

## NOTES FROM QUEBEC.

For a fortnight past the inhabitants of "the ancient capital" have been in a state of serious alarm about the possible introduction of the Montreal epidemic, and not, we are sorry to say, without sufficient cause. Several cases have been imported from the sister city, but, so far as we have been able to learn, without any fatal results. Individuals and the employers of labour have acted in the most commendable way, and there is a general disposition on the part of the citizens themselves to help forward the work of vaccination; indeed, it is safe to say that, if it had not been for our old curse of municipal incapacity, Quebec might have been to-day absolutely proof against the terrible disease. There is deep indignation against Mayor Langelier for his conduct in the matter; it is publicly charged against him that at the railroad depots and steamboat landings he advised passengers to refuse vaccination, and generally not to submit to any restrictions on the part of the Central Board of Health. What measure of truth there is in this report I am not able to say; but when the matter came up in the City Council there was no misunderstanding the Mayor's position as being that of a gentleman decidedly hostile to those precautionary measures which most people deemed it necessary should be taken. A convenient pretext for opposition was found in the unfortunate and ill-informed judgment delivered by Judge Dugas in Montreal, who held that Chapter 38 of the Consolidated Statutes was not in force; and in the face of such a "learned" decision it was manifestly better to sacrifice the lives of the citizens of Quebec than to sacrifice the opinion of a gentleman so profoundly versed in the law as Judge Dugas unquestionably appears to be. This was practically the position assumed by Mayor Langelier, and for which he has been severely taken to task by the *Star* of Montreal and, somewhat less vigorously, by the *Chronicle* of Quebec. The Mayor has now felt it necessary in a public letter to explain away his former conduct, and in an arranged "interview" with a *Telegraph* reporter he hints that "the attack" upon him is the work of his political enemies, and that the *Chronicle's* articles are inspired and written by politicians and for political purposes. The truth is that Mayor Langelier is not doing his better instincts justice; and consciously feeling that the criticism by which his municipal conduct has, for the last year or so, been assailed is not by any means undeserved, he has grown suspicious and impatient of adverse criticism, even when dictated by feelings far from unfriendly. However, he is evidently too much of a politician to believe that anybody can speak or write from a sense of public duty pure and simple. The net result of the Mayor's ill-advised course is that up to the present we have really had no quarantine against Montreal; and this state of things would have continued for an indefinite length of time had not the Provincial Government stepped in and taken the matter entirely out of the Mayor's hands. An extra of the *Official Gazette* was issued on Friday, the 16th inst., in which His Honour the Lieutenant Governor appointed a Local Board of Health for the city of Quebec, consisting of the following gentlemen: The Honourable Alexandre Chauveau, Judge of the Sessions of the Peace, and Messrs. Owen Murphy, P. Vallieres, H. J. J. B. Chouinard, James Carrel, *Daily Telegraph*, Edward T. D. Chambers, Chas. A. Verge, M.D., Henry Russell, M.D.E., A. Vallee, M.D., M. J. Ahern, M.D.L., and Delphis Brochu, M.D. This Board is sufficiently representative to command public confidence, and it is expected that they will do their work in a thorough and business-like manner.

THE Allan mail service this year has not been in any sense an improvement on the past, and if it were not for the New York steamships we would probably have the privilege of enjoying about the slowest mail service in the world. Why it should be permitted so long is a mystery of vice in the world. Why it should be permitted so long is a mystery of non-political life which we are not able to solve. There is a great deal of nonsense talked and written about the danger of increasing the rate of speed between Quebec and Liverpool; but the truth is that, so far as the Allan line is concerned, it is more a question of coals than of anything else. The *Parisian*, for example, could make a fairly good passage if permitted to do so, but the consumption of coal to attain a high rate of speed makes a material difference in the already heavy running expenses of the ship. In the interests of the Dominion at large it is desirable that the question of an accelerated mail and passenger service between Quebec and Liverpool should receive more immediate attention than the Allan Company are likely to give it, and for this reason, if for no other, that the first-class passenger traffic of the country is finding an outlet chiefly by way of New York. Business men cannot afford, in these days of rapid communication, to embark at Liverpool on Thursday and not reach Quebec for twelve or fourteen days after; however, this state of things will continue just as long as the Government of the Dominion permits the mail service of the country to be performed by such an ocean-greyhound as the *Caspian*, which, we think, made the passage across this season in the marvellously short time of eighteen days! In the face of all this it appears little less than a misuse of public money to continue a subsidy to the Allan Line, and particularly so when its rival, the Dominion Company, has shown itself willing and able to render a much more efficient service. At all events there will be culpable negligence on the part of our parliamentary representatives if in the next Session is permitted to pass without a remedy being applied in some shape. It is very foolish to be talking about our proximity to Liverpool when, as a matter of fact, you may save from three to four days by going the longer route via New York. We want the best return for our money, and this the Allan Line does not give. Another point which ought not be overlooked is the one involving sanitary considerations. Frequently this season the vessel coming into port on Sunday or Monday has gone to Montreal, reaching there, say, on Tuesday, discharged and took her cargo rapidly, and sailed from Quebec on the following Saturday morning. This is entirely too short a period to secure a thorough cleans-

ing and ventilation of the ship, and is a practice that ought to be peremptorily stopped in the interests of public health.

