UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK, Nov. 22.

FROM ST. THOMAS.—The ship Jupiter arrived yesterday in a short passage from St. Thomas, bringing letters dated about the tenth inst. which contain the painful intelligence that suspicion had fixed upon Messrs C——& Co. one of the largest American houses,as concerned in the p racti cal vessel Las Damas Argentinas, the crew of which have lately suffered the punishment of death, for the capture of the British brig Carraboo. Both the partners had absconded, and the Governor had offered a reward of 1000 pieces of eight for the apprehension of either of them.

The above is the account as it came to us, and as published in our paper of this morning. We are desired by several highly respectable merchants of this city, and by a gentleman formerly a member of the house of Messrs. Cabot & Co., to state, which we take pleasure in doing, that this is but a partial statement of the circumstances relating to the imputations against them, as parties concerned in the schr. Las Damas Argentinas.—Letters have been received in the city from several houses in St. Thomas stating that Messrs. Cabot & Co. are considered perfectlyinnocent of the charge alleged against them, and that the prevalent opinion was, that these gentlemen would easily remove all unfavourable impressions. We are also informed that a full statement of the facts will shortly be laid before the public. It is proper to add, though not requested so to do, that the gentleman above mentioned, and in whom we have the most perfect confidence, gave us a verbal statement of the facts in the case, and that we are satisfied the public will clear the parties of any dishonourable acts or intentions, when these statements are published. Editors will therefore do them the justice to add this to our unqualified statement of this morning.—*Jour. of Com.*

Two gentlemen of this city bagged, a few days since, on Long Island, 50 brace of quail, in 12 hours with one dog, all at single shots.—*N. Y. Enq.*

James Williams, alias Danies, a young fellow of dashing exterior, was yesterday fully committed for trial, for having, in the Bowery theatre, picked the pocket of Alckenbrack, from Columbia county, of a pocket book containing upwards of $60 in various bank bills. The gold watch and appendages of Williams, together with the other trinkets that ornamented his person, are supposed to be worth 7 or $800.

Four little urchins, the oldest not more than eight years of age, were yesterday arrested for petit larceny, and sent to the House of Refuge. One of them, on the officer seizing him, defended himself by presenting a pistol.

MAGISTERIAL FRACAS.—Before the board adjourned, Alderman Sibell, in speaking upon the last subject, advocated the right of the public to know whatever business the Corporation transacted, &c., and Alderman Stevens in reply observed, that he was astonished to find an advocate among those who on a late occasion, voted for the contrary. This Alderman Sibell applied to himself, and as soon as the Board rose, he stood up in his pl ce and spoke as follows: "If this Board is adjourned, and if Alderman Stevens asserts that I voted upon that occasion, I here state that he is guilty of a falsehood."

Alderman Stevens,who was also standing in his place, appeared exceedingly indignant, and said something which we did not hear. Alderman Sibell again spoke and said, "I positively assert that I was 1000 miles from this City at the time, and I here declare in the presence of this board, that Alderman Stevens has told a deliberate falsehood."

On hearing this, Alderman Stevens rushed from his place, before any one could arrest his advance, he struck Alderman Sibell three or four blows on the right side of the face with consi erable force, accompanying the chastisement with some expressions, with which we will not trouble our readers. It produced considerable consternation, and created a scene of confusion, better calculated for the pen of a Cruikshank, than the pen of a Recorder.

EXCELLENT CUSTOM.—The following custom is said to prevail at Munich. Every child found begging in the streets is arrested and carried to a charitable establishment. The moment he enters the hospital and before he is cleansed, and gets the new clothes intended for him, his portrait is painted in his ragged dress, and precisely as he was found begging. When his education is finished in the hospital, his portrait is given to him, and he promises by an oath to keep it all his life, in order that he may be reminded of the abject condition from which he may have been rescued, of the obligation he owes to the institution which saved him from misery, and gave him the means by which he was enabled to avoid it in future.

COM. PORTER.—An article from Havana, states that Com. Porter has been offered 20 fast sailing vessels, well provisioned and manned, each carrying two 42 pounders, for the supposed purpose of attacking and blowing up two ships of the line, and a frigate in the Harbor of Havana—for which exploit, if satisfactorily executed, he was to be rewarded with $150,000.

SUTTEE AT HOWRAH.

