

a house placarded for small-pox on "the Cape," the most respectable part of Quebec; this contagion was brought to our doors by the Allan Line Mail steamer *Parisian*, and the vessel quite naturally passed Grosse Isle, was declared all right at Quebec, and went straight to Montreal. This was too much even for our Board of Health, and that is saying a great deal. "At a meeting of the Health Committee, held in the City Hall on Friday last, the report of Drs. Parke and Morin, Health Officers, was read, referring to the recent importation of small-pox by the steamer *Parisian*. The report is as follows:—1. That the steamer *Parisian*, of the Allan Line, on her last trip from Europe to Canada, brought to port a person suffering from small-pox; That the Port Physician of Quebec did not only not force the steamer to return to Grosse Isle quarantine, but allowed the patient to land at Quebec, and allowed the other passengers coming off the infected steamer to continue their route to Montreal, etc., without submitting them to the necessary disinfection, greatly to the detriment of the inhabitants of Quebec and Montreal; That it be resolved that this commission protest against the conduct of the Medical Inspector of the port of Quebec, and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Ministers of Marine and Agriculture, and praying that immediate steps be taken to enforce the quarantine regulations so that the public health may be protected."

Our astonishment is profound that even this much has been done, and we suspect that it is owing to the energy of Dr. Parke that the whole case has not been covered up and hidden, as other cases have been time and again hidden from public view. We shall be still more astonished if this praiseworthy action on the part of the Health "Committee" has any result whatever, and if we had any reliable information as to the political affinities of the Health Committee, and its medical staff, we could predict to a certainty what the result will be. If they are Rouge or any of their friends even to the third generation, then the whole thing is a base and reprehensible attempt to throw discredit upon the excellent Minister to whose department this is supposed to belong. On the other hand, if they are Bleus, their zealous interference will be properly rebuked and the whole thing quietly hushed up.

The *Montreal Star*, which is thoroughly independent, has taken the matter in hand and is very outspoken on the subject, and, as it is a question which concerns the whole country, it will not be out of place to reproduce our contemporary's opinion on the matter:

The Quebec Board of Health has very properly protested against the action of the Dominion Health officer at that port, who recently permitted the *Parisian* to land a patient suffering from smallpox there, after which the vessel at once proceeded on her voyage to Montreal. The passengers were landed and permitted to proceed upon their respective ways, without being subject to detention, or even disinfection. After the experience this Province has had of smallpox, the people expect that public officers, charged with the duty of preventing the introduction of infectious diseases, should exercise their office with the utmost vigilance. What condemnation, then, should be meted out to an officer who neglects his duty, as the health officer of the port of Quebec has done? Surely a due regard for the safety of the people should prompt his instant dismissal and the appointment of a more prudent and conscientious man in his place. If, as happened recently, a terrible epidemic, carrying off thousands of lives, may grow out of the sickness of one patient insufficiently cared for, how many sources of epidemic might have been scattered through the Dominion by the passengers of this one steamer? Fortunately, no harm seems yet to have resulted, but a due regard must be had for the future. The English papers tell us of the existence of smallpox in several sections of Northern England and of Scotland. Emigrants from these districts may very easily bring with them the seeds of the disease, and owing to the length of time it takes to develop, the nature of their sickness may remain undetected until the ocean voyage be almost over, if indeed then. From this danger there is but one safeguard for the country, and that is to enforce a rigid inspection of all vessels at the Grosse Isle quarantine. Then if disease should develop, after that station has been passed, the health officer at Quebec or Montreal should have power to order an infected vessel back to Grosse Isle, there to be detained until the period of smallpox incubation is over. These are the precautions which the most ordinary prudence dictates. If the Government fail to take them and another epidemic is caused through their neglect, they will have a terrible reckoning to make with the people.

If the *Sanitary Journal* had exerted its influence to have the port physician removed when we called attention to the matter two years ago, we should not have been exposed to the present danger. As matters now stand, the public has no security against the importation of disease from abroad, and the experience of Montreal last year ought to convince the most sceptical that epidemics are not calculated to promote business enterprise in any shape or form.

