

and significant on this occasion. It is a letter by Sir Isaac Brock himself on the subject of the Nelson monument proposed to be erected in Montreal by the citizens in 1808. The original of this letter is carefully preserved by the keeper of the Dominion Archives, Mr. Douglas Brymner, and I owe it to that gentleman's courtesy that I have a copy of it. The letter is addressed to Lieut.-Col. Thornton, and reads as follows:—

“MONTREAL August 1, 1808.

“SIR,—I have the honor to report for the information of the Commander of the Forces (Sir George Prevost) that the only spot at the disposal of the military any way calculated to receive the monument intended to be erected by the inhabitants of this city to the immortal hero of Trafalgar, is the Citadel Hill.

“Its elevated position and the additional height of 60 feet, to which it is proposed to carry the monument, will daily bring to the grateful remembrance of a numerous and distant population his eminent and glorious services. I must not, however, omit noticing the few inconveniences to which the public service will be subject by giving up the ground in question.

“The only military hospital in the garrison is placed upon the summit of the hill. There is, however, sufficient space in a line with Quebec gate much more desirable for an hospital than where it now stands. The building is of wood, but so old that any attempt at removal would only be incurring useless expense. If therefore the hill be granted the hospital must be considered as sacrificed. Lieut. Col. Bruyeres is better able to inform His Excellency of the actual state of the building and the value at which it ought to be estimated. There is another situation to which many people give the preference, but which as it is considered civil property I may be going beyond my limits to notice—I allude to the garden opposite Government house. Were it thrown open nothing could please the inhabitants more, as it would give an agreeable promenade of which they stand much in need—and beside enlarge considerably the present circumscribed parade for the military. I freely own were either situation left to my choice I unquestionably would give the garden the preference. The sole advantage of the hill is the great distance at which the monument could be viewed.

“The limited space would, however, have no room for public walks, consequently, curiosity once satisfied, the sacred shades of this immortal man would appear as if totally neglected and forgot—strangers would alone ascend and offer a tribute to high worth.

“But in the garden a constant bustle reigns, assemblage of the multitude and the parade of the military would indicate as if daily honors were paid to his memory. His statue surrounded by a grateful people will stand as elevated as the public voice would have decreed his seat living.

“For these reasons, without stopping to remark the objections that may be made, my unqualified voice is for placing the monument in the garden.

“I have the honor to be, sir,

“Your obedient and humble servant,

“ISAAC BROCK, Brigadier-General.”