

rendered him, adding that when he went home, he was going to send me a mandamus for the Legislative Council. I thanked him, but declined the honor, giving him my reasons for so doing. He then said if there was anything else within his gift that would be acceptable to me, he begged that I would name it. I replied I was more than repaid by his kindness, and that I neither wished for, nor would I take, any other return. This proved to me, although he was a very proud man, he was possessed of a warm and grateful heart.

The people generally in Montreal had for a long time been complaining of the very high price which both bread and firewood were kept at by a combination of those in these trades. I had often spoken to the leaders of the unreasonable rates which they charged, and threatened to start an opposition in both lines for the benefit of the poor. In 1837, the thing was carried so far, that I set seriously to work and organized a joint-stock company under the name of "The Montreal Public Bakery." We sold pure and excellent bread at from 2d. to 3d. below what the bakers had charged. They held meetings, and came to the determination to sell our company down, at a copper lower per quarter loaf. We had managers to pay, and various drawbacks to contend with, and by our rules could not sell lower than cost. The public, who made such an outcry against the bakers, no sooner heard of their selling at a trifle lower, than they left us.

The woodyard which I started, had the effect of reducing the price of this important necessity very much, also. But I could only sell it to the really poor, for to lay up stock sufficient to supply the city, would have taken a capital of many thousands of pounds. I could not attend to the selling of the wood, and was cheated by those in charge. This establishment was entirely on my own account. The House of Industry came forward, and loaned me £1000 to carry it on, for which I granted them my note with security for the repayment at the end of two years. A circumstance took place as to this note, which is worth narrating, as involving a case of as gross villainy as I have ever heard of. I gave the said note by the desire of the Board of Management, to, and in the name of, Mr. Charles La Montaigne, as treasurer and secretary to the Institution. He had for a long time been a man of wealth, and very much respected, but about this time, 1840, he got inveigled with a band of gamblers, who swindled him to such an extent, that, in a fit of desperation, he paid away my note to one of the gang. This man who got the note, employed a lawyer by the name of Thos. Judah to get me to give the like amount in a negotiable shape, as it was not negotiable, being in the form of a loan from the Institution. Judah came to me and stated that the Institution was requiring a few hundred pounds, and that they sent him to request that I would give them two notes for £500, payable at same date as the one for £1,000. I replied that if I got up the said note duly indorsed, I would have no objection to comply with the request.

He produced the note duly endorsed, and sat down in my office and made out two for £500 each, payable to my own order, which I put my name to;