

Imperial paper on Colonial Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums, as applied to the asylum at St. Johns. See page 30: "And they represent that there is a pressing necessity for the erection of a new asylum, with proper grounds, in the western part of the Province, to replace the miserable make-shift at St. Johns."—*Despatch*, Sept. 25th, 1863. Will it be credited, that nearly two years have elapsed since this damning despatch was forwarded by our Government to the Imperial authorities. We say damning, for it is so to the credit, philanthropy, and Christianity of the country.

Two years since the Government of Canada acknowledged in a despatch to the Imperial authorities, who called for information with regard to the public charities of the country, that "at the present time 130 insane persons," in Lower Canada, "are improperly provided for, in gaols and otherwise, and sixty who cannot find any accommodation at all. And yet the same state of things is permitted to continue. No attempt is made at amelioration; the same miserable make-shift at St. Johns is allowed to remain.

The data of the article in our last number, to which Dr. Douglas takes exception, were from the *Toronto Leader*. There can be no doubt that the crowding in the Beauport Asylum must have been a most serious cause of complaint, when we find the following in the Return to an address of the Honorable the Legislative Council, for copies of all correspondence between the Commissioners for the management of the Beauport Lunatic Asylum and the Government, during the last three years.

"11th February, 1865.

"I have this day inspected the Asylum in all its parts, including the two cottages; the total number of inmates being 557 (not including 65 servants). While the asylum continues in its present terribly over-crowded condition, I refrain from any remark, except that such condition is, in my humble opinion, unfair to those who have the superintendence of it, and most unjust to the inmates; for those who might recover their sanity under favourable circumstances as to classification, &c., &c., have no chance here."

"ROBERT HAMILTON, *Commissioner*."

And as to the cubic space, there can be no doubt of the fact attested by Mr. A. Lemoine, the Secretary to the Commissioners of the Asylums, as also by the Commissioners themselves, and which must be received by the public so long as it remains uncontradicted.

"Now, many of the single rooms before referred to do not contain one-half of 1,000 cubic feet—some of those contain under 300 feet, and they are occupied by dirty patients."