

of the government, soon after supervened, by which the expectations of these ladies were frustrated in this particular. But although they were disappointed in having the means furnished by government to defray this part of their charge, they did not relax in the duty they had thus voluntarily imposed upon themselves a second time ; on the contrary, they continued to receive children left as orphans or foundlings, provided for them at their own expense : and this practice has been followed without intermission by their successors, for a period of now more than sixty years, notwithstanding they had the misfortune of having their premises destroyed by fire in the course of that time. This calamity happened to them in the year 1765, and although a most disastrous event in the low state of their finances, they were soon enabled to recover it.

Madame Youville, endowed as she was with a fortitude not to be shaken, and deeply impressed with a sense of religion, by the united industry of herself and her pious sisters, was, under the aid of Providence, able to surmount this disaster. From the fruits of their industry and the donations of the charitable, they soon rebuilt the house upon a more extensive and commodious plan than before, and the establishment was carried on in the same manner as formerly.

A few years after this distressing occurrence, Madame Youville purchased, from her own private funds, the small island of Chateaugay, which had at that time a farm upon it as at present ; and a short time afterwards, the whole seigniory of Chateaugay was likewise bought for the institution. The price of this purchase was defrayed partly from Madame Youville's private property, and that of one of the other ladies, combined with the money they had saved by their strict economy and diligent industry. But little returns, however, could be expected from this property at that time, it being but thinly settled and under a miserable state of cultivation ; hence the purchase was made more from the distant prospect of its becoming valuable, than from its intrinsic worth at the moment. The whole revenue which it produced was swallowed up in making the needful repairs about the farm, and in the erection of a grist-mill, at that period indispensibly necessary for the settlers ; and it is only of late that these properties have become valuable. The same has been the case with almost all the property of the hospital in the neighbourhood of Montreal. It was leased in 1773, and the following years, upon rents redeemable and not redeemable ; and it is only within the last few years that it has begun to be available for the support of the establishment. During all this period, when their revenue was so limited, these ladies lived with the strictest economy, often allowing themselves only the simple necessities of life, in order that they might be the better able to provide for the wants of the poor and distressed.

In the year 1773, the hospital contained forty poor persons of both sexes, but ever since 1776 the number has been augmenting. The same has occurred with the foundlings and orphan children, who, since the last war, have increased to more than ninety in number. In the year 1800, government began to extend its bounty in favour of the institution ; this was evinced in its causing the number of the cells appropriated for the reception of lunatics to be increased at its own ex-