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**Magnificent Montrealers.** *The drying up a single tear has more Of honest fame than shedding seas of gore.*—Byron.

Every virtue carries with it its own reward, but none in so distinguished and pre-eminent a degree as benevolence. The exercise of this feeling possesses so powerful a control over every spring of human action that, by a commutation strikingly expressive of its energetic influence, we now employ the very term literally applicable to the feeling of philanthropy to express its actual and powerful operation; and the wish to do good is synonymous with the performance of it.

The man who is fortunate enough to be able to give receives more than the poor taker. Many a man gives a pittance of his ample stores, a fraction of his annual revenue, to the poor. But the munificent Montrealers who are distributing princely sums in the endowment of our universities, the founding of hospitals, and in adding to the comfort of those who can claim kinship with them, are not only relieving ordinary wants according to the measure of their means, and thereby following the natural direction of common charity; they are enjoying during life the pleasure of doing good, and doing it on a scale calculated to place them among the philanthropists who have, at too rare intervals, astounded the world by the magnificence of their gifts. The most recent act of generosity of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal is only another proof of the interest he takes in the Canadian metropolis. He has done so much to promote the welfare of all the institutions with which he is connected that any fresh act of liberality only serves to cement the admiration of Canadians for their representative in the world's capital.

The munificent bounty, the extraordinary liberality of such men as Lord Strathcona, Lord Mount Stephen, and that untiring friend and benefactor of Mc-

Gill University, Mr. W. C. McDonald, entitles each one of them to the love and respect of every Montrealer. If, as we believe, there is an exquisite enjoyment and delight in ordinary acts of kindness, how great must be the happiness of these generous givers to deserving institutions, these princely founders of hospitals, these dividers of their wealth for the alleviation of suffering and poverty.

How much better it will be for the world if the splendid example of these good citizens of Montreal is largely followed. Surely the division of the surplus wealth of people during their lifetime, the happiness they derive from the knowledge of having done good in ministering to the sick and needy, and in advancing the cause of education, is better than leaving hoarded millions to heirs, who may not use the money with wisdom, or who may fail to distribute any part thereof among the institutions these philanthropists would wish them to benefit.

## Big Buildings.

The extreme difficulty experienced by the New York firemen in fighting the recent fire in the sky-scraping Postal Telegraph and other buildings will do much to discourage owners of real estate from soaring heavenward in search of more room for desirable offices. To the perils attending the conveying of hose and men to the upper stories of these big buildings must now be added another danger. A report from New York, just previous to the fire in question, stated that the Rothschild Building, in Brooklyn, was in imminent danger of collapse, and that, if the walls could not be propped up, a guard would surround the building until its downfall occurs. Such a building will not be a source of pleasure and profit to the owner, who might be wiser if he confined himself to building chimerical "castles in the air" or stone structures of ordinary dimensions.