

wish to reproduce the evidence given by Messrs Hamilton, Massue, Painchaud and Lemoine, as touching the cubic space of the Beauport Asylum. The paper is already before the country, and can be examined by all who take an interest in that institution. We go upon the broad principle of right or wrong; and if the Government continue the policy of allowing things to remain as at present, we with others cry out, shame—an opinion which has been expressed in the Imperial paper on Colonial Hospitals and Asylums before alluded to.

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Quebec Lunatic Asylum, 20th July, 1865.

GENTLEMEN,—I do not complain that the Quebec Lunatic Asylum, like all other public institutions, should be subject to public comment; but I have reason to complain that any public print should be made a “*Ductus communis choledochus*.”

The object of your article, headed a “*A Lunatic Asylum*,” seems to urge the necessity of one in Montreal. Few who know anything of the Statistics of Insanity in this section of the Province will differ with you in this opinion.

You say, you have given this subject your attention for years. Now, are you aware that when in 1845, the Asylum in Quebec was first established, the Government endeavoured to have one established in Montreal on a similar plan? Dr. Mount, and some other medical gentlemen, accepted the proposal, but after considerable delay abandoned the scheme as attended with too great risk of loss, and the patients from Montreal were consequently sent down to Quebec.

“Are you aware, that when eight years ago the buildings of Quebec Lunatic Asylum were insufficient to meet the increasing demand for accommodation—the proprietors, instead of enlarging them, recommended to Government the erection of another asylum in Montreal? This being declined, (I suppose on the principle that he who sits easy, should sit still,) the proprietors enlarged their buildings. Are you aware that, two years ago, the demand for increased accommodation being urgent, application was again made to Government for an asylum in the District of Montreal? Government (in my opinion) very wisely declined to adopt the views of those who thought that private or college buildings could be turned into Lunatic Asylums, and induced the proprietors of Quebec Lunatic Asylum to erect a new separate building, capable of affording accommodation and ample cubic space to three hundred patients and their attendants. The two buildings will now afford room for seven hundred and fifty patients; even this, in a very few years, will be found insufficient for the wants of the Lower Province; and I think now, as I have always done, that an asylum should be erected in the district of Montreal. Besides the cubic space, there are many other matters connected with the Quebec Lunatic Asylum with which, notwithstanding your assertion to the contrary, you are profoundly ignorant, and of which you ought in my opinion to lose no time in obtaining reliable information; in this, however, you will do as you deem fit. There is one matter parti-