

or civil rights encroached upon by the carrying out of a general law which, as a community we all agree is necessary and advantageous as a sanitary measure. The law as it exists is inoperative simply because it is not imperative. Marriage and baptism in the Roman Catholic Church are regarded as sacraments, so that registration with them is a matter of secondary importance. Nevertheless, it is generally admitted that the register kept by that denomination is most accurate. Such cannot be said of other denominations. There are those individuals who do not believe in the necessity of infant baptism; others again, who neglect, or absolutely refuse to bring their children to their church to be baptised: with some of these latter a compromise is entered into between them and their clergyman, and the ceremony is performed in their houses. Again, there are, sad to say, in the city of Montreal a certain number of families who profess to belong to no creed, go to no church, and if children are born to them they are never registered. We know of several families who have increased and multiplied, and yet not a single name of any child born to them could be discovered on any register. These are facts which cannot but strike the reader with the urgent necessity for some change from the present system; to effect that change we must have united action.

We trust that the Montreal Sanitary Association will show something more definite on the subject than merely discussing the propriety of having a registration act. Prepare a Bill, gentlemen, have it printed and circulated fully; discuss its various clauses; obtain from other communities or cities in the Dominion suggestions or alterations that may be deemed advisable, and then submit it to the Commons of Canada with full certainty of its becoming law. By adopting this line of action the Sanitary Association of the city of Montreal will earn for itself an enviable notoriety, and deserve the thanks of the whole country—without something of the kind it might reasonably be supposed to resemble the meeting of the three tailors of Tooley Street.