

permitted without its sanction. This is a most extraordinary position for a Government to find itself in: to hand over the control of its finances to a foreign corporation, the subjects of another Power. What should we think of a bank in a foreign country—say Mexico, or France—having the entire control of the revenue and expenditure of this country? To put the case in writing is to expose its absurdity. No English speaking community in the world would submit to it for a moment. Probably no member of the European family of nations (Turkey excepted) would submit to it under any circumstances. Not even Spain itself, which has been brought by successive instances of bad faith to the lowest depth of financial degradation, would allow foreigners to control her expenditure. But this the Empire of Turkey has had to submit to. And if the Ottoman Porte were to go further and place an Englishman at the head of its financial administration in Constantinople, with power to choose his subordinates, the splendid natural resources of the Empire would be developed in such a manner as immensely to enhance the credit of the State, and correspondingly enrich the whole people. In fact if the whole Government of the country could be in the hands of Englishmen or Frenchmen it would be an enormous material gain to the population and to the world, while the ruling powers at Constantinople might probably be contented enough to have the pageantry and pleasure of reigning without the labor and responsibility of ruling.

The whole transaction, is a singular illustration of the far-reaching influence of the London money market. A number of Englishmen sitting as Directors in the broad room of a bank in London are to discuss and control the whole finances of one of the great empires of the world. Looking at this singular development we cannot but think of that other private London company, incorporated for the purpose of trading with India and managed for a time like any other trading company, but which, by little and little, was led on until it had the whole of that vast realm under its control. The East India Company began by buying and selling tea, it ended by ruling over scores of tributary kings and princes, having armies at its command led by accomplished generals and a thickly populated territory as large as Europe owning its sway. And what this new feature of Turkish finance may lead to who can be bold enough to say?

#### OUR CRIMINALS AND PRISONS.

There are at present five penitentiaries under Dominion control. One of these is situated in each of the four larger Pro-

vinces, besides which there is Rockwood Asylum, at Kingston, which is reserved for criminals of unsound mind. The report of the prison inspectors for last year contains much information of interest to the public, showing as it does the number of prisoners, the cost of maintaining them, the returns from prison labor, and other facts bearing upon our criminal population.

The number of inmates of each of the penitentiaries on the 31st Dec., 1873, and the cost of maintaining them during the year were as follows:—

NAME.	NO.	COST.
Kingston .....	384	\$116,352
Rockwood .....	395	50,715
St. Vincent de Paul .....	122	71,226
St. John .....	104	not given
Halifax .....	62	21,150

There appears at first glance to be considerable disparity between the cost of these various institutions and the number of prisoners confined in each; but their circumstances of each are so different, that a just comparison cannot thus be instituted. For instance, the expenditure of the St. Vincent de Paul prison, situated on the Isle Jesus about 11 miles from Montreal, was swelled last year by expenditure on buildings and organization, and it is well known that the absurd and baneful system exists at St. John and Halifax of confining criminals and common jail prisoners together. The practice has continued ever since confederation and it is high time it was put an end to. The best plan would be, we submit, to construct one good penitentiary for the Maritime Provinces, and get rid alike of the present poor structures and their baneful system.

The condition of the penitentiary and the asylum at Kingston, is spoken of favorably by the directors, Messrs. King, Prieur, and Moylan. The reading of their report, however, leaves the impression that they were rather inclined to take a *couleur de rose* view of matters. One significant fact is the decline in the number of prisoners now incarcerated. In 1868, there were in the penitentiary alone 833; at the close of last year, they had dwindled down to 384. The Warden is justified, we think, in concluding from this fact that there has been a decrease of crime. The cost of keeping each prisoner was \$3.36 per week, or \$175.20 per year. The average cost at Rockwood Asylum was \$117.41—a material difference which, we fancy, admits of some satisfactory explanation. The returns for penitentiary labor came to \$18,954. An average of 140 men were distributed among Messrs. Evans, Drennan and Offord. They employed them at cabinet, lock and shoemaking, and gave from 35c to 40c per diem for the men's labor. The rate has now been raised to 50c, but even that seems too favor-

able for the contractor. The cash earnings of each convict under contract, were \$135.31, and it is claimed that \$125 is the average for the best American prisons.

There were 148 new admissions to the Penitentiary during 1873, and of these 18 were English, 15 Irish, 7 Scotch, 64 Ontario, 22 Quebec, 16 United States, and the rest straggling. The following further statistics in regard to them will be found interesting:

Catholics .....	53	No Education .....	82
Church of England .....	60	Read only .....	17
Presbyterians .....	11	Read and write .....	105
Methodists .....	20	Abstinent .....	23
Baptists .....	4	Temperate .....	105
Unmarried .....	104	Intemperate .....	20
Married .....	37	Laborers .....	82
Widowed .....	7	All other trades .....	66

The mildness and kindness of the management towards the prisoners at Kingston, is specially praised by the directors. On turning to the list of punishments awarded, however, it seems to us somewhat formidable. During the year there were confined in dark cells 347, in solitary cells 13, admonished 30, deprived of lights 122, deprived of bed, light, or fire 156, debarred school 1, confined in their own cells 7, and number who lost remission 175. Besides all this, 10 convicts were sentenced to receive 24 lashes each, of which 116 were inflicted, and on the 4th September last one prisoner received 36 lashes. This may be better, for aught we know, than the punishment record of previous years; but, if so, we are inclined to think there is still ample room for further improvement. At St. Vincent de Paul prison, we observe that the cat was also used 11 times, but it does not appear to have been resorted to at St. John or Halifax.

During last summer (1873) the directors visited several American prisons, and they found the discipline "strict and Draconian," and they describe the treatment as "harsh, rigorous, and inexorable." They agree with r. Warden Creighton, in saying of the American penitentiaries, "in none of them are the convicts so healthy, and if I may use the expression, so happy looking as with us. Their countenances have a sullen, haggard, bleached look, the very opposite of happy." Opinions will differ. The writer went carefully through the Auburn Penitentiary, New York, a few weeks ago, and the impression made on his mind was that the prisoners there were better looking, quite as well fed, and had a great deal easier times than those at Kingston. In fact, hundreds of them seemed to be doing little or nothing, and the discipline, judging from appearances, was very far from being of a harsh or inexorable character. The directors may have visited other American prisons than Auburn, but we hope discipline is not more relaxed at Kingston than