

sand each year. This speaks well, not only for the morality and industry of the inhabitants, but also for the resources of the country. The mortality, however, appears slightly on the increase, and presents an average considerably above the mortality of the whole province in 1851. This average is not essentially disturbed by the cholera year. It is probable that the extra mortality of the rural districts of Lower above Upper Canada, is due not so much to the severity of the climate (which in Ottawa city closely resembles that of a large part of the Montreal District) as to the close stoving and intensely dry and heated rooms; a habit which would doubtless carry off a much larger number of victims, were it not for the extreme purity of the surrounding atmosphere.

The point, however of most *vital* importance, for it affects the lives of thousands, and the health of myriads, is the *excessive mortality of Montreal*. Not only did it present in 1851 a ratio of death greater than that of any city in Canada or New England; amounting to 8 per 1,000 over Boston, with its immense and crowded Irish population; 9 per 1,000 over Quebec, with its bleak climate, narrow streets and rock-bound courts; 20 per 1,000 over the five cities of the West, and the same over the country district, six times as populous, in the midst of which it raises its beautiful domes and spires; not only so, but its *mortality has been increasing*; and on the average of 7 years, even leaving out the terrible 1854, it presents a catalogue of deaths greater than that of Liverpool (the most unhealthy and over-crowded of English cities), in its most unhealthy epoch, before the days of sanitary reform; when 39,460 of its inhabitants lived in 7,892 cellars; when 55,534 fought against death in 1,982 courts, containing 10,692 houses, built back to back, one third of them *closed at both ends*, and at best provided with only a surface drainage, which might be called a fever-bed condensed.*

* At that time the cellars were generally from 10 to 13 feet square, sometimes less than 6 feet high; often with only bare earth for a floor; frequently with no window, and the ceiling on a level with the street. Generally there was no other drainage than a cess-pool under a board, which had to be ladled out; sometimes a cess-pool of putrid matter was allowed to incubate its fevers under a sleeping bed. Sometimes a back cellar was used as a sleeping room, with no light or air but what could enter through the front. Each house above contained two or more families, among which one woman complained that they were "rather crowded, since the people in the next corner took lodgers." The population was huddled together to an extent nearly three times the maximum.