"THANKSGIVING DAY" is a curious institution in the Province of Quebec. In the first place it is ordered by a French Lieutenant-Governor, and yet neither the Governor nor the Governor's French Roman Catholic co-religionists pay the least attention to it, and hitherto the only formal religious recognition given to it has been by the Protestant churches in the Province. All told, these are not very numerous; still, their respect for Her Majesty's representative and for constituted authority rendered their action significant, and contrasted in a very marked manner with the way in which the French people ignored it. The force of the Protestant line of action is greatly weakened by the fact that, this year, Bishop Williams of the Anglican Church, for some reason or other, appointed his own day of "Thanksgiving," and, as might have been expected, the experiment, even in his Lordship's cathedral, has proved a very decided failure. The Bishop's action, however, makes the want of harmony among the Protestant minority in the Province as painful as it is conspicuous. The Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists will have the day to themselves, and the outcome of the whole will be that "Thanksgiving Day" will cease to be observed even nominally in the Province of Quebec.

THE deteriorating influences which Quebec exerts upon an otherwise fine intellect is admirably illustrated by the editor of the *Chronicle*. That gentleman has worked the strange fancy into his head that Quebec is the biggest and most progressive city on this continent. Comparing Quebec and Toronto, he says: "The battle is not always to the swift. Toronto is all well enough in its way, but, for downright enterprise and push and perseverance, there is no place on the continent that can equal Quebec. We shall have our electric railway very soon, and may, before next year passes away, think about building an extension as far as Toronto."

NEMO.

## PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND GENERAL GRANT.

WASHINGTON, October 26, 1885.

THE old saying, that a man's best friends are too often his worst enemies, is likely to receive fresh illustration at the hands of General Grant's eldest son, who is also his literary executor. Mr. Depew, the president of the New York Central Railroad Company, a gentleman with one of those dangerous reputations as an after-dinner speaker that so often betray a man into offering bright fancies for solid facts, recently intimated, upon a public occasion, that apart from the long array of services and merits gratefully credited by the American people to the account of General Grant, he had, shortly after the close of the war, thwarted some revolutionary purpose of the late President Johnson that, if effected, would have lost to the nation the substantial benefits of the arduous and successful contest with rebellion. Thereupon Colonel Grant called upon Mr. Depew to oblige him with a full and public statement of when and where and how his late father had communicated to Mr. Depew the particulars of treason meditated by President Johnson, and how his approaches to General Grant to participate in it had been met by the latter. Thus invited, Mr. Depew stated that at a dinner-party a few years ago he found himself neighbour to General Grant, and that in the course of a somewhat desultory conversation the latter had told him that immediately after the close of the war Mr. Johnson, who had succeeded Mr. Lincoln in the Presidency, was so intent upon proceeding against General Lee and other high Confederate officers, by grand juries and courts-martial, on charges of treason, notwithstanding their protection by parole, that he, General Grant, was compelled to threaten the newly-installed President with an appeal to the soldiers of the Union against the contemplated violation of the public faith; whereupon Mr. Johnson sullenly abandoned his purpose. Shortly afterwards, to General Grant's surprise, the assurances of Southern gentlemen of position to Mr. Johnson that his elevation to the Presidency had removed the barrier which had hitherto excluded him, as a "poor white," from social fellowship with the late slave-holding aristocracy, had so affected Mr. Johnson's feelings towards the rebel leaders that he had now become devoted to their wishes and interests. In this new mood and purpose he spoke to General Grant of his fear that the radical leaders in Congress would seek to exclude the States regained from rebellion from their proper representation in the Senate and House of Representatives, until the governments of those States could be reconstructed conformably to the radical idea, and he expressed his apprehension that this unpatriotic and (as he believed) illegal course would plunge the country into new disasters. There were, he said, enough members of Congress of his own way of thinking to constitute, with the delegations from the States, a majority of both Houses, and this majority he proposed to place in the Capitol, leaving to the radicals the alternative of convening the minority in some private hall. He appealed to General Grant to aid him with his personal influence and the military power in executing this plan. General Grant, in reply, dissented both from the propriety and the legality of the President's proposal, and threatened to use the army to expel such a legislature as Mr. Johnson described from the Capitol, and to instal therein what he should regard as the true and lawful Congress. The President's next movement was to endeavour to induce General Grant to proceed to Mexico on a special mission, in order that he might have an opportunity to appoint another commander of the army upon the plea of absence of the General-in-Chief from the United States; but General Grant declined to leave the United States, and the scheme necessarily fell to the ground.

No reader of this letter is likely to miss noticing the inadequacy of the motive assigned by General Grant (upon the authority of Mr. Depew) for