

supply these wants we are indebted for that valuable institution the Montreal General Hospital. From the termination of the war in 1815, every succeeding summer brought to this country increasing numbers of poor peasantry from England, Scotland and Ireland. Many families embarked from the mother country too late to reach the remote situations in the Canadas, where they had friends and relatives previously settled, and on whose alluring promises they had depended when they left the mother country. Arrived in Canada, and landed at Quebec, they had still, (with empty pockets, and bodies debilitated by those diseases incident to a long voyage in a crowded vessel,) to proceed several hundreds of miles before they could reach the place in which their friends resided. The season frequently too far advanced for them to take the advantage of a summer conveyance to the place of their ultimate destination, what could they do but endeavour to find employment (such as they, weakened by previous disease could take,) to enable them to live through a long and vigorous winter. Even in this effort they were defeated. The long and arduous winter in Canada, puts a stop to the operations of husbandry, and to the labours of many out-door mechanics. A great proportion of these emigrants had been bred as manufacturers, weavers, &c. a business for which there is no demand in this country. Under such circumstances what could these unfortunate people do; no resource was left them but a dependance on promiscuous charity; and that source only affording a scanty and precarious supply tending to maintain life, but ill calculated to renovate a frame or restore a constitution previously brought down by sickness. In Lower Canada the French language prevails in the country: of it these poor emigrants had no knowledge; and hence they were of necessity constrained to reside in the principal towns. Quebec and Montreal became of course the principal points where they spent their first winter; and on these cities the burden of supporting them chiefly fell; and the wretchedness of their condition became most apparent.

The distressing hardships of these poor unfortunate people had been so great during the previous years, that on witnessing the accumulated numbers of them which arrived at Quebec in the summer of 1818, it was decided among a few charitable individuals in Montreal that some preparation for their maintenance should be made for the winter. In this plan the Protestant Clergymen of every sect readily combined; appeals were made to the public in the form of charity sermons, and by dint of those and public subscriptions, a sum amounting to 1200*l*. Halifax Currency, was raised, and appropriated in the following manner.

The persons to whom the expenditure of this money was entrusted, well knew that the indiscriminate distribution of it in money, even under every care they could bestow, would not be attended with the desired effect, they therefore decided on establishing a soup house, from whence might be issued to such individuals as they considered objects of charity a portion of soup, meat and vegetables daily. At this time there existed in Montreal an association of females, who actuated by the most benevolent motives, had formed themselves into a society for charitable purposes; and who in their unwearied exer-