

piece of impudence and just cause for offense, and the indignant party refuses to buy and thereby probably saves the jobber future loss. In all my experience and my applications for information are from five to twenty per day, I have yet to learn the first case of a sound merchant being injured by false representations, and almost every day experiences a decided benefit from the revelation of facts which, not being developed, would be a fruitful source to aid in bringing about a general bankruptcy, such as was experienced in the darker days of our mercantile history. The business and conduction of "Mercantile Agencies," instead of being stigmatized as incompatible with good morals and citizenship, should be looked up to as disseminators of light—one of that system of necessary luminaries for the prosecution of a successful business. How many grey-headed bankrupt merchants, now wearily serving as clerks, might have lived in comfort, free from toil and want, if they had had more light and information in making their credits. Even now, with all the facilities for obtaining facts, how many hundreds unworthy of one dollar's credit in this market, go home with thousands, and whom the subscriber to the Mercantile Agency, in the majority of instances, luckily avoids? I doubt not, that when I say that for every dollar I pay for information, I save one hundred. I am speaking the experience of a majority of subscribers. Credits are so cheap, that the honest, hard-working merchant, who can and will pay a hundred cents on a dollar, can scarcely compete with the reckless, short-lived, trust-everybody-at-any-price dealer, who only feels the legal bond for the payment of his debts. We want more light, and a more stringent scale of credits for the moral as well as temporal good of all concerned; and anything which tends to bring about such an order of things, should be publicly praised rather than blamed.

D. G. J.

#### Mercantile Agencies.

*To the Editor of The New-York Daily Times:*

In looking over your paper to-day, I read an article calculated to create an unjust and ignorant prejudice in the minds of those, who, like the writer of the article, are not posted up with the true facts in the premises, in regard to "Mercantile Agencies." I beg to offer a few thoughts growing out of an experience of the past six years. And first: in reference to the writer's admission of his always having declined subscribing, allow me to ask if a person without the only foundation for a good opinion, (practical personal experience,) can be a good judge of the beneficial or detrimental effects of the institutions in question. The immorality stated to be so obvious, has not been discerned by minds accredited with susceptibilities of right and wrong, upon any of the grounds cited by the writer, and is left for more light to be judged by. Previous to the formation of the agencies, how many bankrupt New-York merchants could go through the towns and cities of this and other States further West, and see not houses simply, but hundreds of palaces built with their property by some of these "quiet, unambitious traders, known to few," who had been unfortunate in their trading operations, and could not pay but ten or twenty cents on the dollar in New-York. It is too notorious with New-York jobbers that this class of men pay New-York creditors last, and home debts first. What object can a sub-agent have in making untrue statements, and what merchant would risk his property upon a statement of any of these agencies without any further knowledge of the party to whom he gives a credit? The information so obtained is used as collateral or aid to find out the true position of the party, the general effect of the information, when of a doubtful character, leads the merchant to ask a statement of the party applying for credit as to his means and business prospects,—which I have always found, no thriving, successful merchant refuses to give, but, on the contrary, when there is a screw loose, it is considered a