

the Thermometer is 20 below zero. And it is likewise predicted, that the enlightened government of a British Colony will refuse to sanction a measure, which the despotic sovereigns of the darker ages spontaneously bestowed upon their people. What a libel upon English humanity, intelligence, and liberality!!! Appealing then to experience and common sense, is the petition praying for the incorporation of this city premature? The united voice of intelligent Europe would reply in the negative. With the exception of Dissuaser "and some ten followers of his own" judging from the recent proceedings here, America would respond the opinion of Europe. The very savages of the adjacent woods have their chiefs and councils to regulate the local concerns of their woodland villages. Are the Canadians inferior to them, and less capable of governing themselves? Civilization spurns the idea. If the prayer of the Montreal petition be refused, the legislature will deliberately express their opinion, that the Canadians are unfit for discharging a duty for their own advantage, which the inhabitants of Europe were thought qualified to perform three centuries before the art of printing was discovered—when Kings could not write, when Barons could not read, and when of course the people were devoid of all lettered acquirements. Still the perceptions of sense pointed out that clean streets were preferable to dirty—smooth ways to rough—parallel buildings to irregular and confused masses, neat harbours to filthy shores,—safety, in short, to danger.—Their own untutored sense secured the means when they obtained the power to provide for themselves such objects of preference. That power is all that the inhabitants of Montreal at the present day want. It won't do to dogmatize, and denounce the application as premature, unless the nuisances are removed and the defects obviated, while the dogmas are in the course of utterance. Let it not then be said, that the self arrogated wisdom of a few Anglo-Canadians is greater than that of centuries of experience, of the accumulated wisdom of man in ages alike simple and refined, of the testimony of common sense; and of the personal observation of every intelligent European.

These observations, which have been extended beyond all ordinary latitude, from an anxiety to explain the grounds upon which