The following are the particulars of the suttee which took place yesterday morning at Sulkeah. The widow was a young and interesting looking woman, and at the death of her husband, at his bequest, had become possessed of a fortune of three lacs of rupees. She was a native of Balasore, of the Tampoli caste. Her husband was a respectable man, in the employ of government, and possessed of considerable landed and other property. From the moment of his death the widow declared her determination to attend him on the funeral pile, a resolution which she has kept in a manner that seems incredible.

During the day she distributed to the poor and to her servants money to the amount of three thousand rupees, besides dispersing all her jewels among her relations; and just before mounting the pile, she made her will with perfect composure. She was visited by many people on Friday all of whom endeavoured more or less sincerely to divert her from her object, but she had "eaten the oath," which cannot be recalled, had twined the holy toolsee branch in her hair, and the world and all her concerns were to her as nought.

At an early hour on Saturday a large crowd had collected, the greatest order and decorum had prevailed throughout the immense multitude, who, though certainly brought there by curiosity, exhibited wondrous little of that propensity in their faces. "A stupid moment motionless they stood," and might have stood for hours, or until the important matter of cooking, &c. should be dispatched; while the poor miserable object of all this portentous preparation was to be seen seated on a wicker frame placed on the ground by the side of her husband, whom she continued still, as she had done all day and night, to fan with a bunch of flowers.

As the sun rose, the poor infatuated creature became most impatient for the magistrate's dessuty, who, on these occasions, always attends to prevent the employment of any constraint, and to see justice done. Seven o'clock came, and night, but no word of the necessary order. With very different feelings, yet with no less intensity of anxious expectation, did the widow inquire, from time to time, for this important person, than does the Newgate criminal for the arrival of the sheriff.

He came—a fine looking man, with an immence black beard and bushy eye-brows. which hid from observation the penetrating glance of a pair of very intelligent grey eyes—Carrying in his hand the document which under legal authority, permits such things to take their course, and in manner the most forcible and touching, he now pointed out to the woman the sin and folly of the course she was about to follow—explained to her, by reference to their own shasters the absurdity (or least the non-necessity) of such a proceeding—assured her protection should she still incline to change—and, appealed to the imploring faces, and the tears of her people around, for a testimony of the truth of his arguments.

The woman listened attentively, and replied fully, calmy, and steadily. She treated such motives as wealth, rank and kindred, with disdain, and with much apparent reason appealed to her total indifference to all sublunary things, by the disposal she was about to make of them.

She urged for half an hour, apparently with much earnestnes; and, but for the "recollection" to which she very fluently gave utterance of previous existences, and previous immolations, the conviction would have fastened upon me that she actually believed on her own future destiny as being perfectly fixed, since in most glowing language, and with a smiling countenance, she talked of the glories, and the happiness which awaited her in the heaven of heavens, which she was now going to enter trebly purified, as gold three times tried.

When told that no compulsion should be allowed to enforce the observance of her vows, her answer was in disdain, "Upon compulsion! No! I shall leap into his arms." Accordingly the body was now moved and laid upon the Pile, the widow carrying the feet, which she frequently kissed and placed on her head. She then went down to the river to bathe and returned dressed in a gay and expensive scarlet satin tunic, and wearing a crown of beads. Some momentary pangs heaved her bosom as she saw the frightful reality of her condition before her—her lips for a moment quivered, but she speedily rallied, and with the most perfect composure, and a hand already blistered to the bone to show her courage, and of which not one sinew quivered, she prepared a cake of rice and plantians, which she placed on the mouth of the corpse. She then poured some holy water on his face, walked several times round the pile, throwing around, from a vessel which she carried under one arm, parched rice, and exhibiting in her countenance the most perfect satisfaction with herself. She without assistance from any one, composedly climbed up, placed herself by the side of her husband, clasped his putrid body with her limbs, and placed his head on her arm.

A Brahmin threw a sheet over them, whispered a few words to the devotee, and retired. Several attendants now began hastily to pile up the altar and its sacrifice with logs of wood.

Some English Gentlemen who were present indignantly interfered to prevent this, and a few minutes elapsed, during which the right arm of the devotee was raised, and continued steadily beaconing to the crowd, as if in the exercise of devotion.

Oh! how the blood curdled at this renewed testimony of her resolution, having till now greatly doubted of the possible completion of the mortal sin.

'Tis fired—
All that of living or of dead remain,
In one wild roar expired.

Yet that came not from the flaming altar; unshackled by one cord, one straw, the victim's hand was seen amid the flames waving as before; and her voice (had it been possible amidst the yell of a worshipping multitude) might still have been heard as before, calling upon the name of her God.

