

misconducted themselves, are occasionally brought up and fined, but large offenders and the larger industries situated in the manufacturing parts of the city are allowed to pollute the air with impunity. For over now two months one tall chimney in the West End, probably the biggest in the city, has emitted a steady stream of thick black smoke, and apparently no steps have been taken to arrest the scandal, for scandal it is. In the East End there are offenders who, in proportion to the size of their chimneys, are equally culpable, and who are equally indifferent to the comfort and health of their neighbors and to the credit of the city. Those who live in the residential part of the city away from the river, who are the more influential portion of the community, are but rarely troubled by this matter—their sky remains unclouded—and we suppose that as they are not personally affected the nuisance has been allowed to continue.

The prevailing winds blow these clouds of smoke either up the river or down, rarely towards the mountain; one has, however, but to climb the mountain and look across the city to see the extent of the nuisance and realize the discomfort it must bring to our thick working-population. Occasionally, it is true, the smoke does cross the city in this direction. On the 19th ultimo, a dense black cloud of smoke issued from the chief offending chimney, sailed heavily across the city and stretched for at least two miles across Dominion Square, and even over Park Avenue it was still heavy and black.

The first impression of the stranger reaching Montreal by water is that he is coming to a filthy manufacturing centre in which everyone is absolutely callous of appearances. How this affects strangers was impressed upon us frequently last Summer by the remarks of our visitors at the British Medical Association meeting. One whose name and fame are world-wide, and whom we thought we had duly impressed with the position and beauty of the city, could only retort: "Don't talk about your city, its beauty and its progress, when your citizens endure placidly that heavy cloud of smoke; we may be bad in England, but we can show nothing as bad as this in cities which call themselves metropolitan." In England they have some excuse for their smokiness, for they are forced to use soft coal, giving abundance of soot. Here we have no excuse; indeed, what strikes one in looking at the city from above, is the singular freedom from smoke in the upper portions of the city.

Is this condition to continue? Our opinion, as medical men, is that it must come to an end, and that quickly. There is no reason for the smoke save this, that there is initial cost in installing good smoke consumers. It has been abundantly proved that such good smoke con-