

which distinguished their loyal predecessors sixty years ago! When your city did not contain a tithe of its present population, nor one hundred part of its wealth, this costly monument, the fruit of a spontaneous burst of patriotic feeling, showed the strength of that feeling, when aroused by the National Glory!

In the olden time, Montreal, like all other small towns, had its classes as distinct and impenetrable as the castes in India. Shopkeepers could not descend to associate with tradesmen, however respectable, nor wholesale dealers with retailers. The distinction between these last was more curious than obvious. The importer of a few packages of goods, who opened and sold them piece by piece—who had, perhaps, small credit and less capital—was dubbed a wholesale merchant; while the wealthy shopkeeper, often also an importer, who opened these pieces and sold them by the yard, could not aspire to subscribe to the assemblies, open only to the military, professional men, and wholesale dealers!

These assemblies, which had previously been held at Dillon's, on the Place d'Armes, had been transferred to the more spacious rooms of the Exchange Coffee House, where the first meeting for the season took place in December, 1805. After some six or eight country dances, the company had descended to the supper room, where the late Mr. Samuel Gerrard, one of the stewards, presided. The good things had been disposed of. Toasts and songs succeeded; when a waiter brought in a packet of newspapers just received from New York, containing Admiral Collingwood's dispatch of the Battle of Trafalgar, which was laid before Mr. Gerrard, and read to the company. I can never forget the electrifying effects of the news of that glorious victory on those present; while loud huzzas shook the very foundations of the building, many, particularly ladies, were shedding tears. The greatest of naval victories, clouded by the fall of the greatest of naval heroes, produced a mingled sensation of exultation and grief. Under the exciting influences, the

chairman's proposal to erect a monument in the City of Montreal to the memory of Nelson, and that a subscription be then and there opened to defray the cost, was received with enthusiasm. Ladies and gentlemen pressed to set down their names, so that in a few minutes a sum was subscribed sufficient to warrant its commencement, and a committee appointed to carry the plan into execution. In so small a town, the exclusive class then present, male and female, did not probably exceed two hundred persons in all, of whom very few were affluent, none millionaires, yet this spontaneous subscription exceeded one thousand pounds, and subsequently much more was obtained. Thus enabled, the committee opened a correspondence with Sir Alexander Mackenzie, John Gillespie, and Thomas Forsyth, Esquires, of London, by whom plans, drawings, and externals of a naval column were obtained from Robert Mitchell, Esquire, architect; which, having been approved of by the Montreal Committee, the statue of the Hero, eight feet high, and the bas-reliefs on the four sides of the pedestal were moulded in artificial stone, at Coal & Sealy's manufactory, in the Borough, and thence shipped to Montreal, where the column was erected in 1808, by the late Mr. Gilmore, in stone from the Mountain Quarries.

If Montreal, in its infancy, could erect this splendid pillar: surely, in its present state, the cost of restoration is unimportant. But restoration alone is not sufficient; it ought to be removed from its present site to the Champ de Mars, or elsewhere, where the *name* as well as the memory of Nelson could not be superseded. However respectable and worthy of remembrance Jacques Cartier may be, it was at least bad taste that imposed his name on the spot where Nelson's Monument had stood for half a century.

W. HENDERSON.

HEMISON, DORCHESTER CO.,
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