

St. Lawrence, at Point St. Charles, affording, in every respect, a most striking contrast to the present locality, and to convey thither all the sick that remain or that may hereafter arrive. They will thus be far removed from the business of the city, and from the healthy emigrants, whom it is proposed to land at the mouth of the canal and send forward immediately.

Thus the sick will have every advantage that can be devised—the healthy will have the greatest possible despatch; and only two other classes remain to be considered—viz., the orphans and those who are necessarily detained waiting on sick relations.

With respect to the first of these classes—the orphans—arrangements have been made between the Government and the various establishments, Roman Catholic and Protestant, which take charge of orphans, by which all will forthwith be removed and provided for; and with respect to the second class, which has hitherto been a most prolific nursery for the hospitals, some of the present sheds which lie on the highest ground and nearest the river will, after being thoroughly fumigated and limed, be devoted to their reception. The others will doubtless be removed or burned.

The most formidable objection to this plan is the contamination of the water of the city by so great a body of sick emigrants a short distance above it; but it is to be remembered that any impurities are to mix with the St. Lawrence for more than a mile before the water reaches the pipes which conduct it into the city, and that even then there is little probability that any portion of the impurity will get into the pipes.

Besides, we have already the drainings of the whole city emptied out by a creek above the water pipes, and if we have the refuse of 40,000 individuals mixing with the water within a quarter of a mile, the refuse of two or three thousand a mile further up will not make so much difference. We must confess, however, that the very idea of the thing is bad enough, though there should be no other inconvenience.

At the meeting referred to, the resolutions in favour of Boucherville Island were, it will be seen, adopted unanimously, and they have been presented this morning by the deputation named in them to a joint meeting of the two Boards of Commissioners. As this is a matter upon which the public mind should be set at rest as soon as possible, we have obtained the answer of the Commissioners, which is as follows:—

To the Hon. James Ferrier, Dr. Beaubien, and others appointed a Committee to communicate the resolutions passed at a Public Meeting of the Citizens of Montreal, held in the Bonsecours Market on the 10th instant:—

Gentlemen:—The Emigrant Commissions of both Boards appointed by Government, have received through you the Resolutions passed at a Public Meeting of the Citizens of Montreal, recommending the selection of Boucherville island as a site for Emigrant Sheds and Hospitals, and have the honour to reply—

That they have most attentively considered the various plans proposed for the preservation of the public health, and more especially the suggestion concerning Boucherville island, and they have arrived, unanimously, at the conviction that the arrangements now in progress, are the best, all things considered, for the citizens as well as for the emigrants. They therefore ask the aid and countenance, or at all events the forbearance of their fellow-citizens whilst they are carrying them out.

JOHN E. MILLS.

*Chairman, Emigrant Commissioners.*

Montreal, July 12, 1847.

#### THE EMIGRANT ORPHANS.

*(Correspondent of Montreal Witness.)*

SIR,—Perhaps it would be the duty of some more qualified person to write to you on a subject which has for some days occupied my mind. Perhaps other voices, more eloquent and worthy of consideration than mine, may have already been heard in behalf of these poor Irish orphans; and perhaps energetic measures may have been taken for their relief. For my part, I am totally ignorant of what may have been done for this purpose. All that I know, was learnt by a few visits to the emigrant sheds, and to that of the orphans in particular.

With many persons who have visited the orphan department of the sheds, I can tell you, Sir, that their condition is truly pitiable to a feeling heart, and more especially to that of a father or a mother.

I have seen these poor children, lying or sitting, six or seven in a bed, most of them very thin, some sick, and even a few at the point of death. On every side I saw suffering frames, and heard piteous moans. I had brought a little provision of cakes to distribute among them, and I wish you had seen all those little hands stretched towards me, with supplicating voices and tearful eyes, begging a few crumbs of these cakes. How I did regret to find myself under the necessity of departing without being able to gratify them. Still, amid all this wretchedness, one thing cheered my heart, that was, to see with what touching love, what devotedness, truly worthy of the name of Christian, these Sisters of Charity, and some Canadian females with them, took care of these poor little creatures, and endeavoured to alleviate their sufferings. I retired from this place of suffering with a heart deeply impressed, asking the Lord who is more particularly the friend of the widow and orphan, to help still more these poor unfortunates, by raising up in Montreal, and elsewhere, generous hearts to carry on a work already prepared, a work agreeable to God, and one which would bring on those who perform it, a great measure of the most precious blessings. One of the first steps to be taken in regard to these poor orphans—is one which compassion, as well as common sense would dictate, would be to have all those whose state of health or convalescence would permit, removed from the sheds to a more healthy part of the town, and kept there under efficient superintendence. In this way they would be better protected from the infection, which, on account of the excessive heat of the summer, will not fail to manifest itself in these sheds, where they are miserably crowded together, and mixed with the sick and dying.

Then these poor little ones being more easily reached by the public, who are afraid to visit the sheds for fear of infection, would be more easily given into the hands of people charitable and worthy of confidence.

I have good hope that this will be done, and that if the Administration, already so encumbered with business, does not charge itself with this urgent measure, some persons truly pious and devoted to the good of their fellows, and I believe Montreal contains a goodly number of such, will not delay to provide for them in the most liberal manner.

And as Christians, no matter of what denomination, have we not here, on the part of God, the finest occasion to place under the blessed influence of the Gospel, and to train for the Lord, these poor little ones who, without that, will certainly fall into the hands of the wicked. Think well of it. May not God have sent, by strange ways across the sea, these little children, deprived of their parents, to us who enjoy so many spiritual privileges, in order that we should fly to their help, receive them into our dwellings; divide our bread with them; be to them fathers and mothers, and lead them to the feet of the Saviour, who already loves them.

Passing among these poor orphans, I saw a charming girl little of eight or ten months old sitting in her bed and having her eyes fixed upon me. She moaned, and seemed to say to me—Have pity upon me. I caressed her a little, which seemed to please her, and then I left her. As by inspiration, my mind was made up. Thou shalt be mine, I said, and replace dear little Mary, who was taken away from us two years ago. We have, it is true, already five children to bring up, but no matter, there will be bread and clothing for thee also, poor little orphan; and, what is more, hearts to love thee and lead thee to Christ. And after three hours spent in obtaining an order and providing clothing, I bore her off in triumph, far from the sheds, in my vehicle; and, on reaching my home, had the pleasure to find her welcomed with much tenderness.

REASONS FOR NOT FIGHTING A DUEL.—M. de Langerie and M. de Montande, both remarkably ugly men, quarrelled, and challenged one another. Arrived at the place of meeting, M. de Langerie stares his adversary in the face, and says: "I have just reflected; I can't fight you." With this he returned the sword into the scabbard. "How, sir; what does this mean?" "It means that I shall not fight." "What! you insult me, and refuse to give me satisfaction?" "If I have insulted you, I ask a thousand pardons; but I have an insurmountable reason for not fighting with you." "But, sir, may one know it?" "It will offend you." "No, sir." "You assure me?" "Yes, I assure you." "Well, sir, this is it: if we fight, according to all appearances, I shall kill you, and then I shall remain the ugliest fellow in the kingdom." His adversary could not help laughing, and they returned to their city good friends.