"Invitum qui servat idem facit occidenti."

Howrah, April 6.

Latest from Columbia.—We are indebted to Captain Eveleigh of the brig Bunker Hill, arrived last evening, for Carthagena papers to the 28th September, from which we gather the following intelligence.

Under the date of Bogota, Sept. 25, we read that the trials of the suspected persons continue, and more fugitives continue to be captured. The government, with a desire to show their clemency, had released a few individuals who were proved to have fallen accidentally under suspicion; others have been sent to different Departments, and some suffered to continue in public employments. The particular charges against the individuals are not published.

The papers contain some particulars which have been ascertained relating to the designs of the conspirators in the late plot against Bolivar. It was at first intended to execute it on the 10th; and a plan was proposed, on one occasion, to capture him on an incursion into the country.—The design is attributed partly to intriguers from Spain.

The Bogota a *Gaceta* of Oct. 5th informs us of the execution of Roman Guerra and General Padilla, on the 2d Oct, On the 20th Sept. Horment was shot, as well as W. Zulayhar, Col. Sylvia, Lieuts. C, Galindo, and F. J. Lopez. The trials of the others were going on, and their execution was expected. Carujo Tegada, Mendoza, Gonzales and Brizeno, who had not been taken. The Editor says it is believed that Santander is the focus of the conspiracy.

With regard to Peru the same paper remarks, that it is time to put it out of their power to injure other states as she has injured Bolavia,—which means that the subjugation (not annihilation) of that republic is recommended.

General Urdininia has appointed Col. M. Toro head of the war department. He also fixed by a decree the meeting of the constituent Congress at Chuquisaca, for the 1st of August past.

An official letter from the Commandant of Guyaquil, informs the secretary of war of the arrival of Col. Accro in the schr, Ayacucho, from Arica, on the 26th Aug. with the mounted Junin Grenadier squadron of Columbian auxiliaries from Bolivia. General Sucre was at Oruro, and would embark at Cobijas. General Brown and the rest of the troops were in the department of Arequipa, waiting only for vessels. All this was in conformity with capitulations made at Piquisa.

It was officially announced that Guyaquil had been blockaded for several days, on 1st Aug. by the Peruvian corvette Libertad which visited all registered vessels, foreign and national, which attempted to enter.—Orders were therefore issued from "Head-Quarters of the Southern army at Cuenca," Aug. 10th, to arm all the disposable naval forces, and demand the cause of the blockade, being prepared to maintain the honor of the Colombian flag. Col. Wright accordingly sailed in the schr. Guavaquilenea, accompanied by the corvette Pitchtacho, and met her near the mouth of the Tumbus on the 31st. He was fired upon on speaking her, and an action commenced which lasted half an hour, in which the schooner lost 24 killed and 36 wounded, and suffered severe injury. The Pichtacho not being able to come up, the Libertad escaped.

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 27.

Presidental Election.—The only state of which the vote now appears to be doubtful, is Louisiana. All the states except this, on which any reliance was placed for the support of Mr. Adams, have been heard from, and although the information from a part of them is not very complete, there is little doubt that the votes of the several states will be as follows.

For Mr. Adams, ascertained.	
New England States, (all except one in Maine)	50
NewYork,	16
New-Jersey,	8
Delaware,	6
Maryland,	3
Total,	83
For General Jackson ascertained.	
Cumberland District, in Maine,	1
New-York,	20
Pennsylvania,	28
Maryland,	5
Virginia,	24
Ohio,	15
Indiana,	5
Kentucky,	14
Probable.	
North Carolina,	13
South Carolina,	13
Georgia,	5
Illinois,	1
Missouri,	9
Tennessee,	11
Mississippi,	3
Alabama,	5
Total,	173
Louisiana, *doubtful*	5

It therefore depends on the vote of Louisiana to determine whether the majority of General Jackson is a little more or a little less than two to one.

A letter from Frankfort, Kentucky, published in the National Telegraph, gives the majorities in the counties forming six of the Congressional Districts. Metcalf's and Clarke's districts give majorities for Adams, the former 189, and the latter 699; total 888. Four others gave majorities for Jackson, viz. M'Hattan's 1710, Lecompete's 1661, Moore's 1801, and Wickliffe's 982; total, 6154; and deducting Mr. Adams's majorities in the other two districts, the net majority for Jackson is 5266. The same letter estimates the majority for Jackson in the other six districts, at 2800, making a majority in the state of 8066.

