

should be nothing terrible or appalling about such institutions. Unfortunately, it appears from Dr. Tuke's report, recently published, that our Quebec asylums are far from coming up to the standard of well-conducted asylums in France and England; but the sufferings depicted by Dr. Tuke would not be endured by a sane person accidentally confined, for the defects pointed out apply chiefly to patients of the refractory class.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Fraser Institute, it seems probable after all, will at no remote date have a local habitation, as well as a name on the statute book. The old High School building, in which it is to begin its existence, is central and convenient; a fair nucleus of books is available for the start, the estate is now valued at \$125,000, and there is an income of about \$3,000 per annum, with prospect of improvement. Some have been of opinion that, even on the slenderest income, a beginning should have been made long ago, in cheap, leased premises. The trustees no doubt keenly realized that such an inauguration would not be creditable to the premier city of Canada. But the unfortunate muddle in which the Fraser bequest has long been involved, without any visible token of life, has undoubtedly had the effect of deterring others from acts of benevolence in a like direction.

THE LATE MR. TERROUX.

An old and honored functionary has vanished from his wonted haunts. Mr. C. A. Terroux, J. P., who died Oct. 14, aged 75, has been for 58 years employed in the prothonotary's office at Montreal. How many births, marriages, deaths, how many family councils, partnerships, interdictions, have come within the purview of his department during this period! Mr. Terroux belonged to the old band of deserving court officials, some of whom count nearly as many years of service as the veteran now taken away. The recollection of his gentle presence and kindly word will long be cherished by his late companions, as well as by the public of whom he was the patient and courteous servant.

NOTES OF CASES.

SUPERIOR COURT.

[In Chambers.]

MONTREAL, October 13, 1884.

Before JETTE, J.

Ex parte EDWARD PERRY, Requéran la libération de Rose Church, internée dans l'asile St-Jean de Dieu.

Petition for discharge of person confined as a lunatic — Conflicting medical testimony — Reference to expert.

On a petition for the discharge of a person confined as a lunatic, the Court found that the testimony of physicians who had examined the patient was conflicting, and in particular the opinion of the physician resident in the asylum was in conflict with that of the visiting physician. Held, that under the circumstances the Court would order an examination of the patient by a disinterested expert before pronouncing upon the petition for discharge.

PER CURIAM. Les tribunaux civils ont rarement à s'occuper de questions aussi importantes que celle qui est aujourd'hui pendante devant cette Cour. Depuis plus de deux ans une femme, que l'on dit saine d'esprit, est internée dans un asile d'aliénés, mise au rang des fous furieux, et l'on demande sa libération en disant que rien ne peut justifier cet internement et que cette malheureuse est victime d'une séquestration arbitraire!

On comprend, à ce simple exposé, l'intérêt que le public a paru prendre aux diverses phases de cette cause, et les sympathies qui se sont manifestées en faveur de cette pauvre femme, tant dans la presse que dans l'assistance nombreuse qui a suivi les débats de ce procès. Habités d'ailleurs, aux bienfaits d'un régime politique qui assure et garantit toutes les libertés, les habitants de ce pays ne sauraient rester indifférents lorsqu'on affirme qu'il a été abusivement porté atteinte à la plus précieuse de ces libertés, la liberté individuelle!

Cependant si naturelles et plausibles que soient ces sympathies et cette sollicitude pour la victime présumée de cet arbitraire, je n'ai pas besoin de dire que les magistrats ne sauraient y être accessibles et qu'esclaves