. Rees records, without the slightest avail, the pond or neighboring ground was "So filthy as to demand immediate attention,"—"Tar fumigation imperatively needed in the basement story,"—"The tar fumigation, some time since called for, has not yet been produced." Where amidst the shame thus cast upon them by Dr. Rees were the eyes and noses and consciences of the Commissioners? To this disgraceful catalogue may be added brutal violence, by throttling, fracture of the jaw, and personal violence, in the place of humanity and kindness. Dr. Rees traced, rightly too, these difficulties and brutalities to the prevailing system for managing the servants, who, under a common system of favoritism and patronage, were selected, appointed, retained and dismissed, at the pleasure of the Commissioners, without even a decent regard to the wishes, opinion, or objections of the Medical Superintendent, who was often obliged to retain servants against whom he had preferred frequent and serious charges. Under these circumstances he appealed to Lord Metcalfe, under a Tory Administration, and his Lordship, with a spirit which puts our so-called Reform Government to the blush, adjudged that the medical officer ought to select the servants. This high adjudication was practically and insolently resisted, and successful steps were taken by the Commissioners to effect the removal of Dr. Rees. Unfortunately for him, at the time, the daughter of the Rev. Commissioner Roaf had married Dr. Scott, of this