

question of monopoly, we deem it exceedingly inexpedient the establishment of one large asylum for the entire Lower Section of Canada.

---

### THE LUNGS OF CITIES.

The pride of London is its noble parks and equally magnificent squares. To the weary and toil-worn artizan living in the back lanes and overcrowded tenements of that wonderful city, no words can picture the pleasure and the benefit which they afford him during his leisure hours. Pure air is a blessing, which none can so fully appreciate as those who have but little of it; and it is as essential that every city should have its squares and parks for breathing places, as that attention should be paid to drainage and other sanitary conditions. Amply as the metropolis of our empire is supplied with these necessary adjuncts to health, its rapidly increasing population is now demanding more. The registrar-general of Great Britain in commenting upon the result of the census of 1861, says: "When a family increases in its narrow lodging, in circumstances of dirt and squalor, that increase, which should be its blessing, becomes its bane. And in a city or state the growth of its population is not a strength to be trusted, but a weakness to be feared, if improvement in its physical and moral condition is not commensurate with the growing urgency of its wants." The *Lancet* tells us that London is the least unhealthy of the great European cities, but for all that it is not by any means healthy, and that one third of the lives within its bounds are annually wasted, owing to the overcrowding of its population. This massing of the population is a frightful source from which disease emanates, and a still more frightful source of its propagation. To counterbalance this growing evil, well-ventilated dwellings for the poor, and more open squares are being loudly demanded. Our own city has seen its weekly bills of mortality rise to a very high rate within the past years. An epidemic of small-pox and of scarlatina has helped to swell the list; and if we seek for the cause we find that overcrowding of our population is at the foundation of it. No one but he whom duty calls into those portions of our city occupied by the laboring classes, can form any idea of the mass of human beings that are to be found huddled together in places where but little of heaven's light is to be seen and where none of God's pure air is breathed. We point with pride to the rapid growth of our city, but that growth is bringing upon us many of its terrible consequences: while palatial mansions surround us on many sides, we look in vain for a better class of houses for our working population; thousands of them still live—still eat and sleep in an atmosphere, filled not only with the carbonic acid exhaled by expira-