There is another topic to which we have drawn attention with precisely the same result as that which followed our remonstrances on the subject of quarantine—that is, nothing has been done. We refer to the

mail service. It would be difficult, even if inefficiency had been reduced to a science, to surpass our present arrangements. The Allan Company appears to have entered into some arrangement with the Dominion Line for the conveyance of the mails, but it has not increased the efficiency of the service in any way, and merchants whose business requires some measure of expedition are compelled, in self defence, to send their mail matter *via* New York. A Quebec merchant can mail his letters two or three days after the departure of the Canadian mail, and, although the distance by way of New York is some 700 miles more than by way of Quebec, the letter sent by New York will, in nine cases out of ten, be delivered before the one mailed in Quebec. As an illustration of the present state of things it may be mentioned that the incoming Mail Steamer left on the 13th inst, and although it is now the 24th, her mails have not at this writing been delivered in Quebec.

It is a great mistake to continue the mail service as it is and we are quite sure that some of the great lines running into New York would accept the present subsidy and give the public an efficient Ocean Mail Service in return. There is no use in disguising the fact, that if it were not for the splendid mail service from New York, which helps to minimize the inconvenience, our merchants could not stand the present Royal Slow Coaches for a month.

NEMO.

THE STORY OF THE UPPER CANADA REBELLION.*

In this volume the promised "review" by Dr. Rolph of certain accounts of the rebellion published by Mackenzie is given. It was written some time between the flight of Dr. Rolph from Toronto, just before the battle of Montgomery's Farm, and the time when he petitioned to be allowed to return under the amnesty. The fact that this production was written in the third person shows that it was not intended to go forth as the work of Dr. Rolph: the tone assumed throughout is that of a spectator who could be perfectly impartial, if not indifferent. Dr. Rolph is spoken of in a way to convey the impression that he and the writer were different persons; and lest there should be a suspicion that the writer might be a British subject, he spoke of the revolutionists of 1776 as "our forefathers." But Dr. Rolph shrank from publishing the "review" even in this form; and if he were to return to the world to-morrow, it is very doubtful whether he would thank his literary executor for removing the veil behind which the writer concealed himself. The motive for writing it appears to have been a desire to combat the statement of Mackenzie that Dr. Rolph was the sole Executive of the insurgents. The most effective way of doing this, and the only one that could be successful, would have been to re-state the facts, correcting errors by the way, and to bring forward proofs in support of the new version of rebellion history. The method pursued is a very different one: criticism takes the place of narration, and the argument is almost purely hypothetical. The criticism is searching and acute, if not always candid; the logic, if we concede the correctness of the premises, is generally sound; but the facts, which the "review" assumes the necessity of re-establishing, are provokingly withheld. The literary dexterity of the document we admit; but it is impossible not to deplore its want of historical significance. The impression which the reading of it produces is that of a man who, when called upon to defend his reputation from a serious imputation, answers by producing an essay which might prove his qualification as an intellectual gymnast.

The writer of the essay does not appear to have intended that any one should discover from it what part Dr. Rolph did play in the rebellion. "On the whole," he says, "they [Rolph and Mackenzie] appear to have been a co-executive, possibly with others." How easy it would have been to say whether Dr. Rolph and Mackenzie did form a co-executive; whether the executive was dual or multiform. But this direct and simple method was avoided, and a hypothetical statement made, professedly deduced from facts already known. Why was this tortuous course taken when the direct road was open? Why are we left in doubt when certainty was most needed, and when the writer, who makes us a present of a series of hypotheses, was the man of all others who could tell us the precise fact?

On the lines of the "review" Mr. Dent has raised the structure of his argument. He more than once copies the hypothetical style of Dr. Rolph; he is excusable when he uses it to supply the want of direct evidence; but it is tempting fate to go further, and assume that evidence does not exist because it is unknown to him.

Mr. Dent has the frankness to tell us a great deal more about Dr. Rolph than Dr. Rolph, when he wrote the "review," or at any other time,

* The Story of the Upper Canada Rebellion. By John Charles Dent. Vol. II. Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson.