

In discharging the task assigned to me by the Government, two courses were open to me ; either simply to reprint, without alteration, one of Mr. Moule's pamphlets already before the world, or to compile from the documents in my possession a *quasi original* treatise upon the subject. I have decided to take the former plan, not only as being the easier and simpler, but also as being the more fair and honest towards Mr. Moule. It seemed to me right that Mr. Moule should have an opportunity of submitting his discovery to the people of Canada in his own words and after his own fashion ; and that, from the first, his name should be associated with the introduction into the country of the great measure of sanitary and economic reform, which, influenced solely by a desire to benefit his fellow men, he has so ably, so earnestly, so perseveringly, and so successfully, laboured to bring about, and which has deservedly secured for him a place among the benefactors of his kind.

The pamphlet selected for publication is one written by Mr. Moule in 1866, for the express purpose, as he himself informs us, *of giving a fuller and more practical account than had previously been given of the advantages and of the principles of the Dry Earth System, of the application of those principles to individual cases, and of the feasibility of its general adoption in villages and towns.*

The fact that the new system of sewage is one that can be so readily and advantageously adopted in our villages, towns and cities, is one which should command for it a willing and earnest attention in this Canada of ours. We need not go much beyond the Metropolis to be made painfully sensible of the fact that the system of sewage at present in use in some of our cities falls something short of absolute perfection.

The labour of the Editor, though comparatively easy, has not been merely nominal. Besides writing the explanatory notes appended to the pamphlet, the Editor has been at some pains to collect from various sources the matter contained in the Appendix. In it the Editor trusts there will be found useful practical information on many points of special importance necessarily noticed but briefly in Mr. Moule's short paper.

Should the following pages be the means of facilitating the introduction into Canada of the new system of sewage, the Editor will have the satisfaction of feeling that, through the liberal and enlightened action of the Government of Canada, he has been permitted to contribute somewhat to the promotion of a work of great