

is not a mere act of civic negligence, it is a deliberate violation of the laws dictated by sanitary science, it is to put the health of the citizens in serious peril without any excuse, reason or the slightest necessity. Besides this danger, the hospital will very materially depreciate the value of the adjacent city property. Even though there were no risk the very presence of such a loathsome building will inevitably cause the neighbourhood to be shunned. Who would care to reside where himself and family would be close to a score or two of small-pox, typhus, diphtheria or scarlet-fever patients? The site chosen is on the road to the Mountain. How pleasant the associations of a drive to the Park will become when the visitor has to pass and to look down upon a Contagious Diseases' Hospital? Surely there is wisdom and good feeling enough in the Council to prevent the proposed outrage, as outrage it would be to take part of the people's playground as the site of what would indeed be a Contagious Hospital.

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It will be impossible to prevent small children and domestic animals getting into the grounds of the hospital by whom contagion will inevitably be spread. Mount Royal Park is estimated to have a value of ten millions, it is practically invaluable. It is astounding that a repulsive and dangerous institution should be proposed to be established inside such a magnificent Park.

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Tenders are to be opened for \$2,000,000 City of Montreal $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. loan on the 4th prox. This loan runs for 40 years. Interest payable half yearly. The City received a shade over par for its last $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. loan, and, as the market is favourable just now for the flotation of such first class securities, it is to be hoped that a good price will be realized. As far as security is concerned, the City of Montreal is just as good as the City of New York, Chicago or Philadelphia, and we observe that these are selling on a 3.20 per cent. basis.

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Mr. Carnegie's offer of \$150,000 towards building a City Library has been accepted, the condition being the expenditure of \$15,000 yearly on new books and maintenance. To maintain a library worthy of Montreal \$15,000 yearly is quite an inadequate sum. The Toronto Free Library costs over \$30,000 a year, and the books in it are valued at \$150,000 to \$160,000. The Minneapolis Library costs \$38,000 a year, the Milwaukee \$36,000, the Chicago \$122,000. Aldermen who talk of this city having already adequate Library accommodation should abstain from giving opinions on matters which are wholly beyond their capacity to form an intelligent judgment upon. He who says that this

city is adequately supplied with libraries thereby demonstrates and declares how utterly devoid he is of the taste, experience, literary faculty, which are requisite for judging such a question. Montreal, amongst the cultured classes in Canada, the States and England is regarded as the worst equipped city on this continent in respect to public library accommodation. There are towns in England having less than one tenth the population of this city that are better provided with public libraries than this wealthy commercial metropolis. There are whole realms of literature which are hardly represented by any library in this city. The word 'wretched' is far too weak to describe the meanness of the supply of works of reference to be found in any Montreal Library, and as to current literature, well, some of the small towns of Ontario are better supplied. In a library sense Montreal is at the bottom of the list of modern cities.

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Peace still lingers, though its early arrival is predicted. As we pointed out last week would probably be the case, the result of the Boer delegates delaying decisive action has been that quite a number of detached companies of Boers have voluntarily surrendered. The absence of leaders has given them time to reflect and reflection has brought their common sense into activity, which has dictated the policy of retiring from a struggle that never had either provocation or prospect of success. Although the Boers have sacrificed their independence to their insane ambition and greed, they have gained a nobler citizenship as British subjects. They have now the opportunity of proving their capacity and fitness for the political duties of men endowed with the widest liberties ever conferred on freemen. If they rise to the occasion they will realize how greatly they have been raised in civilization and how their manhood has been dignified by becoming members of the British Empire wherein no man can degrade himself by holding others as slaves. Peace, when it arrives, will bring enfranchisement alike to Boer and Kaffir; it will formally add two more colonies to the possessions of the British Crown, and, when war departs, it will leave the Empire raised in prestige and vitalized by unity as a recompense for all its cost in blood and treasure.

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Two important declarations have been made this week by distinguished public men in England. Mr. Chamberlain, speaking at Birmingham, pronounced Free trade to be no longer adapted to the requirements of British trade. It had done its work, but modern conditions called for a more protective policy to meet the competition of rivals who were