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## P R E F A C E.

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In the autumn of 1855, when the weekly returns of the burials in the City were attracting a good deal of attention, I sent a letter, containing the substance of the following articles, to a City newspaper and its publication was declined.

In 1859, a committee of gentlemen republished and distributed, gratis, the essay by Dr. Carpenter, which appeared in the *Canadian Naturalist and Geologist* of June that year, I again, addressed a letter on the subject of Vital Statistics to a City paper and it was rejected.

In February, 1861, I wrote a review of Dr. Carpenter's essay for the *Gazette*, but, after the appearance of three parts, it was discontinued on account of the great delay in publication.

In Feb., 1865, the *Gazette*, in an article, "London vs. Montreal" said, "that out of a 100,000 people resident here, nearly 1200 more died per annum than would die in the heart of London, &c., &c." After an interview with the Editors another letter was rejected.

In August last the whole of the tables were submitted to the *Witness* and their publication agreed upon. But the expense of setting up the type was so great, that a large portion of the second and nearly the whole of the third articles had to be withdrawn.

The invitation given in the City Council, on the 13th September, induced me to write the second article, in which there is introduced a portion of the matter written for the *Witness*. Mr. Lovell, who thought the first essay worth republication, willingly published the second. These facts will account, in some degree, for the very imperfect form in which the notes appear.

ANDREW A. WATT.

Montreal, 8th November, 1869.