

derstanding should always be maintained between the great agricultural and commercial interests of Maryland. The inspectors, under the present system, are taken from the various sections of the State, and the selections are nearly always made from amongst those whose business pursuits and experience fit them for the offices. This committee, consequently, feels authorised to deny the allegation of general incompetency which has been so broadly made. At all events if the consumers throughout the State should occasionally suffer from a bad inspection, under the present system, it would never occur to them to charge collusion between the seller and the inspector. The committee regard this suggestion as eminently worthy of consideration.

Your committee have also to urge upon your notice the importance of *uniformity* in inspections. It is that which gives character to the brands in the market. Your committee cannot perceive how it is possible to attain a uniformity in inspections by throwing the door open to a general competition, where there could be no concert of action whatever. Each licensed inspector would act by himself, and under a constant temptation to pursue his own interest. The rivalry, now witnessed amongst licensed auctioneers, would soon be the crying evil of the new inspection system. In the case of the auctioneers, that rivalry can produce harm to none; but it requires no great degree of sagacity to see that it would be altogether otherwise in the case of licensed inspectors. In this question of uniformity in inspections, our foreign trade is deeply interested. It is well known, that the license system, introduced by the New Constitution of New York, has not given satisfaction; and, that the experience of the last four years is against it. New York flour, as one example, has fluctuated and declined, in the London and Liverpool markets, since the introduction of the new system. The following comparative quotations will show, that under her license system, the State of New York has seen her staple export sink below the standard which a rigid system of State inspections has maintained for Philadelphia and Baltimore:

<i>Flour, per 196 lbs.</i>	1848.		1849.		1850.		1851.	
	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
Western Canal.	27.0	a 27.6	16.0	a 24.0	16.0	a 22.6	15.0	a 20.6
Philadelphia and Baltimore.	26.6	a 27.6	23.6	a 25.0	23.0	a 23.9	20.9	a 21.0

It will be seen from the above table, that the New York brands have never, since 1848, recovered their position; and that the Baltimore and Philadelphia brands maintain a steady precedence in the British markets.

In reply to this cogent fact, it has been urged, that the frequent appointments and removals of inspectors, for political