

alluding to their special report recently issued, he assigns, as one reason for his so doing, that such special report is likely to give a very false impression of the institution at St. John. They therefore consider it due to the Provincial Legislature, the public and themselves to reply to the same, in order that the public mind may not be led astray by erroneous statements of facts or defective system of reasoning.

Without desiring here to do more than signalize the obvious want of courtesy on the part of Dr. Howard, in failing, intentionally or accidentally to communicate to them the circular in question, they must say that the author is laboring altogether under "a false impression." In drawing the comparison between the average annual cost to the State per head of patients in the Quebec Asylum, and their cost in the other institutions mentioned; the simple object of the proprietors of the Quebec Asylum was not to make an invidious distinction, but to point out the advantages of their own establishment and system, without however, wishing or intending to prejudice public opinion against any other. They could possibly have no interest in desiring to hurt a sister institution, and moreover, such a line of conduct is utterly opposed to their views and practice of the social amenities of life. They fairly admit that their object was to prove that the system upon which the Quebec Asylum is upheld, is the cheapest and most advantageous to the country; at the same time they do not wish to support their position by any false statements, which in the long run, could only injure the cause they seek to promote. They therefore cheerfully avail themselves of this opportunity to correct the statement in their report, that the average annual cost per head of patients in the St. John's Asylum was as high as \$265.85. But while they learn with pleasure that the cost in question was smaller than they mentioned, and are