NEW YORK, Nov. 27.

It is now certain that General Jackson will bo elected President of the United States by an overwhelming majority. The voice of the people has gone forth to this effect, and all doubt on the subject is swept away. At such a crisis neither of the parties will demand of us to disguise our real sentiments. Although we have taken no part in the controversy, it is not to be supposed that we have had no opinion respecting the merits of the candidates—that opinion, we are now free to avow, was in opposition to General Jackson, and our vote had it been given at all, would have been given accordingly. That this preference for the present incumbent was built upon considerations of prudence, and not of favour or affection, is very true; and it is also true, that these considerations lost no small share of their weight upon the late disclosures of Mr. Adams. General Jackson deserves the fame of a bold, intrepid and successful soldier; and (as we believe) of a straight forward, incorruptible man. But we have had our doubts, and have still whether he has the temper or the ability to preside over the political concerns of this great nation, in such a manner as to advance its interests or his own reputation. But it is no longer a question whether the experiment shall be made—the question now is, what will be the result of the experiment? To this, future events only can rely with any certainty. The measures of the coming administration will no doubt receive their colouring in part (as those of the preceding have done) from the composition of the cabinet. If General Jackson should succeed in forming a cabinet of wise, prudent and experienced men, we shall allow ourselves to look forward with hope, but if he takes to his bosom the smoking materials of South Carolina, we are free to confess our fears, that instead of silencing the rancour of his enemies, he will dash the hopes of his friends. But even in such a case, it is a duty of every honest friend of the Republic to do him ample justice—to measure his acts, and not his men—to support him in every wise and salutary movement—and, if compelled to stand up in opposition, to do it with firmness and independence; but, at the same time, with that respect which is due to the chief magistrate of the nation; nothing but the most flagrant corruption or abuse of power can sanction an opposition to any government, so rancorous, so indiscriminating, so destitute of respect to station, as that which the present government of the United States has experienced. We would not be understood here to speak universally, for there are many honourable exceptions to this denunciation; or to imply that the same will not be true now that the tables are turned; though we cannot but hope that before another four years are past, the constitution will be so amended that none can find it for their interest to abuse the government.

COMMUNICATION.

[FOR THE COURIER.]

MR. EDITOR,—LIKE most other controversies which take place in "our good city," the one which has been commenced between JUSTUS and myself, is likely to end in matter foreign from the original subject.—In his last communication he does not bring forward a single argument to refute the statements which I had previously made.—Were I not sensible that he *can* write sense when he likes, I should not have made this reply to it: But he has taken up a bad cause, and now wishes to get off the ground with as good a grace as possible:—But, Mr. Justus! *Railery*, or even *ridicule*, coming from *your* pen, will not excuse you. Wash your hands clear of the matter *decently*, or else be silent on the subject. I give you this advice as a friend.

Justus says, that you "made a precipitate retreat from the contest." How can that be?—You had the last word.—He says, that the campaign between you and the Observer Editors may be considered closed,—and why? Why, because it is not to be supposed that *he* is, to take notice of every Tom, Dick, and Harry, &c."—Are *you* then, Justus, the *real* Editor of the Observer?—I think you are in a fair way to *Justify* the public in believing that you are.—"Murder will out."

Can you Sir conceive what Justus is driving at, when he says, "if the said Editor," (meaning I suppose yourself,) will appear in *propria persona*, &c."—Nonsense;—the world knows who the Editor of the New-Brunswick Courier is.—Besides, it was not *you* who alluded to the motives, which induced him to take up his pen,—it was *myself*.—His ingenuity in thus getting clear of his pledge is worthy of notice;—neither you nor I can call on him for its redemption. If you can condescend, however, to notice a *Tom-Dick-and-Harry Scribbler*, I think you ought to call upon him for an explanation as to the *secret* reasons for your (what he calls) decrying the work in question.—As to the "foggy city of seven hills," I suppose, that neither you nor your readers care any thing about the information which he could favour them with on that subject.—Our City is visited frequently with fog, and even more than "seven hills" could be found in or about the *town plot*.—As for the Book of Revelation, he had better study it at home, and allow us all quietly to do the same. IMPARTIALITY.

St. John, December 5, 1828.

The Courier.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1828.

Bank of New-Brunswick.

Director next week, ... R. PARKER, Esq
DISCOUNT DAY,.....THURSDAY.
Hours of business, from 10 to 3.

