

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.

A most distressing and fatal accident occurred to our old and respected fellow-citizen and colleague, Dr. Robert Lee MacDonnell. Dr. MacDonnell attended the funeral of the late Dr. Peltier, which took place on the morning of Tuesday, the 29th of January ult. The Doctor suffered from an old rheumatic affection of the knee-joint, and in consequence was obliged to attend in his cariole. He had drawn up at the corner of Craig street, awaiting the passage of the funeral cortege. At this moment a runaway horse, with a light vehicle, dashed down McGill street and across Craig street, making directly for the Doctor's sleigh, which was in his path. As he came up, the horse swerved to one side, and apparently struck the Doctor a heavy blow with the shaft or some portion of the harness on the left side of the head, over the mastoid process, inflicting a flesh wound three inches in length. The back part and seat of Dr. MacDonnell's sleigh was carried away, and the Doctor fell heavily to the ground, striking and badly contusing the right side of his face and temple. He was stunned by the injury, but rapidly recovered consciousness, and was taken to his home. During that day he did not complain of any symptoms pointing to brain lesion, and was so far well that hope was entertained that no serious injury had been sustained. He passed a restless night, and towards morning his son, Dr. Richard MacDonnell, who was in attendance, observed that he became excessively prostrated, as though still suffering from shock. The following day he apparently rallied, and was believed to be doing well; there was, however, some difficulty in swallowing, and in the afternoon he became heavy, and could articulate with indistinctness. Still, he appeared perfectly collected. About 3 p.m. he again showed symptoms of syncope, from which he did not rally, and he died about 3:30 o'clock. Dr. MacDonnell has practised his profession with eminence in this city, since the year 1845, when he came to this country from his native city—Dublin. He was a man of great mental culture, and highly gifted. We shall endeavour, in our next issue, to give a *resumé* of his eventful and useful career.