



Plantagenet Mineral Springs.

Nature not unfrequently presents us with combinations of medicinal agents, admirably adapted to our necessities. This observation is peculiarly applicable to mineral waters, which sometimes hold in solution remedial substances truly valuable, which, if administered to an invalid, chemically or artificially compounded, would prove of little benefit. In mineral waters these compositions are so matchlessly contrived, that while they *invite*, they at the same time *defy* imitation.

There is one peculiar characteristic of mineral waters, that the medicinal substances are presented to the stomach in such minute quantities as to be the most favourable for rapid absorption, while their alterative or other energies are for the same reason enhanced. To such conditions we consider referable the sometimes remarkable effects produced by the continued employment of mineral waters; and of this fact the history of a mineral spring water which we are writing, affords a very large number of examples.

The Plantagenet spring water was first introduced to public notice in 1832. This was a memorable year for the Province. It was devastated by that most terrible of Divine afflictions, the Asiatic cholera, the city of Montreal having been actually decimated. During that year a gentleman of the name of Cameron, a lumber merchant, acquainted with the properties of the water, freely used it himself, and induced as many as it was possible under his charge to employ it as a beverage. This singular fact is recorded, that of all those who used the water and were attacked by the cholera, none died, while of all those who refused the water none recovered. This circumstance has been attested by Mr. Dorval, then a City Councillor for Quebec. The fact, however, had not escaped observation, and the reputation of the water unostentatiously but rapidly spread. It was afterwards prescribed freely by the medical profession of Montreal and Quebec, from which circumstance its employment became general, and we may safely assert that no other mineral water has secured and *retained* a greater amount of confidence among the learned professions or the laity of the Province.