☞ *Bills for Discount, must be lodged with the Cashier before 3 o'clock on TUESDAY.*

NOTICE.

THE BRITISH SILVER will be received at the Bank until further notice, at the following rates, viz.:—Crowns, 5s. 10d. Currency, Half Crowns, 2s. 11d. Currency; Shilling pieces, 1s. 2d. Currency; Sixpenny pieces, 7d Currency.

By Order of the President and Directors,
H. H. CARMICHAEL.

St. John 12th November, 1828.

Savings' Bank.

Managers for the ensuing week—
BENJAMIN L. PETERS,
THOMAS SMITH.

Bank Hours—Every TUESDAY, from 10 to 12.

Marine Insurance Office.

Committee of Directors for the ensuing week:
STEPHEN WIGGINS,
THOMAS T. HANFORD.
DAVID HATFIELD.

Office Hours.—From Twelve to Three.

STATE OF THE THERMOMETER IN THE SHADE.
November 29 to Dec. 5.

Days of Observation.		Hours of Observat. 8 a.m.	Noon	4p.m	Remarks.
Saturday,	29	38	45	40	The weather during last week has been very changeable from soft to frosty.—On the whole it has generally been blustering and unpleasant. Snow, we understand, is fell no great distance from the city, to the depth of several inches.—We have had little or none here.
Sunday,	30	34	45	38	
Monday	1	28	25	42	
Tuesday,	2	43	32	30	
Wednesday,	3	44	42	32	
Thursday,	4	36	31	33	
Friday,	5	24	27	30	

We have, at the request of some friends, given insertion to the petition of a very numerous and respectable body of merchants of this City, to the Legislature, praying that an act may be passed to alter the present auction system.—It was not read at the meeting of the Quarter Sessions, held on Tuesday last, but we publish it with the view of making all concerned aware of the nature of the complaints which have very generally been made against the present system.—That evils have grown out of it, even the auctioneers themselves do not deny; but none of the alterations proposed as a remedy for them, appear to be altogether unobjectionable. In fact, our opinion is, that it will be a very difficult matter to frame a Law upon the subject, which will be suitable to the present state of the Trade of the Province,—which would not in some way or other, interfere with the rights of British subjects; and, which could not be easily evaded.—The *spirit* of the present Law has certainly been evaded so far as regards the income to the Treasury chest. In this respect we imagine little difficulty could stand in the way of making such an amendment as would more effectually protect the Provincial Revenue.—If there be any difficulty at all, it is the drawing of a line which would define clearly what goods are understood to be really sold at auction, and what are not;—in other words, whether the words "*at auction*" are, under all the circumstance of the case, to be understood as meaning "public outcry"—only.—If they are to be construed to mean all goods sold by an Auctioneer *during the day of public sale*; or, all goods belonging to the lot, a part of which had been sold at public outcry; or all goods sold *at the price* at which a part of the same lot had been knocked down; the remedy would be made comparatively easy, by compelling the auctioneer to submit his books for the examination of the Province Treasurer, at stated periods, under affidavit that the statement which they exhibit is just and true.—We are not in possession of all the regulations on this subject which exist in Canada; but so far as regards auctioneers being obliged, every six weeks, (if we are not mistaken) to submit his books for inspection, we know that to be the case.

One way which has been proposed in order to remedy some of the evils arising from the present system, is, the separation of the *auction* business from that of *a commission merchant*. But can this be consistently done? So far as regards the City, the Charter gives the Mayor "power to give and grant licences under the common seal of the said city, to all such persons as he shall think fit, to License them, or every of them, to sell at public outcry or auction."—Now, this being the case, how can a law be made to prevent a Licenced Auctioneer from being also a Commission Merchant?—Previous to his being an Auctioneer, he *must* be a freeman of the City, and if so, how can he be in justice prevented from exercising *any* lawful calling within the bounds of the same?—*If the reducing or limiting* the number of auction rooms in the city be the object in view, it is in the power of the Mayor alone to do so; and we think he would consider it rather an ungracious step on his part, to refuse any respectable citizen, producing satisfactory security, an auction Licence.

We know that these two occupations are separate in England; but how far such a practice would be proper, or practicable, in this country, is a question not easy to be decided.

We observe there have been loud complaints in the United States against the Auction system.—In some respects the grievances there form parallel cases with some of ours: but in other respects, owing to the constitution of that country, they are quite different.—We copy the two following resolutions, from amongst a number of others, passed at a late meeting of merchants at New-York, as being applicable, in some degree, to the subject as connected with this place.

