

*To the Inspectors of Prisons, Hospitals, &c.*

Gentlemen,

On my return to Quebec, after an absence of some weeks, my attention has been called to an article in the *Medical Chronicle* commenting approvingly upon the action of the Provincial Government in abolishing the Grosse-Isle Establishment, and requiring emigrant vessels to perform a Quarantine under certain circumstances off the River St. Charles. The Editor asserts that the expense of this Establishment has been £8000 per annum. On application to the proper quarter, he would have learnt that the total cost was about one fourth of this sum (that is £2000). He also makes one or two assertions equally reckless, which I beg to correct. Before doing this I will, as one knowing something of the working of the Establishment (now abolished for a time at least) endeavour concisely to recall the circumstances which first led to its formation. In 1831 the appearance of Asiatic cholera in Europe excited alarm in this country; and the Legislature, in the winter of 1832, made an appropriation for the purpose of enforcing an inspection of all vessels arriving by the St. Lawrence, with the view of preventing the introduction of this new unknown and much dreaded disease. Admiral (then Captain) Bayfield was called upon to select a site for the purpose. On his report Grosse Isle was chosen as being the only Island having deep water and accessible at all times of the tide, and also at a sufficient distance not only from the City of Quebec, but from all settlements. Temporary sheds were hastily put up, and a large