

build new ones upon the plan of costing as much as possible. Why, I calculate that our own union-house will cost as much as a quarter of the poor's rates of all the parishes in the union for twenty years to come. They must pinch very close to save that, and something more into the bargain.

"I don't understand what you mean, Ben," said the other man, "about its being only part the magistrates' fault; I think it was their fault altogether. Why, when I lived over at Brownswick I saw how the overseers and fellows used to go on. They had eleven parish dinners, as they called them, at the Sun, in the year, and each man of them was allowed half a guinea for his dinner, and there were all kinds of other perquisites. Besides that, they were forever making jobs for each other. There was Mr. Weston, the hatter, found out that the court-yard wanted paving, though it had only been paved twelve months before, and Mr. Greensides, another of the board, had the paving of it; but then as a match for that, Mr. Greensides found out that it would be much better for all the parish boys to have hats instead of caps, and Mr. Weston had the supplying of them. It was so well known