

tions in seeking out and relieving objects of distress, might be truly said to confer more real benefit than all the promiscuous charity of the rest of the population. To these ladies the superintendence of the soup kitchen was intrusted and in this way a provision was made which not only alleviated the distress of many a sufferer, but was in all probability the means of preserving many from death by actual famine.

These Ladies, then termed the benevolent society, had not long entered upon the discharge of their duty when they found there were other claims of the distressed besides their poverty, to be satisfied. They with unwearied zeal sought out those who were truly objects of charity in order to guard against the pretending hypocrite, and in the course of their enquiries found many stretched on the bed of sickness, unable to seek for relief, and for whom medical aid was indispensibly necessary. They justly considered that to relieve them was more the object of pure charity than to supply the wants of many clamorous applicants who came for food, when they could have procured it from their own labour. This opinion was communicated by these benevolent females to the committee who had been appointed to disburse the money collected, and who readily joined with them in the plan of renting a small house, where a few of the most dangerous cases of diseased and poor individuals might get the benefit of medical aid. This was a step though necessary at the time, not to be entered upon without mature consideration; the funds which had been collected were not more than sufficient to furnish the numerous claimants on their bounty with the means of supporting life: but still the charitable feeling for the sick and diseased had its weight with both the gentlemen of the committee, and those ladies who so urgently pressed upon their minds the necessity of such an establishment. It is not here requisite to enter into the whole proceedings, on this occasion a brief outline is all our limits will admit. Upon the representation of these Ladies, Dr. Blackwood a young gentleman who had retired from the army where he had acted as a Surgeon, agreed, in conjunction of some of the other medical gentlemen of the city to give their professional assistance provided a place was found where the most necessitous cases of sick poor could be relieved. By the exertions of the late Isaac Winslow Clark, Esqr. then Deputy Commissary General, (and who was one of the most active and zealous members of the Committee) a quantity of condemned Barrack-bedding was obtained from the Governor in Chief the Duke of Richmond. Thus supplied with the too great requisites for their object, the Committee hired a small building in the St. Joseph Suburb, consisting of four apartments, which they dedicated to the reception of the most pitiable cases of distress, which came under their notice, and gave it the name of *The House of Recovery*. The smallness of the building and the limited state of their means, would admit of their extending relief to but few: small however as it was, and contracted as the system of its utility must necessarily have been under such circumstances, this establishment was the first step, and from it arose that valuable institution, The Montreal General Hospital, as will be seen from the sequel.