

The local events in Montreal during this period were not of a very interesting nature, the principal amusements seem to have been to watch the many American prisoners of war going through the City, the assemblies which were held nearly every winter, and the occasional balls given by the militia. Trade appears to have been largely in the hands of the auctioneers, whose advertisements occupied a large portion of the papers of the city, the *Gazette*, the *Herald*, and the *Courant*, the former of which was half in English and half in French; the latter two entirely English.

The old fortifications were being removed; and the whole ground on the north side of St. James Street between Place d'Armes Hill and St. Peter Street, the most valuable land in the city to-day, was now for the first time being offered for sale in lots by the Crown.

John Molson applied in January, 1812, for the exclusive right to run a steamboat on the St. Lawrence, and followed this up by launching the "Swiftsure," a steamer which ran regularly between Montreal and Quebec. We also notice that this year the famous Sir John Johnson was fined ten shillings and costs for not removing the snow from his sidewalk.

In November a very important pastoral letter was issued by Monseigneur Plessis, the Roman Catholic bishop of Quebec, recapitulating the glorious victories of Lord Wellington in Spain and General Brock in Upper Canada, urging the militia to zeal in their military duties, an ordering the Te Deum to be sung in all churches in the Province in commemoration of the success of the British arms against France and the United States. This mandate had doubtless a very important effect in inciting the French militia to that degree of efficiency and bravery in action, evinced at Chateauguay and Lacolle.

Nothing of particular local interest occurred in the following year; but in 1814, we find the 21st of April and the 10th of September observed throughout the Province as