Resolved, That the existing system of sales by Auction is, in the opinion of this meeting, subversive of the rights and interests of the citizens generally, and highly injurious to the consumers of foreign merchandise, and to the commerce of the country, by monopolising the sale of Goods, and thereby defeating the industry. and rendering nugatory the talents and enterprise of our Citizens; by encouraging the importation of deceptive and worthless goods; by affording to foreign consignees of such goods great advantages over regular American merchants; by promoting illicit transactions, and facilitating frauds on the revenue and upon individuals; by causing continual fluctuations in the prices of goods, and inducing a spirit of extravagant speculation; and by impairing integrity and destroying confidence in the ordinary course of mercantile transactions.

Resolved, That the Auction System, existing under the circumstances which at present distinguish it, merits to be considered as a most oppressive grievance, and a reproach to the city and to the country; not only on account of its immoral effects, and its multiplied impositions and abuses but also because it constitutes an odious monopoly wholly incompatable with the three institutions of the country.

From the same paper (the National Intelligencer) we copy also some "*Reasons*" assigned for the propriety of abolishing the system.

"The extreme and rapid fluctuations in price which are caused by auctions, and which baffle the calculations of the accutest minds; discourage prudent manufacturers by the impossibility of selling at regular prices, or of laying any plan for the future. Who, that has any thing to lose, would embark in a business which presents nothing but a mass of contingencies beyond the sagacity of any uninspired man to foresee or prevent? If goods were sold only at private sale, the best makers would soon become conspicuous for the superiority of goods, which would command fair prices in ordinary times; and it would be impossible to counterfeit their names and peculiar marks on the defective and fraudulent goods of others—a crime which, it is said, is often practised, from the facilities of concealment given by auction.

Auctions have been destructive to the regular American Importers, of whom we must now speak in the *past tense*, as nearly all of that most respectable body have, as is well known, been driven from their occupation; and thus an important class in the community, whose wealth, enterprise, and intelligence, adorned and elevated the mercantile character, has been extinguished. When such men issued their orders in foreign countries, the manufacturers to whom they were given, profitting by this information, often fraudulently hurried off large quantities of the same kind of goods, but of inferior quality, and had them sold at auction here, before those of the American importer could arrive; thus glutting the market and causing a loss to him in place of a profit. Without auctions this could not have been done. If attempted at all it must have become known to the importers at large, who would have at once withdrawn from all connexion with such nefarious dealers. So entirely have the regular importers been superseded, that more than three quarters of the whole importations into the Union, are now, it is believed, on account of foreign manufacturers, whose integrity has not improved by this change in their trade, as most buyers have felt to their cost. The mutual confidence and courtesy that subsisted, in our better days, between this responsible importer and his customers has long since given place to a constant and well founded fear of being cheated by men who are shrouded in darkness—whose very names are unknown, and who have not any character to lose. Is not such a state of feeling subversive of all the milder and kindiler charities of our nature, and unavoidably condusive to progressive and indefinite depravity?

Auctions have been found, by the experience of other countries, to be pernicious to internal Trade. The English Government have corrected this evil, not only by a duty of five per cent. on a large proportion of sales, but also by various restrictive regulations. The corporation of London, and the inhabibitants of other large cities, petitioned Parliament for relief, stating the severe distress, and numerous frauds that auctions had occasioned.

AUCTIONS, by creating an unnatural competition, unconnected with the wants of the market, cause more goods to be sold than ought to be, or than otherwise would be sold, and encourage, instead of repressing, the great besetting frailty of Merchants—OVERTRADING.

Auctions injure consumers generally, by enhancing prices. It is a great error to suppose that goods are sold cheaper at Auction than at Private Sale. The principal buyers in New-York have been consulted, and they affirm with one accord, that they purchase on an average of one year, cheaper at private than at public sale. One of the largest and most respectable auctioneers in the United States, who, not long since, was an extensive dealer by private sale, stated the same thing lately, as the result of his experience.—No doubt, great bargains are sometimes obtained, when the market is overstocked, or during a general depression of trade; but this would equally happen if auctions did not exist. On the contrary, it is well known that, when an article is in demand, it sells much higher at auction than at private Sale. The excitement produced by these competitors of a crowd of buyers, assembled in one room, and bidding against each other, inevitably keep up prices to the highest point.

