

their needs, to the Trustees of the Coté Street Church; and subsequently, on the 25th November, 1875, executed a conveyance of it to the Trustees before the same Notary, at the cost price, with interest from the date of the original purchase.

Having thus acquired a suitable site, the Board on the following day, the 26th November, 1875, offered by advertisement, premiums for the first and second best designs for the building of the Institute, and received on and before the 1st February, 1876, the day fixed by their notice, a large number of such designs, both from Canada and the United States.

These were exhibited to the public during February and March, 1876; were carefully examined, both by the Board and by a skilled person employed for the purpose, and finally, on the 22nd of April, 1876, the premium for the best design was awarded to Mr. John W. Hopkins, and for the second best to Mr. W. T. Thomas, both of Montreal, Architects.

While these preparations for the construction of the building were going on, the Board entered into negotiations with the Natural History Society, namely; in January, 1876; for a transfer to the Institute; of the Museum and property of that Society, and agreed upon the conditions on which such transfer could be obtained from the Society. But the arrangement was not completed at the time, as the University of McGill College required payment of the original value of the land on which the buildings of the Society were erected; which had been given to the Society by the Royal Institution for the advancement of learning, on condition that a museum of natural history should be placed and maintained there. This value the University considered should be paid, as under the proposed arrangement the museum would be removed to the buildings of the Fraser Institute upon another lot of ground. While on the other hand the Board considered that the purposes of the grant would be as efficiently carried out in the one place as in the other. While this point was under discussion, it became impossible for the Institute to assume the expense of the Museum, and the matter remained in abeyance. But it is to be hoped that the negotiations may be successfully resumed as soon as the Institute is in a position to commence active operations.

The Board also entered into conditional arrangements with the Mercantile Library Association in May, 1876, for the acquisition of their library; and of the funds in their possession, amounting to about \$7,000. But though the terms of this arrangement were practically agreed upon, it has not yet been proceeded with, in consequence of the inability of the Institute to furnish the proper accommodation for the library.

During all this period, the Board were embarrassed and obstructed by the continued active hostility of a portion of the heirs.

In January, 1875, Mr. John Fraser, purporting to act on behalf of himself and his co-heirs, presented a memorial to the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, praying for the passage of an Act of that Legislature, declaring that the Edict of the King of France, passed in the year 1743, respecting *main-morte*, be declared to be in force: and that the Courts should adjudicate on any action brought after the passage of the Act, notwithstanding that the same cause of action should have been previously