

subordination, and general harmony be secured. This opinion is not offered without the light afforded by long experience in my own sphere, and careful observation of those of other parties, in which the domestic government is not so wisely provided for as that of the Toronto Asylum.

I have thus hastily ventured to sketch out, and offer to your Board, a plan for the future management of the insane of Western Canada, not merely anticipating, but earnestly desiring, that it may be criticised; but in the same spirit in which it is presented, and with the same anxious desire to promote the interests and comfort of the insane and their much to be pitied relatives. I do not believe that the project is unnecessarily large; neither do I fear that it exceeds the measure of our provincial philanthropy. Whether this plan may ever command approval, it is not for me to forecast; much less should I flatter myself with the hope that it may be carried out in my day. One thing, however, is certain; there is in Upper Canada a very large amount of distress suffered by the unprovided-for insane, and this distress will not decrease because we may not choose to adopt adequate measures for its relief. The difficulty will be one of permanence, and whether my views be accepted or not, action will some day have to be taken in the same direction.

Having, I would trust not censurably, departed from the usual tenor of an Annual Report, by offering my views on the important question of enlarged provision for the insane—a question which I am well aware has engaged, and must continue to engage much serious consideration on the part of your Board—I would next venture to say a few words on another, invested with no less difficulty of solution, and hardly less general importance,—I mean the causes of insanity.

The result of much reading and careful thinking on this subject, aided by prolonged, and, I would trust, patient and impartial observation, has been to draw me to the belief that important errors have long prevailed on this deeply interesting question; and I have been forced to the conclusion that the large masses of statistical records which have, in almost all insane asylums, been collected and recorded with a view of eliciting the truth, have but removed it farther and farther from light. Under this con-