

it behoves us to appeal to the able statesmen now ruling the destinies of the country, to protect the population by the enactment of sanitary measures—convinced, as I am, that the subject of prevention merits a much greater degree of consideration than it has hitherto received from government, and is far more intimately connected with the vital interests of society than has been imagined.

It may be said that we have already a sanitary law, commonly called an Act for the Establishing a *Central Board of Health, &c.* This act is partly taken from the ‘Nuisance Removal and Disease Prevention Act of 1848, for the prevention of epidemic, endemic and contagious diseases, and by order of Her Majesty’s Most Hon. Privy Council, which has twice, I believe, been put in force in this Province; but it is a well established fact, that this law has not been attended with those benefits which the framers had anticipated. An extended experience has proved that this act is altogether inadequate for insuring those prompt, comprehensive, and vigorous measures so urgently demanded on the presence and invasion of a great and destructive pestilence or malignant disease.

I need scarcely observe that co-existent with the operations of the Central Board of Health in 1854, another commission was issued by government, composed of three members, to inquire into the causes of the introduction of *Asiatic Cholera* into the Province, &c. The report of the commission not having yet been published, by order of the government, I cannot now hazard an opinion upon its importance and merits, much less upon its necessity. It may suffice to remark, that the medical commission were, Drs. Jackson and Landry, gentlemen not only of eminence and distinction in their profession, but of the highest integrity.

A true and intelligent sense of the awful calamity impending over the country, and which had originated the act of the legislature, would have required the most unremitting energy to prepare, as far as practicable, to resist it; but it is truly to be regretted, that in several parts of the Province, not one fact of sanitary science had been ascertained, and as might have been expected, the most disastrous consequences, in many instances, ensued.

It is true, when epidemics or malignant diseases actually invade the Province, more energy was, in general, displayed, there was more yard and house-cleaning, and more lime-washing. That these did good, there can be no question, but surely a moment’s reflection will show, that they were not those *mainly* contemplated by the act, for constituting a Central Board of Health,—inasmuch as it was not exactly the