

FIRST  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNORS  
OF THE  
Montreal General Hospital,

*After the reception of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, embracing in substance that of the Committee appointed to superintend the building, also that of the Committee of Management, with some particulars respecting the origin of the Institution.*

IN laying before the Members of the Corporation, the first annual report of the proceedings of the Governors, during the twelve months just ended, it may not be improper for the information of some of them, to state, as briefly as possible, the circumstances which led to the erection of the Hospital.

From the encrease of the population of Montreal, the Hotel Dieu Nunnery was found to be inadequate to the reception of the indigent sick. This inconvenience was still further augmented by the great influx of emigrants from the United Kingdom, some of them labouring under fevers of a contagious nature, and other diseases, that were not admissible into that Hospital. To remedy this, a subscription was made, in the year 1819, for hiring a house to serve as an hospital. Though this was only on a small scale, the good, which was effected by it, was, after one year's trial, so evident, that it was deemed an object highly desirable, to erect a building, which might give permanency to the establishment.

To further this design, the Hon. John Richardson, the Hon. William M'Gillivray, and Samuel Gerrard Esquire, in the month of August, 1820, purchased, on credit, (which, by a Notarial deed executed by them, was declared to be in trust for this purpose,) a lot of ground in the St. Lawrence Suburbs, as a site for the intended Hospital, well adapted to the purpose, both from its proximity to the town, and the salubrity of its situation.

A plan of the building to be erected, and an estimate of its probable expense, were ordered to be made, and laid before the Directors for their consideration. The plan submitted consisted of a centre building of 76 feet by 40, capable of containing 72 patients, and, on an emergency, 80, and two wings each of 70 feet by 30,