

From W. B. JARVIS, Commissioner Lunatic Asylum, to GEORGE DUGGAN, Esq., M.P.P.

MONTREAL, 6th May, 1846.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your inquiries respecting Dr. Rees, I beg leave to state that in the management of the Asylum, the Commissioners felt that the responsibility was too great for one person to bear, and they frequently recommended the appointment of a consulting physician, to assist in the medical department of the Asylum. Had this recommendation been granted, I have little doubt but that Dr. Rees would now be in the discharge of the duties from which he has been lately relieved. Misunderstandings arose between the Superintendent and the Commissioners, which to the regret of the latter, ended in his removal, and they unanimously joined in a memorial for some remuneration to Dr. Rees, for the loss of his situation, and for injuries which he had received from contusions and blows from the patients.

In conclusion I beg to state that Dr. Rees' labors have been unceasing; that his success (judging from the returns made to the Legislature, from the reports of medical men who have visited the Asylum, and from the satisfaction expressed by several members of the Upper Canada Legislature, who have had an opportunity of witnessing the benefits resulting from the Institution) has been under all the circumstances, great.

Yours, &c.,

W. B. JARVIS.

From Dr. DUNLOP to R. S. JAMESON, V. C.

TORONTO, 22nd April, 1845.

MY DEAR JAMESON,—As I understand you are Chairman of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum,—as a man who has watched over these matters from the drawing of the first

seldom can we tell, that if we knew the force of their temptations, or could make due allowance for the pressure of adverse circumstances, or the absence of early discipline, we should not feel them to be much more deserving of compassion than of reproach?

"Whatever may be the cause of their calamity, it is a delightful thought that

'When nature being oppress'd commands the mind
To suffer with the body.'

the Directors of the Asylum will be enabled by the humane care of their Government to proclaim to all alike that

'What comfort to this great decay may come
Shall be supplied.'

"Nothing can be conceived more desolate than their condition with all the alleviation that man can devise for it. In the expressive language of Scripture, 'their Sun is gone down while it is yet day.' It is not enough for us to say that the fault may have been their own—that 'the corruptible body hath pressed down the soul, and the earthly tabernacle weighed down their mind that mused upon many things.' It is their greatest misfortune, if they have missed that only consolation under affliction, and the only security against the ills of life, which we shall be happy indeed if we can preserve to the end—a constant sense of a superintending Providence, and the mediation of an atoning Saviour—a humble resignation to the will of our wise and bountiful Creator, with a sincere and firm belief in the goodness and wisdom of all His dispensations. It is this check only which can arrest (if any thing can) the arm of the suicide, and fix the wavering reason in the balance when depressed by the calamities, or agitated by the perplexities of life. This only can enable us to say, with the calm assurance which human pride knows not, 'We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.'

"Interesting as this subject is, I feel that an apology is due from me for having presumed to detain you so long. The honor done to this occasion by the attendance of so large an assemblage is a fitting mark of respect to the public authorities of the country under whose auspices this great Provincial work of charity is proceeding. It must be gratifying also to the government who have consented to undertake the office of Commissioners under the Statute, and will animate them in the discharge of their responsible duties. The erection of this Asylum will form hereafter an event of no slight interest in the history of Canada. It will mark the time from which one distressing want has been effectually supplied; and it will shew how earnestly this people, at an early period, desired to emulate the example of their mother country, whose numberless and munificent public charities claim for her a distinction even more glorious than her acknowledged supremacy in arts and arms."