

A General Statement, being the substance of a Communication addressed to the Provincial Secretary, April, 1858, (to have preceded the Appendix to this Report.)

TORONTO, 6th April, 1858.

SIR,

I have, on several occasions since my connexion with the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, addressed the Government on my claims to compensation for injuries sustained by me in the public service, which resulted in continued and continuing inability to pursue my profession. These claims have been duly considered and reported on by the Commissioners of the Asylum, and by two Committees of the Legislature; but I have not received any permanent provision pursuant to their recommendations, and have only received from time to time promises of some office of emolument, and of such a nature as would be suited to my impaired state of health, which promises have not been fulfilled: and I have now, therefore, to urge the subject again on the consideration of the Government, with a view, I trust, to their immediately doing what the justice of the case demands.

While practising my profession successfully at Quebec, I was led to observe the very inefficient, objectionable, and inhuman mode of treatment of pauper lunatics, for whom no provision could be found but incarceration in the Common Gaols, with a treatment infinitely worse than that of convicted felons, and I took a great interest in endeavouring to ameliorate their condition, and at my own expense visited England and other countries to examine into the mode of conducting institutions for the insane and the mode of treatment. My subsequent exertions to procure the founding in these Provinces of suitable establishments were at last crowned with success, and resulted in provision being made for the establishment, both here and in Lower Canada, of the Lunatic Asylums now in active and successful operation, and the opening at Toronto, in the meantime, of an asylum for the reception of the insane, so that immediate relief should be given to that unfortunate class of our fellow beings.

My services in bringing about these results have always been recognized, and I was appointed the first Medical Superintendent, though on a very inadequate salary. In organizing and conducting the infant establishment I had to encounter great difficulties, pecuniary and otherwise, which, however, by zeal and untiring energy I surmounted, and I succeeded in managing the institution in such a manner as to elicit, and I trust deserve, very distinguished expressions of approbation.*

In support of the foregoing statements, I beg reference to the first paragraph of the Report of the Committee of the House of Assembly of 11th July, 1851, herewith enclosed marked A., the Report of Dr. Spears, (enclosed) marked B.; extract from Report of Dr. Dunlop, (enclosed) marked C.; letter of W. B. Jarvis, (enclosed) marked D.; and letters of Dr. Dunlop, marked H. and I., also enclosed. Enclosed will also be found the Report of a Committee of the Commissioners of the Asylum of 1846 on my case, and a Resolution of the Commissioners founded thereon marked F., and an extract from the Report of the Committee of Assembly of 1846 marked G.; and I also beg to draw attention to the letters of the late Dr. Grasett, Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals at Quebec, marked J., and of the Rev. H. J. Grasett marked K., as to my professional standing, &c., previous to accepting the management of the institution.

* A soothing nonrestraint, and entirely new system was adopted, restoring the unfortunate inmates (the most neglected, confirmed, and violent cases of insanity that will ever be seen again perhaps in the Province) to all the comforts and freedom of pure air, exercise, and amusements of ordinary hospital patients; and by thus tranquillising the nervous vascular and voluntary systems under energetic medical and moral treatment, followed results alike gratifying to all interested, and which are fully detailed in the various Reports of the institution.