

32 The Joint Immigrant Commission having previously asserted that the removal of the Immigrant Station below Montreal would be "impolitic and selfish in the extreme," inasmuch as it would deprive the unfortunate Immigrants—whose condition none more deeply deplore than the Committee—of the valuable services of those Ministers of their respective churches, and of those religious ladies, who have so heroically endangered, and too many of whom have sacrificed, their lives in the noble office of administering both spiritual and temporal aid to the sufferers; the Committee applied to the proper sources, and at once received from the Clergy of every denomination an assurance of what indeed they never doubted,—that those faithful and devoted followers of "Him who went about doing good," so far from shrinking from the performance of their sacred duty in consequence of any such change of location as the citizens prayed for, would continue to perform them with the same alacrity which they have hitherto so signally manifested, and would, in fact, prefer, for this purpose, the proposed site below the city to the sites insisted upon by the Commissioners above it.

On the evening of the 16th instant, the Committee received, through His Worship the Mayor, the letter from the Secretary of the Province, which, by order of the Committee, has been published in the newspapers, conveying the information that a Member of the Government had been despatched to Grosse Isle for the purpose of causing the adoption of more stringent measures of precaution at that station, but communicating no light as to the intentions of the Government on the other most important matters alluded to in the Memorial. Those matters, as that letter stated, were under the consideration of the Council; and the result of their deliberations, it promised, should be communicated at the earliest possible moment.

The Committee, deeming the prayer of the Memorial of a pressing character, and that every moment lost added to the public danger, and aware, moreover, that whilst the Government remained in a state of apparent inaction, the sheds, of which the citizens so loudly and energetically complained, were in process of erection under the orders of the Joint Immigrant Commission,—determined, upon the receipt of this letter, to take immediate steps to have the whole matter brought before the Legislature of the Province, now in Session. They, accordingly, on the same evening, waited on the Hon. G. Moffatt, one of the Representatives of the city, who had previously stated his entire agreement with the views of the citizens, and who consented to bring forward in the House of Assembly, a motion for an Address to His Ex-

cellency for the removal of the Immigrant Station to some place below Montreal. Mr. Moffatt, in strong terms, urged, in the presence of several of the members of the Committee, upon the Hon. Messrs. Cayley and Sherwood, individually, the prayer of the Memorial, and expressed his entire disapprobation of the localities which had been selected for the new sheds. At the desire, however, of the Honorable Mr. Sherwood, he engaged to defer his motion till the return of the Honorable Mr. Cameron from Grosse Isle; immediately after which time the Committee were also promised by Mr. Sherwood that they should receive a definitive answer to their prayer. The Committee, in the course of their interviews, exhibited to Mr. Moffatt and Mr. Sherwood the certificates of the medical practitioners and of the clergy, already adverted to, and which have since appeared in the public prints.

On the 17th instant, the Grand Jury of the Court of Quarter Sessions made their Presentation, wherein they set forth their entire acquiescence in the views of the citizens of Montreal; and the Court, on receiving it, expressed publicly their assent to its representations, and engaged to recommend it strongly to the favourable notice of the Executive.

On the 19th instant, the Common Council, at a special meeting, adopted, with two dissentient voices only, a petition to the three branches of the Legislature, embodying the suggestions contained in the resolutions of the Public Meeting of the 13th.

On the same evening, Mr. Moffatt made his promised motion for an address to His Excellency for the removal of the Immigrant Sheds to some place below the city; but after certain explanations from the Provincial Ministry, expressed his desire to withdraw it. This, however, the House of Assembly would not permit; and on a division ensuing, that Honourable House, by a majority of 25 to 18, adopted the Address.

To the Memorial which the Committee had the honour to present to His Excellency, and to their repeated verbal communications with various Members of the Assembly, no definitive reply has been vouchsafed. This, perhaps, is not to be wondered at, since the Address of the Representatives of the people has remained till this day unanswered, and is this day answered, contrary to all precedent, as the Committee understand, in the negative. Under these circumstances, the one duty remaining for the Committee has become that of reporting to their fellow-citizens the measures they have taken, in the hope that they may at least be absolved from all charge of having neglected the important interests confided to them. They deeply deplore the failure of their efforts to arouse the