

similar circumstances. He proposed the subject to some medical gentlemen, and also to his colleague, who always had been forward to promote objects of public utility. The scheme was followed up with zeal and liberality. An institution arose far surpassing his utmost expectation." "Such," in the words of an intimate friend, with whom he often conversed, "was the development in his truly Christian mind of an institution which has since grown to be one of the honors of Canada—an institution of which Montreal will always be proud, and to which the late Hon. Mr. Richardson, after all highly valued labours, had the honour of making an important addition."

By his will, drawn up on the 21st of February, 1833, four years before his death, "he left bequests in the following order, and to the following amount:—For the purchase of a ground lot and erection of a manse, for the use of the minister of St. Gabriel Street Church, during thirty years the object of his warm and constant solicitude, £1000; to support a lectureship for the benefit of the Natural History Society of Montreal, £1000; to Mr. David Wilkie, at Quebec, his friend from early life, £1000; to the Rev. Alex. Mathieson, of Montreal, many years an intimate friend, £100; to the late Thos. Blackwood, Esq., one of his oldest and most confidential friends at Montreal, £100; and to the Trustees of the Montreal General Hospital, as residuary legatees, all that might remain after paying off all the above mentioned legacies." Dr. Wilkie remarks: "The remainder falling to the General Hospital must, it is believed, be very considerable, and will, no doubt, be suitably recorded."

In our time the amounts bequeathed by Mr. Somerville to public objects, do not seem large; but fifty years ago they must have been counted considerable, when there was comparatively little realized wealth in this country, and money was so much more valuable relatively, than it is now. Though not looking very large to the present generation, they were timely; and the several sums applied to the respective objects contemplated in his final benevolent disposal of his means were productive of more important and lasting results to those public objects than five times the amount would be to-day. His thoughtful generosity put the institutions which it aided on a prosperous footing, and once they got fairly under weigh, their success became assured.

It was not from his professional income, however, that the