Besides it involves a contradiction to suppose that any sane person would send goods to auction and pay the auctioneer's commission, and the State duty—unless he got higher prices there than he could obtain at private sale. It is only in seasons of depression, that *ruinous* sales are made by auction to any extent.

Auctions tend to destroy a regard for truth. It is loathsome to witness the constant practice, at auction sales, of extolling goods of all qualities and descriptions, and the unfounded assertions of their cost and value, to tempt buyers. But we we forbear to press this objection, though it would admit of much painful illustration. Its extreme notoriety renders further detail unnecessary."

We would not be understood as copying the above "Reasons" as being our sentiments on this important subject. By no means.—Some of them are altogether inapplicable to the trade here—others comparatively near the truth.

The grievances arising from our Auction system may be reduced to two classes, namely, *the injuring of the resident importer, particularly the retailer* and the defrauding of the Revenue. If a law *could* be framed to prevent these, it would surely answer a most important purpose.

In another column will be found a draft of an Act to be laid before the Legislature, which was read at a meeting of the Quarter Sessions on Tuesday last, providing for the speedy trial of persons committing criminal offences, under the degree of Grand Larceny.

If we understand it properly, it is intended as an amendment of what is generally called *The Vagrant Law*, (Act 26, Geo. III. cap. 59,) which restricts the sentence to corporal punishment, not extending to life or limb,—in short, to *whipping*. The proposed law extends the mode of punishment beyond that of corporal, to fine, or imprisonment, or both these;—to labour on the streets and high ways,—or, upon other public works.

Another small alteration contemplated by the proposed Act is, in the persons authorised to try cases in the summary way—The present law says they shall be tried by "the Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen for the time being, or any three of them, of whom the Mayor or Recorder shall be one," this, says, "by any two Magistrates of the aforesaid city and county, together with the Mayor or Recorder for the time being.

To both these two amendments or alterations, we imagine there can be no objection, i. e. to the law as it now stands.

But however good the intention of this law may be, and how much soever we are desirous of seeing some mode of speedy trial adopted, in order to lessen the county expenses; yet in endeavouring to effect his, the common law of the land must not be deviated from.—Suppose, under the provisions of this law a magistrate grants a commitment against a man accused of theft:—He is sent to jail; and after forty-eight hours, he reports that he cannot find Bail, which in nine instances out of ten would be the case, for few responsible persons would like to go bail for a thief.—He is then arraigned before His Worship the Mayor, or His Honor the Recorder, as the case might be, and two Magistrates:—arraigned for what?—Here the matter just hinges.—Would it be constitutional to vest power in any three magistrates to pronounce upon the *degree* of the crime.—We believe that this decision rests in the breasts of a *Grand Jury alone*.—We are ready to admit, that there are certain misdemeanors and petty offences which a court of this kind is perfectly competent to try; but they ought to be more clearly defined than by this law they appear to be.—Besides, it is one thing to *accuse* and *commit* a man, and quite another thing to *condemn* him. Neither by the *Vagrant Act* (so called) nor by the proposed law, is the benefit of *Counsel* contemplated, so that many an innocent person may be sentenced to punishment, just because he did not know how to conduct his cause.

We do not throw out these things because we are desirous of showing an aversion to speedy trial and punishment;—far from it:—daily observation points out the utility of it, provided a law could be framed to come at such a thing constitutionally.—Our opinion on the subject was requested, and we have given it freely, to the best of our judgment; sincerely trusting that some measures may sooner or later be adopted, which will eventually relieve the City and County of the very heavy burden which they now labour under, by the maintenance of prisoners in the jail.

On Monday last a numerous and respectable assemblage of the members of Saint Andrews Society, together with a number of non-resident Scotchmen, and public and private guests, celebrated the Anniversary of the Tutelar Saint of Caledonia, by dining together at the Exchange Coffee-House.—The President of the Society, ROBERT W. CROOKSHANK, Esquire, filled the Chair, ably supported by JOHN BOYD, Esquire, M. D, Vice-President of the Society as Croupier.—The dinner, &c. was furnished by Mr. STRICKLAND, who exerted himself, and with success, to please the company, with regard to the entertainment throughout. The dishes which graced the table were done up in good style.—The *Barley Soup*,—a national viand, was excellent; and formed a good *ground tier* on which to lay the *Haggis* and *Sheep's-head*.—But even those who had "lost a great daal of their relish" or who perhaps never possessed any, for these staple articles of Scotch consumption, must have been fastidious indeed, if they could not gratify their palates and satisfy their appetites, from the variety of other well cooked victuals which were presented at the festival board.

