

which is thus referred to in the report of the joint committee of the Legislature (of 1837) dated 20. January 1838.

“The contract for supplying the beef until last year, has been given to a member of the Board of Directors, who had indeed held it for several years previous to the law of 1832, and he was in the habit, in making his proposal, to name a certain price, and add “or as much lower as any other person in whom you have confidence.” The admission of such a proposal, necessarily shut out all competition, for the proposal of any other, could only have had the effect of reducing the price, but never could have secured the contract. The impression too, being made, that it was useless to contend with a Director, deterred others from making proposals. No contract is now held by any Director for the supplies of any kind &c. &c.—See report page 31.

It is proper to add that the proposal for supplying beef for the year then ensuing, made by Mr. H. Kimberly, in April last and accepted, concluded, after naming a price (4 3-4 cts.) with the same proposal referred to by the joint committee “or as much lower as any other person in whom you have confidence,” and that all the quarterly settlements of Mr. Kimberly’s ac’t. during the two years past in which he has held the contract, have been made with Mr. Kelso.—See Ledger, folio 464.

An advantage which I think was undue, was given during a portion of last year to Mr. Henry Tiffany, as an agent for disposing of the cotton goods. By a contract made with him by the executive committee, dated on the 1st September, 1838, the monopoly of the sales of the cotton goods was granted to him for the quarter then ensuing.

Such an arrangement with a single commission agent, for the sale of the Penitentiary goods, I have always held to be injudicious and opposed to the interests of the Institution, as it places the other Domestic Houses, accustomed to dispose of similar manufactures, in competition with him (making rivals of. instead of employing them) and impels them to seek a supply of like goods from other sources, thus probably over stocking the market and consequently reducing the general value of the article.

Of the contract made with Mr. Tiffany, above referred to, the following is a copy.

“Memorandum of agreement between Henry Tiffany and the Executive Committee of the Penitentiary,” viz:

Henry Tiffany is to have the exclusive agency for the sale