

The victims of misfortune were rendered much more numerous, by the tide of emigration annually setting in from the British Isles. During the season of navigation the wharves of Quebec were crowded with hundreds of unfortunate children, whom famine and sickness had deprived of their parents, either during the voyage, or shortly after their arrival in their adopted country. The sight of these numberless misfortunes induced the ladies of St. Roch to form a society for the relief of these orphans.

Under the protection of heaven, this noble institution prospered; but its means were not adequate to the extent of sufferings to be relieved.

In 1832, the emigration from Ireland had been much greater than during any preceding year; the ravages of cholera were dreadful amongst the poor emigrants enfeebled by the hardships endured on sea, and huddled together on the quays and in the streets of Quebec, without the means of being conveyed to their destination.

The number of destitute orphans thrown on the bounty of the citizens of Quebec, in consequence of this calamity, was considerable. Promptly and nobly did the country parishes come forward to claim their part in the work of benevolence and charity. Several hundred Irish children, bereft of their protectors, were adopted in families residing in the rural districts. But many more still remained to be provided for; the wants and sufferings of the poor were increasing; and winter was fast approaching under the most discouraging aspect. Christian benevolence knows how to multiply its resources; devotedness is always sure to find congenial hearts, prepared