

THE
British American Journal.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1862.

THE OPERATION OF THE VACCINATION ACT.

It is a true adage, that corporations have no souls, and that men will do in a corporate capacity things from which their individual honour would instinctively recoil. Now, thanks to the late Hon. P. D. DeBlaquière, who introduced the measure, if there was ever one for which the chief cities of this Province had good reason to be thankful, it was unquestionably the Vaccination Act of last Session; and any one of ordinary intelligence, or who could feel for the distress of others, would have imagined that the councils of the cities specified, would have been but too glad to have put in force the requirements of the Act, under the hope that it would be the means of checking the development and progress of about one of the most loathsome diseases which can afflict humanity. The mere outlay of a few pounds, one would have imagined, would with such an object in view, have been by the councils deemed a matter of little moment, at least, assuredly, that the councils never would have interposed such an objection to the full and free working of the Act. Let us now see how the City Corporation of Montreal has acted in this matter: and when this fell disease has actually overstepped its ordinary operations among the poorer classes of our population, and has invaded the dwellings of our wealthiest and best, it would have been supposed that a *vis a tergo* would have been imparted, which, despite of inclination, would have made it do its duty to the full extent required by the law. But otherwise has been the case. The Corporation has certainly inaugurated the Act, but it only did so, after we had called attention to its dereliction of duty. The Act was passed on the 18th of May, 1861, and states that within three months after the passing of this Act, the council of each such city shall appoint a convenient place in each such ward of such city, for the performance of such vaccination." Now emphatically, if the Act entails upon the Council the "appointment of a convenient place in each ward," the rent of such convenient place is unquestionably implied, but so far from having done this, the corporation have not only appointed no place or places themselves, but have refused to pay the necessary rent for those places which the medical gentlemen elected have been obliged