

I may here mention that, whether By or Duberger first suggested the idea of this particular model, it probably derived its origin from an other quarter. I hold in my hand a letter from a Montreal merchant, named Morrison, dated 22nd January, 1826, and addressed to a gentleman and his wife resident at Quebec :

(EXTRACT from a Letter of Mr. Morrison, dated 22nd January, 1826.)

" Having seen in the old *Quebec Gazette* a paragraph by and from a Mr. J. Lambert, who was here some years past, whom I have seen in person, I will herein send you a copy.

' MODÈLES DE PARIS ET DE QUÉBEC.—En 1798, est-il dit, dans le choix de curiosités on montrait à Paris un modèle très curieux de cette ville, qu'un artiste ingénieux avait été neuf ans à exécuter. Il ne s'était pas contenté de comparer et de corriger tout les plans de Paris publiés jusqu'alors, il avait encore mesuré toutes les rues, les places, &c., en suivant ce procédé, le genre de mesurage géométrique le plus exact, et indiqué les inégalités du site de cette immense capitale, au moyen du modellement. Le plus grand diamètre du modèle, dans son étendue de l'est à l'ouest, était de quinze pieds ; la hauteur des maisons était de trois lignes.' "

Then follows a description of Duberger's Quebec model, of which the translation has been given above.

In addition to what I have already stated concerning the present condition of the famous Quebec model, I have now to communicate to the Society another fact, which appears to me to be of material consequence. From the same source I learned the probability of having the model not merely reduced in size, but set aside altogether. On this point I will quote the words of my informant, who is entirely reliable, and has the best opportunities of knowing the facts of the case :

(EXTRACT from a Letter dated 22nd October, 1872.)

" I was told that the model, which is, no doubt a very elaborate work, and admirably done, is found to be very much in the way ; the Rotunda being much cramped for room for the exhibition of models of various kinds, of a more modern and practically useful invention, more especially projectiles, and other military inventions. The catalogue is out of print, and a more elaborate one is being printed."

In short, there is now a demand for the space it occupies ; and considering the indifference of the English public concerning such old Canadian works of art, I think we are warranted in assuming that ere long this beautiful trophy of Canadian genius and skill will be removed from its present position, and stowed away, perhaps, as useless lumber ; that parts of it will be lost, and finally the whole.

It has occurred to me that the members of the Literary and Historical Society in particular, and the citizens of Quebec in general, may consider it worth while to take some steps with a view of the recovery of this great work, and of lodging it again in what may be styled its native place. I will not presume to offer any suggestions as to the mode of procedure likely to be effectual in accomplishing this restitution, though I will venture to offer the following remark :—Year by year the visible memorials of old Quebec, which remind us of the conspicuous position which this city, its inhabitants, fortifications, and environs, have occupied in times past, and in connection with many of the important events by which the destinies of the people of North America have been influenced, are passing away ; but the restoration of this model would serve, for generations to come, to exemplify native Canadian genius, to preserve a useful link in the connection between the past, the present, and the future of the famous city, and also as a lasting attraction to the visitors who flock to it annually in quest of objects of historical interest.

Before I conclude, I should wish to ask your attention to one or two particulars which have lately been communicated to me by some of Mr. Duberger's surviving children, now, of course, well advanced in years, which they have given me permission to use as I may see fit.

But, first, I may mention that Duberger was twice

married ; that for several years before his death he was a retired pensioner of the R. E. corps ; and that he died at St. Thomas in 1821. The notice of his decease is to be found in the *Quebec Gazette* of Thursday, Sépt. 27th, of that year, and is as follows :

" Died, at St. Thomas, on Wednesday, the 19th instant, JOHN " BAPTIST DUBERGER, Esq., upwards of 25 years principal Draftsman " and Surveyor to the R. E. Department, and late on the half-pay of " officers of the first class of that corps."

I will next read extracts from one or two other documents :

(EXTRACTS from a Communication written by Mr. George Duberger, the oldest surviving son of the late J. B. Duberger, and dated Murray Bay, September 3, 1872.)

" I send you a letter from a Mr. Wm. Morrison (a particular friend of our family), dated 26th January, 1826, to my late brother-in-law, Dr. William Fraser (formerly Seigneur of Mount Murray Bay), and to his wife, my sister. The letter, though written in French, may, I believe, convey to you some correct information of the said model of Quebec, as well as other works of my late father, who, as you appear to have been correctly informed, has, in the end, been wronged of his dues, and, at last, died very poor.

" I note here what my old sister has stated. My father was born at Detroit, in Upper Canada, parish of l'Assomption, in the year 1767, on the 7th February, and died at St. Thomas (south shore), in September (21st, I believe), 1821, having been over 30 years in the Government's military service.

" Of his children by my mother (his first wife), we are now only three alive—myself, over 69 years of age, and two sisters, by some years older, than myself.

" To return to the children by his second wife. Three sons only remain (or, I should say, remained). *Cyprien*, the eldest, has gone abroad, travelling now over 32 years past, and we have not heard from him since. The next one, *Narcisse*, has for several years been Deputy-Sheriff at Three Rivers : where he is now, or what he is doing, I cannot say, not having heard from him since a long time. The youngest of that family, *Charles*, aged over 50, is here in Murray Bay, Clerk of the Court and Registrar.

" Now, in a general point of view, the remaining sons and daughters of my father are, without exception, in very limited circumstances, which decidedly would have been far better if our father, notwithstanding his remarkable genius and long service as a Military Surveyor and Draftsman, had not died so poor.

" If what I communicate to you can be of some service, you are welcome to make use of this scrawl as you may think fit."

Thanking you for the kind attention with which this imperfect sketch has been listened to, I have only to say, further, through correspondents in England, more ample particulars concerning the model are at this time being procured.

Geography in Schools.

While there is great ado about methods in teaching this subject, and the " battle of the geographies " waxes fierce before the school boards, but a few stop to enquire into the real claims of the study, and he who should venture to say that it has no business in schools at all, that it usurps time which had better be given to other things, and is of very low value as a means of mental cultivation, would be regarded as absurd. Yet such an idea is entertained by many thoughtful persons, and it increases in force as our educational system is more closely scrutinized.

In his celebrated inaugural address, at the University of St. Andrews, the late J. S. Mill remarked : " It has always seemed to me a great absurdity that history and geography should be taught in schools ; except in elementary schools for children of the laboring-classes, whose subsequent access to books is limited. Who ever really learned history and geography except by private readings and, what an utter failure a system of education must be, if it has not given the pupil a sufficient taste for