After dinner, the soul-stirring spirit of music began to display its exhilirating effects upon the company, with tunes appropriate to the numerous and well selected toasts and sentiments which accompanied the lively circulation of the sparkling glass.—The following is a list of the toasts which were given from the chair on the occasion.

1st. The pious memory of St. Andrew—Tune, *In the garb of auld Gaul.*

2d. The King, God bless him—*God Save the King.*

3d. The auld Kirk of Scotland—*Roslin Castle.*

4th. The sons of St. George, St. Patrick, and St. David, and a' their Bairns—*Roast Beef, Patrick's Day, and Ap Shenkin.*

5th. The British Constitution; may we who enjoy its blessings, duly appreciate its value, and when its defence requires our aid, let us like "freemen stan, or, like freemen fa."—*Rule Britannia.*

6th. The Duke of Clarence and the Navy—*Hearts of Oak.*

7th. Lord Hill and the Army—*D. of Y. March.*

8th. The Duke of Wellington and His Majesty's Ministers; may their efforts for maintaining the independence and prosperity of the Empire, and for the diffusion of the principles of freedom all over the world, be crowned with success.—*Briton's Strike Home.*

9th. The Land o'Cakes, the birth-place of heroes and the land of poets; may the breasts of their sons now in this adopted Country, never cease to glow with ardent recollections of the country of their fathers—*Bannock's o' Barley Meal.*

10th. Our distinguished countryman Major Gen. Sir Howard Douglas, Governor of this Province, whom we have the honor to recognize as a Member of this Society; his indefatigable exertions have been equally creditable to his administration, and beneficial to the Country—*Sir Howard Douglas' Strathspey.*

11th, Lady Douglas, and those members of our much respected Governor's family who lately left the shores of New-Brunswick. We hope that they are all at this time enjoying themselves amongst their friends, in the Land o' Cakes.—*Flowers of Edinbro'.*

12th, Lieut. General Sir James Kempt, Governor General of British North America; his conduct and measures whilst he held the reins of Government in our sister province, afford us good grounds to anticipate favourable results from his recent appointment to the important station which he now fills—*Sir Jas. Kempt's March.*

13th, The Hon. Michael Wallace and the Province of Nova Scotia—*Scotia's Sons shall ay be free.*

14th, Colonel Ready and the Colony of Prince Edward's Island—*March.*

15th, Sir John Colbourne and the province of Upper Canada—*March of the 52d Regiment.*

16th, His Worship the Mayor, who for many years filled the chair as President of this Society; may his efforts to promote the welfare of our citizens, be equally successful with those which he used in behalf of this Institution—*Cauld Kail,* and, *wha'll be King but Charlie.*

17th, The Commandant, and the Garrison of St. John—*March of the 81st Regiment.*

18th, The British North American Colonies; may mutual harmony in spirit and sentiment continue to bind them closely to each other, as sisters of the same mother; may their attachment to the Parent state be cherished to the latest posterity: and may the character of all their actions be such, as to show to the world that their highest boast is, that they form an integral part of the greatest nation on earth—the British Empire—*Woodman, and, an Irish Jig.*

19th, The Province of New Brunswick—the land we live in, prosperity to its Agriculture, Commerce, and Fisheries—*Sweet Home, and, a Scotch Reel.*

20th, The fair daughters of New-Brunswick—*Here's a Health, and, Kiss my Lady.*

21st, The City and Trade of St. John—*Money in both pockets.*

22d, The immortal Memory of Sir William Wallace, Robert Bruce, and all the illustrious Heroes of our Country—*Scots wha hae.*

23d, The memory of all the Bards and Philosophers of Scotland, whose transcendant talents and abilities have raised the literary fame of Caledonia to its present pitch of celebrity—*Burns' Farewell.*

24th, Sir Walter Scott and all the living authors of Scotland, whose exertions are at present contributing so highly to the dissemination of knowledge, refinement, and the "march of intellect" in every corner of the world—*Blue bonnets over the border.*

25th, The Parochial schools of Scotland; those nurseries of morality and wisely conducted seminaries of education. The important effects of their discipline are universally acknowledged. They have rendered the very name "Scotchman," a hearty welcome to every Emigrant son of our native land. The fond recollections of their wholesome laws, are associated with those of the happiest moments of our lives—*Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonny Doon.*