

appeal, a delegate, in the person of the well known oculist in Montreal, Dr. Desjardins, left for Rome, in the apparently hopeless task of getting his Holiness the Pope to reverse the decision of the Council of Bishops. In the meantime the answer arrived for the sisters—they must obey—close the hospital to Victoria, open it to Laval. Surely every vestige of hope was gone now, and the almost hopeless task of Dr. Desjardins became a forlorn hope. Some of those connected with Laval waited on the Ladies of the Hotel Dieu to arrange for getting the entry of the Institution, when a difficulty arose, the nature of which we do not know, save that it showed that these good sisters felt their hearts still warm to Victoria, and still unwilling, after so many years of friendly contact, to cut them entirely adrift. Few who scanned the situation well but felt that the sky was very dark, and that Victoria seemed all but dead, and that she was dying nobly, fighting to the last. But on the 27th of August, news came to the school from Rome “open as usual,” and to the Bishop of Montreal, to much the same effect. Why this sudden change is not known, save that a powerful pleader for Victoria was then there, in the person of one well calculated from his special line of professional work to take the dust out of persons’ eyes. We need hardly say that the news spread like wild-fire, and was soon the topic of the city, while the friends of Victoria were profuse in their congratulations to each other. We too rejoice, not because we oppose Laval, but because we are opposed to any attempt to crush out a school, in the manner adopted by Laval University, supported by a powerful party in the Roman Catholic Church. At the same time we are glad that Laval has opened a Medical School in Montreal, and though she has not gained, as yet at all events, her desire that Victoria shall cease to exist, we hope to see her remain here, and work out her own destiny. Her advent, in spite of the bitter struggle, has done Victoria good, stimulating the latter’s energies, many of them being in a latent condition. Victoria had thought herself monarch of all she surveyed, and in many ways had become a little fossilized. The existence of Laval, as a competitor to her in Montreal, has awakened her from her dream, and if her life be prolonged she will no doubt equal any school in Canada, in the means at her disposal, to teach the science and art of medicine.

## DR. MORELL MACKENZIE ON “AMERICAN CATARRH.”

In a recent number of the *British Medical Journal*, there is an abstract of a lecture delivered at the London Hospital Medical College by Dr. Mackenzie, on catarrh of the nasopharynx. A severe type of this disease he found to be so prevalent in America that he calls it a “*national complaint*,” and names it “*American Catarrh*.” It is widely diffused over the continent but prevails principally between latitudes 44° and 38°. It is not as severe in Canada as in the United States. He attributes it to the irritant effects of *dust* in the air, for he says, “dust is to be found everywhere in America.” He paints the following gloomy, picture:—“The universal prevalence of catarrh is, indeed, fully explained by the abundance of dust, both in the country and in the cities. Owing to the immense size of the country, and its sparse rural population, the country roads have not, as a rule, been properly made, and except in some of the older States, are merely the original prairie tracks. In the cities, notwithstanding the magnificence of the public buildings, the splendor of many of the private houses, and the beauty of the parks, the pavement is generally worse than it is in the most neglected cities of Europe; such indeed as are only to be found in Spain or Turkey. It must be recollected also that, whilst in the decayed towns of the Old World there is very little movement, in the American cities there is a ceaseless activity and an abundance of traffic. Hence the dust is set in motion in the one case, but not in the other. The character of the dust, of course, varies greatly according to the locality. In some parts, it is a fine sand; in others an alkaline powder; whilst in the cities it is made up of every conceivable abomination, among which, however, decomposing animal and vegetable matters are not the least irritating elements. An idea may, perhaps, be formed of the state of the atmosphere from a consideration of the fact that in many cities the functions of the scavenger are quite unknown. That a dusty atmosphere is the real cause of postnasal catarrh is rendered probable by a consideration of the anatomical relations of the nasopharynx; for owing to its being a cul-de-sac out of the direct line of the respiratory tract, particles of foreign matter which become accidentally lodged in its upper part are got rid of with difficulty, most likely by an increased secretion, which, as in the case of the conjunctiva, washes away any gritty