



PLAN OF THE MIDDLEMISS PROPERTY, MONTREAL.

THE LAND EXCHANGE.

In the subjoined map an accurate idea is given of the land transaction between the Local Government and certain private parties. The area situate behind the Tanneries church was the former Government property. The long strip adjoining the Middlemiss property was the old Leduc property, which was given to the Government in exchange for the Tanneries land. The lay of the respective properties, and their respective distances from the city will be best judged of by every reader for himself on an inspection of the map.

The official account of the whole transaction is thus given by the authorities themselves, and we reproduce it in justice to the authorities, as, up to the present writing, the only full report made by them. The Government owned a lot of land of twenty-five acres, of which five or six are in a quagmire at the bottom of a hill, and consequently of little or no value. By reason of the surrounding buildings and improvements the value of the property has steadily increased. Several specu-

lators endeavoured to get possession of it. In October, 1873, Sir A. T. Galt offered \$40,000 for the lot, and renewed the offer in the following January. Later Mr. Mullarky offered \$45,000 for it. Answer was made to these gentlemen that the land was not for sale, but that if it were sold it would be by public auction. Towards the month of April, 1874, a delegation, composed of MM. Brydges, Judah, Hart, and Lunn, waited on the Government, and had an interview with the Ministers in Council. These gentlemen stated that the English population in the neighbourhood of the General Hospital had just cause to be alarmed at seeing small-pox patients taken to this hospital, and that the public health required the erection of a building especially adapted to the treatment of small-pox and other contagious diseases, and therefore they prayed the Government to donate their land at the Tanneries for this purpose. They valued the lot at from \$30,000 to \$40,000.

The Government made answer that they fully concurred with the delegation as to the necessity of a small-pox hospital, and that their request would be favourably looked upon. There were, however, several objections to be overcome.—1. It was impossible to remove the small-pox patients from the General Hospital in order to protect the public health of the

neighbourhood, and infect thereby the Tanneries and their surroundings. 2. A building of this kind ought to be beyond the limits of the inhabited part of the city. 3. The General Hospital being under Protestant control, the Catholics would, in all probability, claim equal rights, and the Government, having only one piece of land, and not possessing the means of purchasing another (all the surplus of our revenue having been expended on railways), could not possibly grant the request. It was therefore necessary for the Government, in order to accord a like favour to Catholics and Protestants, to dispose of this piece of land and purchase another double the size of the one that the Protestant hospital wished to obtain. For two months the transaction remained at this stage, when Mr. Middlemiss came forward and offered the Government a piece of land containing 40 acres, situated twenty arpents further along the Lachine road, in an isolated and elevated place, bordered with shade-trees. The proposal was taken into consideration by the Governor in Council, all the Ministers being present save the Treasurer, who is in England. The Council unanimously decided that the proposal was an advantageous one, and charged the Hon. M. Archambault to make the final examination, and close the transaction.



MIRIAM, DAUGHTER OF THE GUARDIAN ON THE ISLAND OF PHILCE, ON THE NILE.—By CARL WERNER.