

is attachable anywhere, it is to those who, having the power to amend a condition of matters which, year by year as our population increased, has been getting worse, have done nothing but temporize; who, aware that the Beauport Asylum is crowded to overflowing, are content to wait to fill up vacancies from our Jail the interim receptacle; who, in Upper Canada with a population not larger than Lower Canada, can establish three Lunatic Asylums, yet insist upon retaining in one Asylum the whole insane inhabitants of this division of the Province, to the full extent of its accommodation, the Jail of this city holding a kind of reserve supply, in which these unfortunate inmates are permitted to linger for weeks and months, with no treatment suitable to their condition, and among whom, for want of early remedial management, many cases of mental aberration have had, we much fear, their malady perpetuated.

Surely it is time that such a state of matters should cease. We have never been the apologist of private Asylums, for in no other light than that can the Beauport one ever be viewed, but at the time of its inauguration we accepted it as a boon, a decided step in advance in ameliorating the condition of this truly lamentable class of patients. It has done its duty to the extent of its ability, but it is still a very exceptional mode of treating mental diseases, and we question if a like system of management obtains in any other country under government auspices. Rumour has it that the government, roused from its apathy by the lamentable occurrence which has given origin to these observations, intends to devote the Barracks at St. Johns to the purposes of an Asylum. If so, who is to have the charge of the patients? Is it to be the happy seat into which some governmental political supporter is to be pitchforked as a recompense for service irrespective of qualification for duty, or as in the case of the Toronto Asylum, is there to appear an advertisement requesting applications from gentlemen who have made this specialty their study? What the intentions are we know not, nor have we heard, but the ominous silence preserved on this head points very much to the former method of procedure.

But what about the land purchased a quarter of a century ago, in the neighbourhood of this city, upon a commanding and eligible site, and for the express purpose of a Lunatic Asylum. Is it still to remain unoccupied for its intended purposes, or does the Government ever intend to erect an Asylum worthy of itself and of the influence and importance of the Province, in which the care and treatment of those unfortunate creatures, afflicted with the most direful visitation which can befall a human being, shall not become objects of mere barter? These are questions which deserve an answer, and no better period than the present has arrived in which they could be urged. A little time will show what steps the executive will pursue in regard to this momentous subject.

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MEMORIAL TO THE LATE PROFESSOR HOLMES.

During the session just closed the students in the Faculty of Medicine of McGill College paid a graceful tribute to the memory of their lately much esteemed and ever to be remembered teacher, the late Dr. Holmes. Having at a meeting held for the purpose decided upon erecting a marble tablet comme-